



Grade 1 Newsletter -- Our First Unit of Inquiry

Welcome to the Neighbourhood

ORGANIZING THEME: How We Organize Ourselves

DESCRIPTION: An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.

SUBJECT FOCUS: This unit is linked to the Ontario Curriculum Social Studies expectations on *Relationships, Rules and Responsibilities*, as well as aspects of the Health and Physical Education expectations on *Healthy Living*.

CENTRAL IDEA:

All families are unique, but have similar characteristics.

INQUIRY INTO:

- What a family is
- Common characteristics of families (similarities and differences; how they change over time)
- The roles and responsibilities of family members
- What to do when conflicts arise

SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES AT HOME THAT WILL SUPPORT OUR UNIT:

- Talk about people in the family (grandparents, aunts and uncles, cousins, etc.)
- Talk about the different relationships amongst family members (Which people are parents? What is a grandparent?)
- Look through photo albums and point out family members
- In this unit we will discuss being responsible and what our responsibilities are, you might wish to consider increasing your child's responsibilities to include small activities such as setting the table or making their bed if they are not already responsible for activities like these.
- Encourage your daughter to become more responsible for her own materials and items by allowing her to pack her school bag.
- Encourage your daughter to take more responsibility for eating a healthy and balanced diet by asking her to assist you with choosing snacks or making her lunch. Talk about the food she is selecting and why the food is a healthy or unhealthy choice.
- Throughout the unit, students will be coming home with occasional assignments that ask them to gather information from their family members. When these assignments come home, it would be great if you could have a family discussion about the topic to help your daughter gather multiple perspectives.