Division 6 Class Newsletter - January 28th, 2015

My January newsletter is a bit late; my apologies! Hope that everyone had a restful and enjoyable Winter break and is staying healthy. This flu season is taking a toll on many of the students as well as myself!

Student Teacher - Mr. Meuser, our VIU student teacher, will rejoin us for the middle two weeks of February to teach some Math and PE. He will then return for five weeks in late March and April to complete his final part of his practicum.

Social Studies, We are still immersed in our ‘Old Canada, Old Cumberland’ pioneer studies unit, learning a lot and having fun! Since the break we spent a morning at our amazing little community museum where the boys and girls toured the mine with Meaghan and did a scavenger hunt upstairs with the new exhibits that Anna and crew have been working hard to put together. Check out the slide show on our blog. We also spent an afternoon with Cumberland seniors at Buchanan Hall interviewing them about the ‘old days’. Again, photos and the interviews are on the blog. On Tuesday, Feb. 3rd we will be walking down to the Cumberland Community Forest with Gail Martindale, District Aboriginal Teacher. We will be examining plants that were use for medicinal, household and other purposes in the Pioneer days. We will depart at 10:30 and be back for lunch.

Valentine’s Day Service Field Trip - On the morning of Friday, February 13th we will be traveling to Glacier View Lodge to deliver Valentine cards to the one hundred residents there. We will have hand-made the cards previous to the trip. We will depart from the school at 9:45 and return for noon. The students will be having ‘tea’ with the seniors and doing some visiting. This is one of my Valentine’s Day traditions which I’ve done with my students for many years. I’ve found it to be a very rewarding day for the seniors and students. The permission slips will come home by tomorrow; please sign and return them by the Tuesday following. If you are able to drive and join us, please indicate. Also, on the afternoon of Thursday, February 12th, we will walk to the Cumberland Lodge to visit and deliver Valentines to the seniors there.

Health and Career Studies - In later February we will be starting a very interesting unit on Nutrition. Students will be investigating the nutritional value of Fast Foods, examining food groups according to the Canada Food Guide and doing some meal planning. Students will be able to shop wisely for snacks by reading the nutritional information on food packages. I would appreciate if you could please collect and send food labels (entire label including ingredients, please) in with your child. The labels can be from cans, boxes or packages.

Language Arts - Also in February, Division 6 students will begin a short unit on poetry. They will enjoy reading and examining the characteristics of poetry, doing some interpretive work as well as reading and sharing poetry with our classmates. The students will also be involved in writing and sharing their own poems.
Math - We are presently working on a unit on Multiplication and Division and the relationship between. The boys and girls have been solving multiplication and division stories and some of their division stories have remainders. We have been also working to reinforce the recall of multiplication facts. Soon we will be learning about Metric measurement; specifically, measuring distance and the units involved (cm, m and km). This will include learning about perimeter. Measuring distance will be followed up with measuring Mass (g and kg) as well as measuring Time (analogue and digital clocks, calendar year).

Science - **The boys and girls are very excited as our 200 salmon eggs arrived this week. Please understand that we must be very selective when removing the lid and showing the eggs (which are soon to be alevin). The salmon need to be in a habitat that is as similar as possible to their natural environment; one that is dark and quiet. Removing the lid allows light in, thus stressing the salmon.

P.E. - We have been doing some interesting activities in Physical Education. Gloria Grieve came and did a Drums Alive workshop with us in December and is back again next Thursday, Feb. 5th. There is a short video of the students involved in this activity on our blog. We also will be having a Lacrosse workshop next week.

Punctuality - Please make sure your child is on time for school in the mornings. When students straggle in late, it is disruptive to their own learning as well as the learning of their classmates. I want to emphasize to students the practice of good attendance and punctuality at school so that they follow through with these good life habits in their adult lives. Ideally, students should arrive at school ten minutes early. This gives them a chance to be social and visit with friends before class as well as have themselves organized for class so they are ready to focus when classes do begin. Thanks for your help with this.

A few dates to remember:
Feb. 3rd - our 'Plant' walk to Cumberland Community Forest
Feb. 9th - BC Family Day (no school)
Feb. 11th / 25th - PLC Days (12:30 pm dismissal)
Feb. 12th - visit to Cumberland Lodge (1:00 to 2:15 pm)
Feb. 13th - trip to Glacier View Lodge (9:45 am to 12:00 noon)
Feb. 16th - Pro-D Day (no school)

Keep checking the blog (ourforest.edublogs.org) and thanks for sharing it with family/friends. Thanks for your continued support!

Pam Twin, Div.6 Teacher