

Grade 1/2 June Newsletter



A Sad Goodbye

It is hard to believe that it is almost June, and students are already starting to talk about next year. I know that they are all excited about their move from Grade 1 to Grade 2 or from Grade 2 to Grade 3. All of the students have had a fantastic year and learned a lot! It's been a pleasure to teach each and every one of them, and I'm incredibly sad to see this year end. Thank you for working so hard with your children and reviewing what we do in the classroom at home with them. You've helped ensure that they all meet with success! I'm so proud of my Grade 1's and 2's!

I wish you and your children all the best next year! I'm sure it will be another fantastic year!
Aviva

Dates to Remember

June 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th – Pizza Day – Second Nutrition Break

June 7th – Primary Poetry Festival – For The Two Representatives From Each Class

June 7th – Structures Building Challenge (Making A Document Camera) For Grade 1 and Simple Machines Challenge (Building A Car) For Grade 2

June 8th – PA Day – No School

June 12th – Sub Day – Second Nutrition Break

June 27th – Play Day – More Details Coming Later

June 27th – Volunteer Breakfast – 8:00-8:45 in the Staff Room – Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers!

Language

June is a great time to review the skills taught throughout the year. Students will continue to work on refining their decoding and comprehension skills: *responding to texts that they read, and making connections to these texts too*. I have already completed our last DRA, so I will be using the results from this DRA as I plan my June guided reading sessions. **Please note that I run guided reading until the very end of the school year.**

At home, continue to read with your child on a regular basis. Students can exchange their levelled reading books on a daily basis if they wish, and they are encouraged to exchange them at least once a week. Over the summer, you may want to visit the public library to find new and exciting books to read with your child. There are also a large number of reading and writing websites available under “**Favourite Links**” on the Grade 1/2 website (<http://avivadunsiger.wikispaces.com>) that will allow your child to continue to develop their reading and writing skills. **Please note that this website will remain the same for at least the month of July.**

Math

In both **Grades 1 and 2**, the students are finishing a unit on **fractions**. This can be a difficult unit for some students, so making it meaningful really helps. At home, when splitting food items into equal parts, discuss these fractions with your child. Have your child show you different amounts too (e.g., $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{3}{4}$). Both the **Grade 1 and 2** students will also be completing a small unit on **mass and capacity**. There are some great at-home activities for both of these units in *Helping Your Child Do Mathematics: A Guide For Parents* (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNum.pdf>).

Science and Social Studies

Both the **Grade 1 and 2** students have finished the Science and Social Studies Units for the year, but through literacy and math centres, we will continue to review the concepts of **structures, simple machines, mapping, and communities**. You can find out more about what we're doing by reading the Literacy and Math Centre Information posted regularly on the website (<http://avivadunsiger.wikispaces.com>) under "**Photographs and Information About Class And School Activities.**"

Show and Tell

Here are our Show and Tell topics for the month:

Monday, June 4th – Friday, June 8th (Those that have Show and Tell on the 8th can present on the 7th because of the PA Day) – Free Choice – If students want to create a television commercial or a radio advertisement for this Show and Tell, they can, or if they would rather just bring in a book or toy from home, they can do that too. Students can also use the "mystery bag" format if they want. They should be prepared to talk about their Show and Tell item and answer questions about this item too. Thanks for your help with this!

Monday, June 11th – Friday, June 15th – Last year, I read a great blog post by George Couros, a principal in Alberta, that spoke about the difference between "neat" and "deep," and how to use technology for meaningful activities (<http://georgecouros.ca/blog/archives/1905>). As all of you know, I love using technology in the classroom, but I definitely agree with George here about when and how to use technology. As part of this post, George spoke about a **Daily Shoot** activity that he is involved in. Basically, each day, a tweet is sent out giving people a subject for a photograph. People involved in the **Daily Shoot** read these subjects, take photographs, upload them to Flickr, and tweet out their photographs to others with the given hashtag (e.g., #ds120).

Reading George's post gave me an idea: *what if the students were given a subject and took a photograph to bring in and discuss for Show and Tell?* If you email me the photographs (aviva.dunsiger@hwdsb.on.ca), I can upload them to our Twitter account, and even make our own **Class Shoot** hashtag too (e.g., #classshoot2012). If you don't have a camera at home, your child can find a photograph online (through Google Images or Creative Commons: Flickr) to share, or your child can even draw a picture to share instead.

Students need to be able to tell the class the following:

- 1) **What did he/she photograph or draw?**
- 2) **Why did he/she choose this item to photograph or draw? How does it relate to the topic?**
- 3) **What is one interesting thing about the photograph or drawing?**

Prior to June 11th, we will do a class activity similar to this Show and Tell activity, so that all of the students know exactly what to do!

Here is the subject for this week's Class Shoot: "**Something That Makes Me Happy.**"

Monday, June 18th – Friday, June 22nd – Another Class Shoot – This time, the topic is, "Summer Fun."

Show and Tell will be different for the last week of school. I will send home **a note closer to the end of the year** with information about Show and Tell for **June 25th – 28th**.

I'm looking forward to another great month and a wonderful end to the school year! Please email me (aviva.dunsiger@hwdsb.on.ca) if you have any questions about items in this newsletter.

Aviva Dunsiger