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Happy New Year!

Wishing everyone good health, peace and happiness in 2018!

I was happy to welcome everyone back to class on Monday! It seemed like everyone had a good Christmas and were ready to return to school. I have to congratulate my students----we had a WONDERFUL first week back!

**Important Dates to Remember**

January 19 ------------ North Side Hockey Night (see attached note below)

January 25 ------------- Hot Lunch Orders Due

January 25 ------------- Zumba $2

February 13 & 26 Skating for Grades 3 – 5 (Students will need skates, a hockey helmet or a bike helmet, as long as it fits properly).

[North Side Elementary School Night With UNB REDS](http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/_layouts/CopyUtil.aspx?Use=id&Action=dispform&ItemId=90&ListId=DD99811C-29A7-4AA0-B26F-E807F2DC9E08&WebId=DBD5FFF4-7AED-47F9-A19B-88A48961B95E&SiteId=3fe80f47-a08d-4fe5-94b3-f8844deb94cb&Zone=1&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fweb1%2Enbed%2Enb%2Eca%2Fsites%2FASD%2DW%2FBPS%2FPages%2Fdefault%2Easpx" \o ")

[Friday, January 19th is the annual North Side Elementary School Night for UNB Men's Hockey.  The UNB​ REDS will be hosting the St. Mary's Huskies at 7pm at the Aitken Center.  Students are free and parent tickets are $6.00.  Student and parent tickets are to be picked up at the Aitken Center box office by Friday, January 19th at 4:00.  We hope to have a great turnout in the Barkers Point School section to cheer on our home team!](http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/_layouts/CopyUtil.aspx?Use=id&Action=dispform&ItemId=90&ListId=DD99811C-29A7-4AA0-B26F-E807F2DC9E08&WebId=DBD5FFF4-7AED-47F9-A19B-88A48961B95E&SiteId=3fe80f47-a08d-4fe5-94b3-f8844deb94cb&Zone=1&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fweb1%2Enbed%2Enb%2Eca%2Fsites%2FASD%2DW%2FBPS%2FPages%2Fdefault%2Easpx" \o ")

**Math**

We are very fortunate to have Ms. Sharon Black with us until the end of January. Ms. Black is a Math Lead with the District. Our focus has changed from Data to Fractions. While learning about Fractions MS. Black is assisting students in developing their Mathematical Thinking Skills. For many of the activities we have/ will be doing the focus is on trying to solve mathematical problems and being able to explain our thinking. The focus is not on achieving the correct answer. This is a very difficult concept for many students. Many of the problems we have tried / will try to solve are not simple one step problems where the answer is straight forward. Many students are enjoying the challenge and many students are struggling with the challenge. The secret is to think outside the box and use all the mathematical knowledge that has been learned. This is a real struggle for many students.

There is no need to be upset or stressed. This is a new concept for many students. There will be plenty of opportunity to develop Mathematical / Critical Thinking skills.s

The outcome we are working in Math are;

1.Demonstrate an understanding of fractions less than or equal to one by using concrete and pictorial representations to ; name and record fractions for the parts of a whole or a set, compare and order fractions, model and explain that for different wholes, two identical fractions may not represent the same quantity; provide examples of where fractions are used.

**Literacy**

Last week and this week we will be focusing on summarizing fiction / nonfiction texts, finding the main idea in fiction / nonfiction passages, comparing and contrasting fiction and nonfiction passages and the different types of Genres.

This week in writing we will be finishing up personal narratives and will be starting to learn how to write short fiction.

In Grammar, we will be learning about conjunctions and using a comma after a conjunction.

We will also begin to earn about note taking. This is a skill that students will need throughout school.

Students should be reading at LEAST 20 minutes every night. They will resume taking home Home Reading Books this week. For the books that are sent home the level of the book is not so important. These books are short books which support student’s fluency, retelling the story, relating story to self, to world or

Before Christmas, I sent home a handout with a list of questions you can ask about a book to develop retell and comprehension. This page may have gotten misplaced during the busy Christmas season. I will resend it on Tuesday.

Home reading is on the honor system. I will not be policing it. I will leave ensuring home reading is done for 20 minutes every night and questions are answered every night to parents and students. When your child has finished reading the 2 Home Reading Books and answering questions they are free to read whatever interests them for 20 minutes a night. I would suggest they select a novel to read at home for 20 minutes every night for 20 minutes when Home Reading Books are finished.

It is important to note that the only way to improve reading skills is to **READ!** **READ! READ!** In order to show gains in reading students must **PRACTICE!** **PRACTICE! PRACTICE**! At home and school. For Home Reading Books sent home ,it is important for an adult to listen to your child read the book aloud and ask for a retell, ask comprehension questions**. Students cannot do this on their own! They need your support!**

**Science**

We have finished our unit on Rocks. We are now completing activities that require critical thinking, problem solving, and experimentation. These tasks will individual tasks as well as partner problem solving. We have done a couple of challenges already and the students really enjoy it!

**Health**

In Health we are focusing on trying to solve problems on our own. Not coming to me right away. Students are encouraged to report a problem to the teacher who is on duty on the playground or in the Cafeteria. WE are reviewing strategies for solving problems, WITS----Walk Away, Ignore, Talk it out and seek assistance. Of course, the message that I am/will certainly convey is that I will assist them but they must use their WITS first. We will also focus on How Big is Your Problem? How BIG the problem is certainly determines teacher intervention.

The second area we are focusing on is, are you tattling or reporting and what the difference is. Is it your goal to get another student in trouble? We are learning that if someone is not doing what they should be doing we do not need to concern ourselves with it. In the long term the student will be at a disadvantage for not doing the required task. Everyone needs to ensure that they are doing what has been asked. Not to worry about others. Stop bossing other students around / correcting them.

The third area we are focusing on is what is a joke? When a joke is funny and when is it not funny? Several students have been sharing mean / unkind comments about other students. Following what they have said it is common to hear “joking”. This upsetting to the student / students who are on the receiving end of the “joke”.

Finally we will be discussing and learning about Bullying. It is felt the word Bullying is being overused.

I have noticed huge gains in these areas this week. If your child tells you that I would not assist them with a problem it is because they have to use their WITS before I will intervene. Intervening was taking up a huge amount of teaching time.

**Orange Campfire Notebooks**

Students will resume printing reminders and messages in their Orange Campfire Notebooks. **Be sure to check on a daily basis and sign**. There will not be a reminder / message every night but several times a week.

**Skating**

We will be skating on February 13 & 26. Students will need skates and a helmet to take part. If your child does not have skates or a helmet please work on getting skates and a helmet. New skates can be expensive. I would suggest you monitor Kijji, Fredericton/ Oromocto Yard Sale Site, watch for sales or try to borrow a pair of skates. Value Village is also another possibility. If your child does not have skates and after exhausting all possibilities of finding skates please let me know. However, do not leave it until last minute. Bike helmets are acceptable but they must fit properly. That is they need to protect the forehead and the temples.

Please remind your child to dress for the weather! Students who do not wear snow pants or boots will not be permitted to play on the snowbanks or the fields.

Have a wonderful week! Please stay in touch!

Happy 2018!