May News

La Classe 1/2C
May 2017

Hats On! for Mental Health Day!

On Wednesday May 3rd, students will be encouraged to wear a hat to raise awareness of the importance of good mental health.

As a class, we will discuss what mental health is and how to make sure we have good mental health.

For more information, please follow the link:

https://www.teachers.ab.ca/NewsRoom/IssuesandCampaigns/Pages/HealthymindsBrightfutures.aspx

Dear parents,

It's hard to believe, but we are nearing the end of another school year. Although there are only two months left until summer vacation, there is still a lot of work to be done. Find out what's in store for our class during the month of May.

Weather

With the regular warm weather to come, students want to wear their flip flops and sandals to school; however, please be aware that the children do take part in Daily Physical Activity (APQ), as well as Physical Education, which is sometimes outside, and therefore they need proper footwear.

Please ensure that your child has a good pair of runners at school to avoid possible injuries.

Mark your calendars!

Wednesday May 3rd

Grade 2-Holy Childhood Mass

Tuesday May 9th

Jr. ATB Banking Day

Wednesday May 10th

Grade 1-Edmonton Valley Zoo

Friday May 12th

Hot Lunch

Friday May 12th

Car Bingo - 5:30pm-8:30pm

Friday May 19th

PD Day - No School

Monday May 22nd

Victoria Day – No School

Tuesday May 23rd

Grade 2 – Saskatoon in school field trip

Tuesday May 23rd

JR. ATB Banking Day

Wednesday May 24th

Volunteer Appreciation Tea

Mental Math

Earlier this year, we focused on addition and subtraction up to 12 (grade 1) and 18 (grade 2). This week, we will begin revisiting this concept; however, this time we will be working on adding and subtracting up to 20 (grade 1) and 100 (grade 2). Although most students have a fairly good understanding of how to add and subtract, many of them often need to use their fingers or other manipulatives to help find the answer to an equation. While we encourage the use of manipulatives, we would also like to encourage the students to develop strategies that will help them to do Mental Math.

Mental Math is the ability to calculate answers in one's head, without the use of manipulatives or other aids. There are many strategies that can help develop your child's ability to do Mental Math. It is important that your child understand each strategy so that he/she may effectively use it when trying to solve mathematical equations.

Strategy #1: Counting On & Counting Back

This strategy involves starting with the largest number and continuing to count on from there to solve an addition. For instance, to solve 3+7, students would start with the number 7 because it is the larger number. They would say 7 and then count the next 3 numbers to find their answer (7…8,9,10). This strategy also works well for subtraction; however, in order to subtract, students need to count backwards.

This strategy can be modified for grade 2 students, as when they add or subtract larger numbers, they can use the count on strategy by skip counting by 10's. Check out this video to help you understand http://tinyurl.com/kf7g4p8 (Origo: Teaching the Count-On Strategy for Addition)

Strategy #2: Use Doubles

Students often have no problem remembering their doubles (3+3, 4+4, 5+5 etc…), which is great because doubles can often help to solve other equations. For instance, if a child knows that 4+4=8, then he/she should also know that 4+5=9, as it is only one more, and that 4+3=7, as it is only one less.

Grade 2 students can use their doubles and near doubles to help them add larger numbers as they will see many doubles in the place of the ones- 19+19, well I know 9+9 is 18, and 10+10 is 20, so 20+18 is 38.

Strategy #3: Make 10

Adding 10 is generally pretty easy for students to do in their head. Therefore, we encourage students to try to make 10, in order to help them solve equations. This is most easily done with additions involving 9 or 8, as they are only one or two less than 10. So, to add 4+9, students are encouraged to 'make 10' by borrowing one from the 4 to give to the 9. Students should be able to see that 4+9 is the same as 3+10.

For Grade 2 students, they can also use this strategy with big numbers. 74+68, students can 'make a 10^{th}' by borrowing two from 74 to give to the 8. Students should be able to see that 74+68 is the same at 72+10.

Strategy #4: Use an Addition to help Subtract

Subtraction always seems to be a bit trickier for students than addition. However, if students know their addition facts, they can use them to help solve those tricky subtractions. For instance, if a student knows that 5+5=10, they should also know that 10-5=5.

Check out this video for a more thorough and visual explanation of the "flip the equation" strategy: http://tinyurl.com/kgeqv3h (Origo- Teaching the Think Addition Strategy for Subtraction)

Grade 2 math

PLACE VALUE

To do two-digit addition and subtraction, your child will need a strong foundation of ones and tens. Looking at numbers, and representing them using base ten blocs, unifix cubes, or even pictures, will help your child develop a deeper understanding of numbers.

TRADITIONAL ALGORITHM

Your child will learn to use the traditional algorithm of regrouping. However please keep in mind that it is not the only strategy for solving problems-if they understand it, they can use it. When we do work with the traditional algorithm ex: we will attach a lot of language and meaning to it. Students will use base -10 blocks, and learn to understand that (for example) there aren't enough ones to subtract 8 ones from 7. I have to decompose a ten. Therefore, my question is now 17-8 (9) and then, I'm not just subtracting 3 from 4, I am subtracting 30 from 40.

$$\begin{array}{r} 57 \\ -38 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

FINALLY… Math at home

When the opportunity presents itself, ask your child to find answers mentally and discuss the strategy used. Share your strategy and discuss how they are similar and different. Working together, can you find another strategy that will work? As with any skill, practice makes perfect. The more you practice mental computation, the better you will be at it. But remember, only use a strategy you trust and understand. If you don't trust it, you don't learn to use it. Strategies must be efficient, effective and explainable.

Grade 1 Baby Pictures, Please!

In Social Studies, we have been discussing the past and how our community has changed over time. And in the coming weeks, we will begin talking about how our families have changed over the years. So this is the perfect time to start a discussion in Health about how we, ourselves, have changed since we were born. To help us out, I would love to have a baby picture of each student to share with the class. We will be using the pictures to play a little guessing game, as well as complete a project, which will be posted on Seesaw upon its completion. If possible, please email me an electronic copy of one of your child's baby pictures by Monday May 8th. If you only have a hard copy, that will work too, just send it in with your child. Thank you for your cooperation!