

April Newsletter

Fairvale Elementary School

Vision: FES students will be passionate life-long learners who contribute as responsible leaders in a global community.

Literacy Corner

March 29, 2018

Ends Policy #2

Students at FES will demonstrate continuous improvement in literacy skills, striving to meet or exceed the standards set by the Province of New Brunswick.

Literacy FAQ's

Getting the Talk Going (Adapted from Trehearne)

Dear Families,

Families are often frustrated as they try to talk with their young children about school. Frequently, parents will ask, "What did you do in school today?" Nearly always, they're told, "Nothing!" or "I don't know!" Asking children if they had fun or a good day usually results in a simple "yes" or "no." So what is the solution? Many families find that they enjoy talking with their children more—and learn more about what they're doing—if they ask questions that are specifically tied to literacy.

Try some of these:

- What did you read today? Tell me about it.
- What did you learn today that you could teach me? Any cool new words?
- Tell me about something you wrote today. Why did you write it? (What was the purpose?)
- What did your teacher read to you today?
- Tell me about your day. What did you do first? Next? Later?
- What did you discuss in class?
- What did you learn about yourself as reader or writer?
- What was the best thing that happened at school today? (What was the worst thing that happened at school today?)
- Tell me something that made you laugh today?
- Where is the coolest place at the school?
- Tell me a weird word that you heard today. (Or something weird that someone said.)
- If I called your teacher tonight, what would she tell me about you?
- How did you help somebody today?
- How did somebody help you today?
- When were you the happiest today?
- What word did your teacher say most today?
- If you got to be the teacher tomorrow, what would you do?

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Math Corner News

Understanding Counting

Counting objects by ones:

Counting is more than just reciting a sequence and recognizing numerals. Counting is finding out “how many”. When you watch young children count you will begin to realize that they see numbers very differently from adults. Making sense of numbers is not easily attained. Children need to be provided with many experiences so that they understand what counting is all about (Kathy Richardson).

Below is a list of some of those critical understandings:

- Counts one object for each number

- Keeps track of an unorganized pile when counting

- Knows how many after counting

- Able to count out a particular quantity

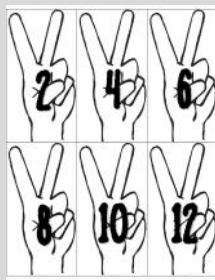
- Knows that numbers grow by 1 each time

- Knows that the starting point and the order the objects are being counted does not affect how many there are



Counting objects by groups:

Many children are confused when they are asked to count by groups (by 2s, 5s, etc.) if they do not have a deep understanding of the above principles. Before students understand that counting by groups is a shortcut they need to make groups as they say the counting sequence (2, 4, 6, ...). At this point it is clearly not more efficient than counting by 1s, but an important step in helping students understand that the quantity does stay the same no matter how a group of objects is counted (Kathy Richardson).



Guidance News

Dear F.E.S. Families,

Happy April! This month, FES students will focus on Habit #6, **Synergize**. What does synergize mean? Stephen Covey describes Habit #6 this way: "Synergize is when two or more people work together to create a better solution than either would have thought of alone. It's not your way or my way, but a better way. Synergy is taking good ideas and making them better by working together. Discussions can focus on other examples of synergy in nature, history, literature, and personal experiences. For example, synergy happens in nature when a flock of geese heads south for the winter. They fly in a V formation because, due to the updraft, the entire flock can fly farther than if each bird flew alone."

At FES we have many wonderful examples of synergizing, like the partnership we have with the **Kennebecasis Regional Police Force (KRPF)** who work with us to deliver important programs like D.A.R.E. and W.I.T.S. As you know, this year the KRPF played a significant role in helping FES organize and celebrate the best **Pink Shirt Day Assembly** to date. Please take a look at the fantastic video created by Constable Shawn Toner: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nyyi-Yqj6Fl&feature=youtu.be>

Finally, a big thank to F.E.S. families for supporting our **Pink Pinky Painting** event in honor of *Pink Shirt Day*. This year we were able to donate \$250.00 for the **Kids Help Phone**. *Together* we accomplish so much more than we could alone, and that's synergy at its best!

Next up, we sharpen the saw with Habit #7 in May as we continue to use our WITS and learn more about the Zones of Regulation during guidance classroom visits!

Thank you,
Mrs. Casey & Java



What's Happening In the Gym?



April PE Newsletter

Grades K-1

Outcomes for the month:

- Doing:**
1. Students will be expected to send objects using different pieces of equipment, as well as different body parts (hands, feet, arm, etc...).
 2. Students will be expected to receive objects by themselves and with a partner.
- Knowing:**
1. Students will be expected to know the importance of exercise.
 2. Students will be expected to know what a warm up and cool down are for.
- Valuing:**
1. Students will be able to help others and show skills that they have learned.

Lessons:

We will be continue with our sending and receiving theme. Students have been practicing sending a variety of objects such as volleyballs, frisbees and balls with scoops, etc.

We, also, will be introducing the students to some floor hockey skills. We will spend a few lessons learning how to hold a stick, stick handle, passing and receiving.

Grades 2-3

Outcome for the month:

- Doing:**
1. Students will be expected to show different ways to send and receive objects.
 2. Students will be expected to demonstrate ways to retain and move an object with control.
- Knowing:**
1. Students will be expected to explain how they can have fun by being physically active.
- Valuing:**
1. Students will be able to explain why it is important to be persistent and not give up when trying to meet a goal.

Lessons:

We will continue to work on sending and receiving objects in the gym. We will be using various pieces of equipment such as volleyballs, Frisbees and balls with scoops.

We will be covering a floor hockey theme for a couple weeks. Students will learn and practice passing and receiving skills, stick handling and lead up game activities.

What's Happening In the Gym?

Grades 4-5

Outcomes for the month:

- Doing:**
1. Students will be expected to demonstrate ways to send and receive an object with accuracy.
 2. Students will be expected to demonstrate ways to send and receive an object, using a piece of equipment.

Knowing: 1. Students will know how to make goals for themselves.

Valuing: 1. Students will be expected to willingly participate in a variety of activities.

Lessons:

We will be finishing up with our volleyball unit at the beginning of the month. Students will be assessed on the ability to control the ball with their bumps and volleys. A lot of our students have been enjoying the intramurals, which allows them extra (optional) time in the gym playing volleyball games.

We will be starting a badminton unit after Easter. Students will learn and practice how to do a forehand, backhand shots, serves, how to keep score and how to play the game.

What's Happening In the Music Room?

A note from the music room:

Kindergarten: Is working on practicing high and low, loud and soft, maintaining steady beat, and singing alone. We are also learning some songs to celebrate Spring.

Grade 1: Are working on and practicing in-tune singing, and rhythm reading using ta, titi, and rest. Students will also be learning to sing some songs about rain for Spring.

Grade 2: Will be working on reinforcing rhythms using ta, titi, ticatita, half note and quarter rest. Students will also be learning about tempo (speed of the beat). Students will learn to sing harmony beginning with a round called Pizza Hut.

Grade 3: Will learn a round called "I love the Mountains", where they will sing in 3 and 4 parts. They will also learn a song from Australia called "Waltzing Matilda" and learn about the Didgeridoo. Students will continue to work on rhythm reading through games and song.

Grade 4: We will be starting a 6 week Ukulele Unit. Students will learn about the parts of string instruments, comparing them to each other. How to hold a ukulele, strum, some chords we will focus on are C, F G, A minor. Throughout the unit we incorporate rhythm reading and singing. We will be using standard C tuned ukuleles.

Grade 5: Is working on reading notes on the treble clef staff and playing recorders.



Practice Those Memory Skills!

Working memory skills can affect learning in many different subject areas including reading and math. Working memory is like a mental sticky note that keeps track of short-term information. It plays an important role in concentration and in following instructions such that it helps kids hold onto information long enough to use it.

When students have weak working memory skills, it can make it challenging to follow multi-step directions because they may have trouble keeping in mind what comes next while they're doing what comes now. The part of the brain responsible for working memory is also responsible for maintaining focus and concentration which are very important for school success. Below are some suggested activities to help develop memory skills.

With younger children:

Play matching memory games, increasing the number of cards as your child gets better at the game.

Memorize nursery rhymes, poems and songs.

Make sure your child has memorized basic family information (full name, age, address and telephone number).

When doing chores, give 2-3 chores at a time. You can gradually increase the length and complexity of your directions. This will help increase your child's memory for what is heard.

In the car make up number and word strings and have your child repeat them back to you. For example, 7-2-3-7 or hat-cow-pig (you can use related or unrelated word strings). Take turns and see what they can come up with.

Play "What's Missing". Hide a variety of small objects behind a book, take away an object or two at a time. Move the book and see if your child can tell you what's missing.

Play "Simon Says" with an increasing number of movements. The purpose is to remember the multi-step movements, but tricking once in a while is still fun.

Have your child practice retelling stories they enjoy, using proper sequence and grammar. Model and correct as needed.

With older children:

Have them memorize and recite longer poems and songs.

Practice math facts. Higher level math comes so much easier when children have remembered their math facts.

Play "20 Questions". One person thinks of an object and the other players take turns guessing what it is. Take spelling and vocabulary practice a step further. Make sure your child can explain the words and use them properly in sentences.

Talk about topics being discussed at school. This gives your child an opportunity to remember and repeat facts on relevant topics.

Encourage your child to memorize and tell jokes. These are a fun way to work on memory skills.



FES Home & School

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April 2018



NEW FIT-TASTIC CLASS!

Fit-tastic Fairvale and East Coast Boxing and Performance are offering classes Sunday, April 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th at 6:00pm to students in grades K- 5. The cost is \$40 for four classes. What a great opportunity for your child to try an exciting, new activity! To register please email fairvalefit@gmail.com.

Family Fun Night planning meeting will be on April 18th at 7:00pm.

If you would like to assist with our upcoming Family Fun Night on May 25th please email us at fairvalehomeandschool@gmail.com

We are need of volunteers before, during and immediately following (clean up) Family Fun Night.

Stop and Shop

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 5th for our Spring Stop and Shop! We have over 50 vendors attending including, Thirty One, Doterra, Arbonne, Epicure, Norwex, Tupperware and many more! What a great place to do some shopping for Mother's Day!



Congratulations to Beth Pothier for being our April volunteer of the month!

Thanks 'a latte' Beth for being so generous with your time and all you do for FES!!!

Home & School Executive

Co-Presidents- Jennifer Roy & Traci MacVay
Vice President- Carolyn Smith
Co-Treasurers- Nancy Washburn Pynn & Erin Staal
Secretary- Nancy Sooley