



January 2013

Dear Parents/Guardians of Division 7,

Happy New Year! Welcome back to school and the start of the second term. We hope you all had a restful and joyous holiday. This term promises to be just as busy as the last as we continue working on various units and begin new topics of study in several of the subject areas.

Current Events

Developing critical thinking skills and social responsibility in our students play a large part in our curriculum and teaching. Through lessons and daily interactions in the classroom, students have been encouraged to further their ability to make connections with existing and new knowledge as well as supporting their opinions and ideas with evidence and examples. We have dedicated a great deal of time to create a respectful and nurturing classroom environment in which students work cooperatively together and feel safe to take risks with their learning.

This term, we will be widening the scope of topics discussed to include world current events; however, students will take on the responsibility of introducing the topic of discussion. Each week, two individuals will be chosen to research and present a current event story. The news story could come from the newspaper, internet, radio, magazine or any other reliable news source. It can be a local, national or global news event. Students will orally report on the event and should be prepared to answer questions about it. In addition, a written synopsis will also need to be completed. When searching for a news story, we will advise the students to choose an appropriate article. **Please assist your child at home when choosing a piece ensuring that it is suitable for the members of our class.** If you do not have access to a news source, please let us know and we will be happy to provide something for your child.

Home Reading

Last term, students were responsible for reading 20 minutes every night as a part of their daily homework. This term, the time has increased to 25 minutes. Reading can be either silent or aloud (to practise oral reading skills) and can include discussion afterward about the events in the story. Discussion can help students further their comprehension of the story and fosters their critical thinking skills through questioning and connecting the material to other areas. For additional ideas, please refer to the back side of this newsletter.

Ice Skating

Our ice skating field trip was a great success during the last few weeks of school in December. We will be going on another skating trip in February at the Bill Copeland Arena but do require more parent/guardian drivers. If you are able to volunteer your time to drive some of our students on February 19 in the afternoon from 1:00-3:00 pm, please let us know as soon as possible. Thank you!

Sincerely,
M. Mann and L. Bennett