



Grade 1 Newsletter – Our Second 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 *The Local Community*. It will be strongly linked to our Reading work, as well as aspects of our Art and Drama curriculum.

CENTRAL IDEA:

People in a community interact with each other and provide services for others.

INQUIRY INTO:

- Different communities we belong to
- Roles of different people in a community
- Services provided in a community
- Physical layout of a community

SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIVITIES AT HOME THAT WILL SUPPORT OUR UNIT:

- Get out and explore your neighbourhood! Point out different areas of your community (for example: parks, police station, post office, pharmacy...)
- When you are out with your child, point out all the different people you see, where they work and the jobs do.
- Talk with your daughter about your job, including your role in the home. When you have guests over, ask them to talk about their job experiences as well.

GUEST PRESENTERS: During this unit I would like to have several special guests come in to the classroom to speak about their job. If you would like to come in and teach the class about the role you play in your community, please send me an email and let me know. I'll do my best to accommodate all interest, as time permits.

SPECIAL ART PROJECT: At the end of this unit, we will be building a community model. To do so, we will need a variety of small cardboard boxes (e.g. toothpaste boxes, small cereal boxes, etc). Any donations would be greatly appreciated! You may send them to school at any time, prior to November 18, 2011.