



September News From Room 3



September 7, 2017.

Dear Parents,

We are into the swing of Grade 1/2 already! We have begun our math unit on sorting and patterning. In Grade 1 we are sorting objects and creating patterns, using one attribute (for example: size, colour, texture, or shape). In Grade 2 we need to sort objects and create patterns using 2 attributes. We have also started investigating number patterns by skip counting by 10's to 100 (Grade 1) and 200 (Grade 2), starting at various numbers. You can practice these number patterns at home. As the year progresses be sure to ask your child to sing the patterns to you, as we have made up songs to help us remember most of them.

In language we have begun to learn and review the strategies that we can use when we get stuck on a word. These are called "Fix-it" strategies. The first strategies that we are practicing serve us well in both reading and writing and are called "Chunky Monkey" and "Stretchy Snake". Please ask your child to explain how they use these strategies while they are reading and writing. We are also working on building our reading and writing stamina. Please ask your child what this means.

Caledonia Fair entries are our focus in art. There are a few entries that we will not be doing in school that you may want to complete and enter into the fair yourselves. The theme of the Fair this year is "**Celebrate The Maple Leaf**". If you choose to complete any of these activities at home please be sure that you have the entries into The Exhibition Hall, at the Caledonia Fair grounds, between 3:00 and 9:00 on Wed. September 27, 2017, and that you pick them up between 5-6:30, on Sunday October 1, 2017. For more information please visit the Caledonia Fair website (www.caledoniafair.ca).

Categories that we WILL NOT be doing at school are:

- ☺ Baking and Food : Rice Krispie square; ice cream cone party hat; your favourite snack; and the ugliest cake contest.
- ☺ Nutritious School Lunch
- ☺ Flowers - various categories
- ☺ Vegetables - various categories
- ☺ Poster by the Caledonia Hunters and Anglers Club: "Wildlife on the Grand River"
- ☺ Poster by Dr. C. Tuffner Lolli and Dr. R. Fox-"Teeth are Important"
- ☺ Poster by The Caledonia Community Foundation: "What I Love To Do In My Community."
- ☺ Presidents' Poster -promoting Caledonia Fair

☺ 2016 Pet Show - various categories

As you may or may not be aware, Oneida Central School has won the distinction of being very difficult to beat in the school entries section, thanks to the very hard work of the students and their parents who enter a large variety of exhibits. Thank you in advance for all your enthusiasm and interest!

GO ONEIDA GO! (And have fun of course !!)

Lastly, I will post math and language homework calendars for each month on the Room 3 website. In past years I have created homework books that would travel back and forth to school each week. This year, as a result of Oneida's goal to reduce paper and photocopying costs, I will post the monthly calendars for you to download and/or save to your computer to complete. Homework completion will now be on the honour system. It is to your child's benefit to complete these activities as it will strengthen your child's reading, writing, and mathematics skills. The math calendar will also give you, as parents, a taste of what math activities are like. I have specifically chosen these activities so that they take only 15-20 minutes per night. I realize that we all lead very busy lives, but getting into a homework habit is very important. Every night I would like you and your child to read for 10 minutes. At first, you may be reading more to your child. But gradually as your child's reading skills grow they will do more and more of the reading. For the next few weeks I would like you to read books from home or the library, or online. As soon as I have the passwords we will be switching to RAZ Kids, a computer reading program. I will send home information when the program is up and running.

I will also send home 6 word wall or high frequency words, 4 chunk wall or 'Chunky Monkey' words and sometimes a bonus word, each week. These words will be written in your child's agenda. Please help your child read these words so that they can recognize and read these words quickly and accurately. These same words will be the words we will use for our weekly spelling list. So your child will be learning to read and spell these same words each week. Each Friday your child will have a 'spelling test', based on these words.

Each child was sent home with an agenda this week. Agendas will come back and forth to school each day. We will write the week's events, and word wall/spelling words in them each Monday. Also if I have any messages for you, I will also write them in the agenda. Parents, if you have any notes for me you can also use the agenda to write in. **Please be sure to sign the agenda each night to show that you have seen it.** I will check agendas each morning and give your child a stamp for your initials. Returning a signed agenda to school each morning is also going to make up part of your child's homework/responsibility grade for the year. The cost of the agenda is \$5 to be paid on the Cash Online system as soon as possible.

I think that this is all for right now. Thank you for your support in advance. Please don't hesitate to call me at the school if you have any questions. I will return your call as soon as possible

Sincerely, Mrs. Suzie Johnson

