

*HOT LUNCHES WILL BE SERVED
IN THE MORNING NUTRITION BREAK*

Principal's Message

The first part of the year has flown by, and with it, the nice weather (if you don't consider snow to be nice). That does mean that it's almost time for the Holiday Season and time to spend time with families.

In speaking with many of you parents, I know that the schedule for this year hasn't always been popular, but I can say that the time that it has allowed teachers to take part in additional training has brought about lots of positive changes which have impacts on student learning.

Since the beginning of this year, Botha School has been using Jolly Phonics and Daily 5 reading in order to ensure that our students are strong readers and communicators. In addition, through our Collaborative Response Model, Early Reading Intervention and professional development days, we are finding that we are better able to make individual program plans for students that may need extra support. I am very pleased to say that we are seeing some impressive progress, even better than we had originally expected.

I'd also like to take a moment to thank all of the parents that came out for student led conferences. We had our best turn out on the past few years and I always enjoy having the ability to speak with parents and students about how they are feeling about the year and their learning.

Looking forward, our Christmas concert is scheduled for 7 PM on Thursday, the 15th. A reminder that the parent council will be fundraising that evening through selling baked good. More information on this is sure to follow. Also, we will be taking donations for the food bank at the door on the evening of the Christmas concert.

Finally, our Holiday Break will begin on December 21st and students will be returning to school on a Wednesday, the

4th of January. There should be lots happening in the new year, when students return as we are in the midst of planning our ski trips and some basketball games, as well as few other special vents.

We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas concert and wish all of you a very safe and happy Holiday Season.

Mike Flieger



DECEMBER 2016 Back to school January 4, 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Hot Lunch	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Hot Lunch Cookie Dough arriving today time TBA	15 Christmas Concert 7pm Botha Hall	16	17
18	19	20	21 No School/ Holidays begin	22 No School	23 No School	24 No School
25 No School	26 No School	27 No School	28 No School	29 No School	30 No School	31 No School

Hot Lunch Menu
December 7, 2016—Lasagna
December 14—Pizza

Thanks to all of the hot lunch volunteers



News from Mrs. Maxwell 3/4

In addition to our 'Jolly' word work and spelling and Daily 5 program choices we'll be starting on some non fiction reading and writing; looking for information, evaluating its relevance, planning for writing with brainstorming, organizing information and using outlines to write expository pieces. We'll be continuing on with that in January.

Grade three is reviewing subtraction concepts and learning the basic facts from 18 (and we are still working on knowing the grade two facts to 10 by heart, inside out and backwards). Grade four will work on symmetry and they should be practicing their subtraction facts to 18. We should get into reviewing 2 digit addition and subtraction (gr 3) and 3 digit addition and subtraction (gr 4) before diving into 3 and 4 digit addition and subtraction for grades 3 and 4 respectively in the new year. I also hope to break from addition and subtraction to do some work with geometry before Christmas.

We will be doing our energy unit in science, studying light and shadows. We are still looking at the geography of Alberta this month. We are studying each geographical region of Alberta one at time. We'll be reading about the foothills this month. We may get a chance to work on our expository writing skills from ELA and work on a project relating to the geographical areas of Alberta, we'll see; we also need to do a lot of work on Christmas concert also! (If you have any material scraps that look regal or royal - something silky or glittery that you'd be willing to donate, please send that to school this week.)

I hope everyone has a wonderful December. Happy holidays too!

Check out our classroom website! We have some work from the fall there. Students who finished a good copy of their Halloween stories have their work posted on the website :-).



Grade 5-6 Update Mr. Flieger

Math

Students continue working well on individualized lessons. All students are doing well in terms of timelines. As a class, we working on mental math skills, our multiplication tables to 144, and also getting more comfortable working with decimals (adding, subtracting, dividing, multiplying).

ELA

In ELA, we have been working on a variety of things. Students have an ongoing fictional story that they are writing and revising as we work on building some of their skills such as word choice and sentence structure. In addition, we continue to look at the characteristics of nonfiction writing and news articles. Students have also been working on writing their letter to their international pen pals, which they are very excited about.

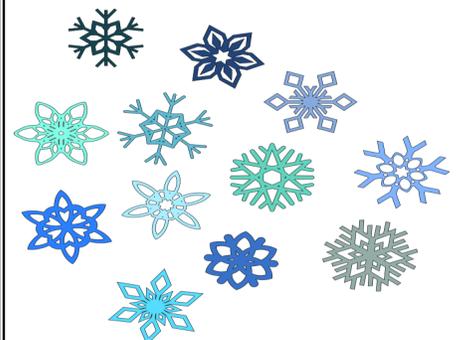
Science

In Grade 6 Science, we are finishing up our second unit on Flight by doing some designing and testing of airfoils. In the new year, we should be moving on to studying Evidence and Investigation. In Grade 5 Science, we are also finishing up our second unit- Mechanisms that use Electricity. Whereas students have a good understanding of circuits from our previous unit, they are now getting the chance to be creative to create vehicles of their own design. Many are designing part of their vehicles on the 3D printer as well.

Social Studies

In Grade 5 Social Studies, we have not covered all of the landforms in Canada and have talked about how Canada is large nation, and about how where you live can affect your way of life. We are now looking at bodies of water within Canada as well as the National Parks and their importance.

In Grade 6 Social Studies we have covered democracy and are working at looking at democracy in different forms (direct, representative). We have also been discussing the electoral process in Canada as well as the responsibilities of different levels of government.



News from Grade 1-2

Last month was a busy month with a lot of good things happening. The students have been working hard with Daily 5 and with that I have seen a positive outcome. The students are getting stronger with their writing as well as their spelling words.

This month is also going to be busy for us. We have recently been talking about different math strategies which we will continue working on everyday. This will prepare students for working with larger numbers.

We are going to be starting our senses unit in Science. This will be a fun unit because we will get to smell, taste, touch, feel, and hear a variety of things.

Christmas is just around the corner. We will be doing many Christmas crafts and a little Christmas baking. We plan to go sing our Christmas songs to the Botha Seniors, which we will also sing at this year's Christmas concert. Keep working hard!

Mrs. Brower



KINDERGARTEN!

Wow November has been a whirlwind. The students amaze me everyday with what they can accomplish. We are working really hard at blending words and learning our tricky words. We will be reading in no time. We are now starting to prepare for Christmas. The students are working very hard practicing their Christmas songs and we are going to the Botha Senior Center for extra practice. Every month we have project day. Kindergarten enjoys spending time with the older grades and have made a lot of new friends. Some of their favorite books include: *Click Clack Moo*, *Mooseltoe*, and *Curious George*.

