

LAKERS LEDGER

Nestor Falls School O'Fisnal News

February 2024

From the Office

Breaking news, not hearts! February is the month we celebrate love and inclusion with Random Acts of Kindness Day, Valentine's Day, Family Day, and Black History Month. Your kindness is your greatness, NFS!

In 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month, following a motion by the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine. This is an opportunity for students and staff to recognize the contributions of Black Canadians past and present. During Black History Month, students will participate in several activities that recognize and celebrate the rich heritage, history, and culture of Black Canadians as well as Black peoples from around the world. This year's theme is Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate.

This month also marks the beginning of a new term. Teachers are finishing up first term report cards which go home on February 12. These reports represent learning from September until the beginning of February. Unlike the progress report, the report card will provide you with more detail on how your child is progressing at school. Please note that the Language achievement will be represented with one grade/mark, just like Math. Your student's achievement may look different than the past. They are being assessed on different expectations and being screened/monitored with new tools. If you have any questions about your child/ren's report card, or how you can support at home, please contact the teacher.

The report card will also include information about your child/ren's Learning Skills/Work Habits which impact achievement. They are the habits needed for lifelong learning and success. Read over this comment with your child/ren, celebrate strengths and discuss goals for next term. See the flip side for more information and examples of these skills and habits.

Ms. Tolen



From Balanced to Structured Literacy

The new Language curriculum in Ontario has shifted from a Balanced to a Structured approach. What does this mean? It is working to create a strong foundation with the most basic elements of sound-letter relationships and building on those to find meaning.

Explicit and sequential instruction includes:

Phonology - the ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds in spoken words

Example

isolating, identifying, segmenting, blending sounds, syllables, rhymes, making/breaking words

Orthography - sound-symbol knowledge

Example

there are different ways to spell the /k/ sound, <c>, <k>, or ,<ck>, however, we usually use <ck> at the end of words

Morphology - words and the parts that carry meaning

Example

un + help + ful
prefix base suffix
not full full of

Syntax - how words combine to create meaningful sentences, grammar

Semantics - meaning of words, phrases, and sentences, comprehension, vocab

Example

irony, which refers to when someone says one thing but means another - if someone standing in the rain said, "What a great day!"

Parent Guide - check the guide for more information about the new Language curriculum

Learning Skills & Work Habits

Strong learning skills and work habits are required for success in every aspect of school, and life in general. They are indicators of future success and describe HOW students learn rather than WHAT they learn. The achievement of learning skills should be assessed and evaluated across all subjects and in other behaviour at school. As students move through the grades, they will continue to develop and consolidate these skills and habits. Below are a few examples for each category.

Responsibility - act independently and be accountable

- Come to class on time, prepared
- Follow rules and routines
- Complete work to the best of ability
- Take care of classroom, school, playground

Organization - plan, manage time to work independently

- Workspace, belongings neat and in order
- Ready to start lessons/assignments
- Use class time to plan and complete work
- Maintain notes/handouts in an orderly fashion

Independence - follow instructions, complete tasks independently

- Follow instructions
- Remain focused on tasks without reminders from adults
- Not be distracted by others or items
- Use feedback to improve

Collaboration - able to work with others respectfully, productively

- Take turns sharing roles and responsibilities with others
- Listen and respect ideas/opinions of others
- Share my opinions in a respectful manner
- Complete your share of the work
- Resolve conflicts in a prosocial ways

Initiative - self-starter, knowing when, and how, to ask for help

- Have a positive attitude and growth mindset towards learning
- Begin work promptly, without reminders
- Take risks and try new things on your own
- Ask for clarity or help when it is needed
- Make connections between subjects/experiences

Self-Regulation - reflective, make goals to improve

- Self-control when completing tasks and working with others
- Set your own goals and work towards achieving them
- Persevere when situations are challenging
- Know your strengths and areas for growth
- Take ownership of your learning, ask for help when needed

*If parents want to give their children a gift, the best thing they can do is teach them to **love challenges**, **be intrigued by mistakes**, **enjoy effort**, and keep on learning. This sets them up to build and repair their own confidence. - Carol Dweck*

Upcoming & Ongoing

[Winter Walk Day](#) - FE 7

Grad Photos - FE 9

It is that time of year. Lifetouch will be at NFS to take Grade 8 pictures of the graduates in the morning. Gowns and hats will be provided.

Valentines

On Wednesday, February 14, 2024 we will be celebrating Valentine's Day and Friendship Day! Students are encouraged to wear something pink or red! Students are welcome to bring cards for their classmates, however, **please make sure that there is one for everyone** in the class so that no one feels excluded!

NFS Council Mtg - FE 21

The next School Council meeting is scheduled for February 21 at 3:00 PM.

Please RSVP with Mrs. Krukoski if you are planning on attending.

Family Day - FE 19

Monday February 19 is Family Day! Mark your calendars and spend the day with your friends and family. In Ontario, the government established Family Day in order to give hard-working individuals more time with their loved ones. So give the gift of time to your love ones and enjoy the day together!

Kindergarten Registration!

It is that time of year again! If your child was born in 2020, they are eligible to start school this coming fall, September 2024. Although schools accept new registrations anytime, Kindergarten Week is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the school and program.

Please register your child using this link

www.rdsb.com/kindergarten

Once you are registered, you will be invited to visit the school on February 28.

