



Important Dates

Mar 1 – PD Day – No School for Students

Mar 7 – Gr. 3 Celebration of Learning 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Mar 8 – Early Dismissal for Morning Kindergarten and Gr. 1 to Gr. 3; Snack Day

Mar 11 – School Council / Fundraising Meeting 6:30 pm

Mar 13 – Fun Lunch

Mar 14 – Kindergarten Celebration of Learning 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Mar 15 – Early Dismissal for Afternoon Kindergarten and Gr. 1 to Gr. 3

Mar 21 – Student Centred Conferences (K-All Day; Gr. 1-3 4:30-8:30); Fun Lunch

Mar 22 – NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAY
Student Centred Conferences
8:00 – 12:00

Mar 25-Mar 29 – Spring Break

Royal Oak School

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<http://schools.cbe.ab.ca/b402/email@cbe.ab.ca>

BLUE DAYS REMINDER

Many days in winter are “Blue Days” at Royal Oak School. Blue days are when the weather is too cold for students to be outside. In the winter months, “Blue Days” are considered when it is -20 Degrees Celsius or colder. **NOTE: This temperature is provided as a guideline by the Calgary Board of Education, and may be adjusted for the school / activity.**

In the mornings, signs like in the picture are placed at all the entry doors. At 8:55 a.m. teacher supervisors open the doors to let the students in until the last bell at 9:10 a.m. Remember that supervision begins at 8:55 a.m., so we ask that students do not arrive early. As students enter the building, they sit outside their classroom where they wait for the bell to ring. Only on Blue Days, students can enter any school door to minimize the amount of time they are outside.

Please help us keep the children safe from extreme temperatures and always have the children dress for the weather. **As the day progresses and if the temperature warms up enough, students go outside for recess and lunch break for fresh air and unstructured play times. Students should bring all necessary winter clothing to be outside.** Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in keeping our kids happy, healthy and warm.





KINDERGARTEN NEWS

SAVE THE DATE :

The Kindergarten **Celebration of Learning** will be held on March 14th from 6 – 7 pm at Royal Oak School. All students and their families are highly encouraged to attend a wonderful evening celebrating student learning. Formal Invitations will be sent out before March 1st.

“What would be in a story about you?”

Kindergarten students continue to inquire about the unique characteristics that make them special and valued as they learn to “Think like Autobiographers”. They are beginning to understand how their ideas, interests, emotions, and talents contribute to their own unique identity.

Recently, students have brought in artifact that answer the questions, “How do we belong?” and “What makes my family unique?” Students have done a wonderful job explaining their artifacts, and learning about each other by asking questions and listening intently! When sharin their artifacts, students are answering the questions:

- What is your artifact or story?
- What does it tell us about your family?
- Why is important to your family?
- Who participates?

We have had many interesting items from pots of gold to pysankas! Thank you SO much our families for providing these items, as they have offered rich and valuable discussion!



Alien-Inline has been a huge success for our students as they learn lessons about determination, perseverance and getting up when you fall! It has been incredible to see the progression from Day 1 to Day 3! Thank you so much to our parent volunteers for making this happen!



We are so excited to welcome artist **Sharon Fortowsky** to our classrooms from February 25th – March 8th. Thank you to our parent volunteers for offering your time volunteering for this event. We are so lucky for our students to be given the experience of working with a professional artist to enhance our learning!

Again, we would like to say THANK YOU to our wonderful community for the hours spent volunteering. You are amazing teammates in ensuring student success!

The Kindergarten Team,

Ms. SticksI, Ms. Dixon and Ms. Mercer



GRADE 1 NEWS

February was a short month, however, it brought us frigid temperatures and in-turn brought us closer together. Many “Blue Days” were spent indoors working on a variety of different activities that promoted kindness and helped us work on building new relationships within our grade team.

We continued to reinforce important math skills such as adding and subtracting through the use of multi-step math investigations and tools such as numberlines, math games and Number Racks (also called Rekenreks). Number Racks are used to help develop efficient addition and subtraction strategies, such as doubling or finding near doubles, as well as thinking in terms of counting by 5s and 10s.

In addition to our regular Physical Education classes, students enjoyed working with Roxie from Alien In-line Skating this month. A huge thank you goes out to our amazing parent volunteers who came and helped us strap on our skates and equipment!

Expanding on our trip to the Glenbow Museum last month, students have been further investigating change within our community. They have explored: “What is a community?” “How has our community changed?” and “What can we learn from our past?” The Grade 1s have been looking closely at the upcoming Royal Oak Wetlands development and have created a list of questions for our experts who are scheduled to visit us in March.

Next month also brings an exciting opportunity to work with our Artist-in-Residence, Sharon Fortowsky. We hope to bring our background knowledge about Conservation and Environmentalism into an exciting visual art piece. Please contact your child’s teacher if you are available to volunteer during Sharon’s time with us.

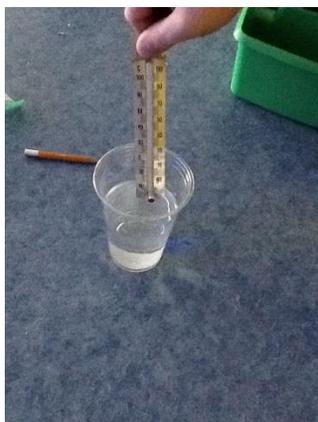
The Grade 1 Team

Ms. Daniels, Ms. Barley, Ms. Libbey, Ms. Wong, Ms. Power, Ms. Plaxin



GRADE 2 NEWS

Grade 2 have been busy discovering a new place in Canada. The Arctic. We have been looking at the unique geography, climate, animals, people and stories that make up this beautiful part of Canada. As we look deeper into specific places in the Canadian Arctic such as Iqaluit, Nunavut and the Arctic Ocean, students have been exploring how specific climates shape and change Canadian communities. In Science, they have been becoming masters at using thermometers to record different hot and cold temperatures and have been excited to learn and practice how to graph their scientific data. They have been challenged to come up with some different prototypes for building an insulator and after researching how insulation works and getting inspiration from the animals of the Arctic they will be busy building, testing and re-building their inventions. They have also been excited, after listening to many different Arctic stories to storyboard and come up with an Arctic story of their own. They are very excited to share the beginnings of these stories with you at our upcoming student-led conferences.



The Grade 2 Team

Ms. Vogan, Ms. Devereux, Ms. Cook, Ms. McDonald, Ms. Lagrana, Ms. Boston

Third Grade

GRADE 3 NEWS

Students in grade 3 continue to deepen their understanding of Peru and India through the lens of an architect. Students were given the task to rebuild a bridge to cross the Yamuna river in India or the Kimbiri river in Peru, after they were destroyed by a natural disaster! In groups, students created an architectural firm that specialized in either truss, suspension, beam, arch or cantilever bridges. Through their reading, writing and visualizing of Peru and India, the grade 3's designed and built bridges specific to one of those regions, taking into account their understanding of local materials, cultural influences and environment.

We were extremely fortunate to have a guest structural engineer, Ms. Laura, come into our classes and offer her expertise on the student's bridge designs.

We are carrying on with developing our conceptual understanding of quality of life by examining the Rights of a Child. Through discussion and questioning, students have been able to solidify their belief or persuade their peers to change their minds on what they believe is the most important quality to maintain a high quality of life.

In math, we continue to work on improving our understanding of math word problems with the CUBES strategy. Students have been solving math word problems related to the work we have been doing as an architect.

Some of our grade 3's were given the opportunity to become ECO ambassadors when they joined ECO club. They have been educating the school on how to use the various recycle bins properly, so we can reduce our waste.



All students enjoyed our Alien Inline residency. Such a great way to learn and improve rollerblading skills! As well, we got to spread kindness on Valentine's Day by handing out sweet messages to our peers. We continued on the kindness path when we recognized pink shirt day! Grade 3's worked with their grade 1 buddies to create a piece to spread kindness and put an end to bullying. We were also treated to a beautiful saxophone performance by Mrs. Anderson, who was accompanied by Mrs. Mann on the piano. Thank you!

All of us are extremely excited to showcase our work at our Celebration of Learning, March 6th, 6 - 7 p.m. There will be a performance by the Grade 3's and lots of meaningful work on display for you to enjoy! We hope to see all families there to celebrate their student's hard work.

The Grade 3 Team

Ms. Fournier, Ms. McDonald, Mr. Sandberg, Ms. Craig, Ms. Gierl



MUSIC NEWS

This month, our Kindergarten students went looking for one friend, then two friends, and then three as they sang together. Once the friends had found each other, they then played the beat (the steady pulse in music) on a shared drum, checking to make sure they were playing at the same time as the others who shared their drum. We also explored different sounds that we could make with just our voices – what a wonderful cacophony of noises we made! Students then transferred this diversity to start differentiating between our speaking, whispering, shouting and singing voices. This turned out to be a very important skill when we met “Teddy Bear”, who loves to do trick but only understands a “Singing Voice”.

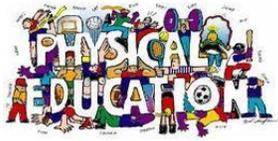
Grade One students celebrated chickens this month. First, they played the poem “What Can a Hen Do?”, in which teams took turns representing the rhythm of the text on the djembe, cymbals, spoons and wood blocks. Then they reinforced their sense of steady beat as they sang a version of the old folk song “Chicken on the Fence Post”. And, as no chicken project is complete without a chicken dance, the students learned to move with their first ostinato (a repeating rhythmic pattern – in chicken language of course!)

The Grade Two students filled the music room with delicious pizza! Students had their first opportunity to compose in a small group, putting together the ingredients of the perfect pie. They then used the rhythmic structure of this short composition to improvise a melody on the xylophone. Between each team's pizza order, the class sang “Rico's Pizza Restaurant” accompanied by an ostinato (repeating pattern) on the xylophone. As we prepared our “food” in this project, students developed that essential musical skill of listening to each other and working as a team, even when performing music in two parts!

This month, the Grade Three classes have each worked on their own miniature project, marching, chanting, singing, as well as playing the melodic chimes, xylophones, tambourines, djembes, spoons and bells. Each group's piece tells one element of the traditional Indian story of "Muna and the Grain of Rice", which are looking forward to sharing at the Grade Three Celebration of Learning. Look for further information from your child's homeroom teacher!

Music Specialist

Ms. Mann



PHYS ED. NEWS

We are just wrapping up a very busy month in Physical Education at Royal Oak. Students have been having fun in the gym with Alien In-line skating and working hard in P.E. class learning how to juggle scarves, juggling sticks and improve on their speed stacking skills. Heading into March we will be continuing with some juggling tricks, playing floor hockey and working on a games unit where students will work cooperatively to create their own games.

I want to send out a huge THANKS to everyone that braved the cold, (students, staff and ROS families) and came out to participate in our first annual Outdoor School Skate event. A massive THANK YOU to our awesome volunteers for helping to run this super fun event.

Physical Education Specialist

Ms. Hennick

School Speech Language Services

The Language of Math

Language impaired children can struggle in the world of math. The language of math is often complex and decontextualized. To solve word problems successfully, students not only need to master basic numeracy facts and become experts in computation, but also need strong language skills. They must understand complex and often abstract vocabulary, concepts, and sentence structures in order to process, integrate and solve word problems.

The struggle however, goes beyond word problems. Math is full of 'sound alike' words.

Math word... sounds like Everyday word...

Altitude... attitude
Sphere... spear
Tenths... tents
Half... have
Cents... sense

Math also is full of **multiple meaning** words...

<u>Word</u>	<u>Mathematical meaning</u>	<u>Everyday meaning</u>
volume	Amount of space taken up by an object	Noise level of electronic equipment
product	Result of multiplying numbers	Items produced by a company
ruler	Tool for measuring length	Person in authority
mass	Amount of matter in an object	A church service

Consider how all the above words can cause confusion for students. Think about the other subjects you teach— there are words of confusion in every subject!

Helping your child understand math problems

Sometimes trouble with math is more about the words and grammar used to write the questions. This is where you come in. Re-write the questions for your child keeping the following ideas in mind...

- Write the most important sentence first.
- Leave only the words and sentences that are important to solving the problem.
- Use simple sentence structure such as: Subject/Verb/Object.

Anna is having a birthday party with 8 friends. She is hanging balloons around for decorations. She has 4 bags of red balloons and 5 bags of yellow balloons but no blue balloons. If each bag has 10 balloons, how many balloons does she have to hang?

Rewrite as: Anna has 4 bags of red balloons and 5 bags of yellow balloons. Each bag has 10 balloons. How many balloons are there in total?

Vocabulary

Don't assume that your child knows what all the words in a math problem mean.

Help your child understand all the words in the problem before figuring out what math needs to be done.

E.g. if a problem states "John has a dozen donuts" and your child doesn't understand that a 'dozen' means 12, then they will not be able to solve the problem.