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**FOR THE LOVE OF READING CHALLENGE STARTING ON TUESDAY, FEB. 1**

Starting Tuesday February 1st , Summerhill Stars will be participating in a school wide **FOR THE LOVE OF READING** challenge. Both students individually and classroom teachers will be tracking minutes read, in the hopes of reaching our goal of 100 000 minutes read in a month.

Reading minutes trackers will be sent home with students on Monday.

Students will be encouraged to fill out their trackers at home each night for minutes read. These minutes will contribute to our overall school goal. Reading minutes in class will also count towards their daily minutes, however those will be tracked in the classroom, they don't track these minutes twice.

Teachers will send in their weekly minutes, to encourage healthy competition and excitement between classes.

If we reach our goal, we will be having a school wide celebration to recognize student engagement and love for reading!

Last year, our students reached the goal very easily, so we hope we can do the same this year.

Each student will be receiving a special bookmark to kick start the challenge on Tuesday. Forms are being sent home today!

***VIRTUAL INVITATION FOR DR. NORMA ST. CROIX***

***Please bookmark Thursday, Feb. 17 on your calendar!***

***We are excited to invite you to a virtual session with Dr. Norma St. Croix from 6:30 – 7:30.***

***To help with our School Improvement goal for to improve literacy skills, our PSSC is funding a session for our school community on helping your child with reading skills with Dr. St. Croix, who is a professor at Memorial University in Nfld.***

 More info to come about this!

 **POPCORN FOR SALE!**

We will resume our popcorn program starting on Tuesdays and Fridays again beginning the week of February 7th  - 11th. You can order popcorn this week and the last day to order will be Friday, Feb. 4th.

The money raised from popcorn so far this year has been used to purchase new books for our classrooms. Every few weeks, Mrs. Atherton loves to deliver new release titles to each classroom.

For the next round of popcorn, we plan to use the funds raised to support our School Spirit initiative. Once we find a name for our new STAR mascot, we are going to buy an actual STAR mascot costume. This new mascot costume will be a great addition to our STAR PATROL on Fridays and assemblies (still virtual this year).

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| **DATES TO REMEMBER: Mark Your Calendar** |
| Feb. 4 | Final Day to order popcorn |
| Feb. 14-25 | Hot Lunch for March (after March Break) can be ordered online. Please ask for paper copies. Orders are due on Feb. 25 |
| Feb. 14-18  | Staff Appreciation Week  |
| Feb. 14  | Happy Valentine’s Day!**Cultural Diversity virtual presentation from Multi-Cultural Association for Black History Month** |
| Feb. 15  | National Flag Day of Canada |
| Monday, Feb. 21 | NB Family Day – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS |
| Wednesday, Feb. 23 | Pink Shirt Day (Assembly in the p.m.) |
| March 7-11 | March Break  |
| March 25  | PL Day for Teachers – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS |

**MARCH BREAK**

This year March Break is from March 7 to March 11, 2022. There is no school for students this week.

**PSSC**

There will be a meeting Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 6:30 pm. This meeting is open to any interested parent and it will be a virtual meeting.

**Pink Shirt Day**

On February 23rd, 2022, our school will be celebrating anti-bullying and friendship skills by wearing pink.

**TRANSPORTATION – AFTER-HOURS CONCERNS**

If your child is late getting off the bus, parents have the option for assistance after the school office closes at 4:00 PM. You can call the Oromocto Education Centre Transportation office at 357-4256. If you get no answer at that telephone number, you can also call Transportation at the Office of the Superintendent at 453-5454 for assistance.

**SAFETY IN OUR PARKING LOT and road**

If you are bringing your child to school in the morning or picking him/her up afterschool, please remember that the speed limit is 20 km/h. As soon as you turn on Ellerslie Road, there is a sign indicating the speed. We have a crosswalk on the road as well so please take caution especially when snowbanks are high. We appreciate your cooperation with this!

**School Closures:**

Please listen to the local radio stations for announcements regarding school closures due to poor weather or emergencies. Summerhill St Elementary is in Anglophone West School District and in **Zone 7. You may call 453-5454 after 6:00am or check out our website.**

In the event that school is cancelled during the day due to inclement weather, we will make every attempt to contact students’ homes to ensure safe arrival. **Please ensure that all contact phone numbers are up-to-date to make sure we can reach you in case of emergency!**

The complete School Closure Policy can be read on our website.

**STAFF UPDATES**

* We would like to welcome Ms. Victoria Jones as the Physical Education teacher at Summerhill. Ms. Jones is replacing Mrs. Keizer who retired before Christmas.
* We would also like to welcome Mrs. Jillian Lackey who starts on Feb. 1. Mrs. Lackey is replacing Mrs. Small for the remainder of the year.
* Ms. Amanda Braman is starting at our school as the Resource teacher. She is replacing Mrs. Keirstead for the remainder of the year. We want to thank Mrs. MacKenzie who was working in this role for the past few months.

**3G STRONG – THEME OF THE MONTH**

This month, we'll be focusing on**WeMe Success** with the **Weeks of Teamwork Tips, Friendship Fun** and **Gratitude Goodness**.

**Students will learn to be more aware of what makes a good friend or teammate and what it takes to maintain that positive relationship**. We know that kids won't always get along, so they'll learn to identify problems or conflicts with peers and find solutions through compromise or an appropriate resolution. They'll also predict how one's own behavior can impact others' emotions. Some have never thought about**how their actions impact others!** This will be some good awareness for them!

Before beginning a group activity, **be sure to talk through what having GRACE for each other in teamwork looks like and sounds like**. If you practice this each day, you will reinforce and model expectations. Not all students practice these skills at home or have direction when having interaction with peers outside of their time with you. When students are lacking skills, we must teach them, not punish them.  With behavior, practice makes progress!

One other important skill students will**focus on is gratitude**.**Gratitude has been shown to change the brain in allowing for more prefrontal cortex activity**. As Theo would say, that's the "smart part" of our brain. It's where we make good decisions. So focusing on what we're grateful for is powerful! **Even better... it can have lasting effects**. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, can help improve their health, help them deal with adversity, and build strong relationships. Gratitude helps us be more resilient!  So... let's make sure we are focused on all we are grateful for. Even better, let's tell the people we're grateful for why we are grateful for them. Students will learn the importance of a thank you and appreciation of small things. Let's share that gratitude goodness!

**ADDITIONS TO OUR BREAKFAST PROGRAM:**

**We have received a grant from PC Children’s Charities and we have been using this fund towards our breakfast program and snacks provided to classrooms.**

**We are making an addition to our regular 2 days a week program (Mondays and Wednesdays) and adding SMOOTHIES on TUESDAYS and TOAST on THURSDAYS. Thank you to our volunteers, Mrs. Lamey-Jackson and Mrs. Moore for their time in our kitchen helping get the food prepared. Our students will love these new options!**

A GLIMPSE OF OUR NEW STAR MASCOT IN OUR HALLWAYS:

