



Elmwood's Senior Kindergarten News

October 2011



Welcome to the second month of school!

Thank you to all who attended the PYP presentation and the Junior School Curriculum Information Evening on September 13. We hope you enjoyed exploring your child's classroom and learning more about the Kindergarten programme.

Communication Folders

Thank you for remembering to send the girls' communication folders to school every day. It's an easy way for us to communicate and send things back and forth.

PYP Unit of Inquiry

The students have learned many things in our first unit of inquiry, *Get With the Programme*. We will continue with this unit for one more week and then we will begin the next unit, which is called *Science Magic!* Please see the attached flyer to see what *Science Magic* is all about.

Fall is here!

Now that the weather is getting colder, please make sure your child is dressed in suitable outdoor clothing including a sweater or jacket, running shoes or boots, and a hat and mittens, if necessary.

At-Home Reading Programme

The students have gotten off to a very good start with the At-Home Reading Programme. Most of the time, I will be sending their new books home on Tuesdays and Fridays.

Curriculum Notes



Literacy Skills

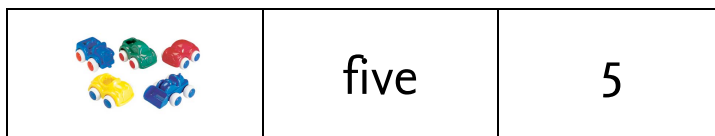
Over the past month we have focused on the following:

- The sounds of the letters of the alphabet (using the *Jolly Phonics* actions)
- The order of the letters of the alphabet
- What a *word* is (a group of letters that mean something when they are put together in a certain order)
- What a *sentence* is (a group of words that mean something and are a complete thought)
- Matching upper- and lower-case letters
- Learning to read sight words, such as *I, and, in, on, is* and *the*
- An introduction to vowels
- The importance of spaces between words
- An introduction to capital letters and periods
- Proper pencil grasp and the proper formation of letters, using the correct strokes (we will be doing a lot of this over the next few months)
- Phonemic awareness – understanding the sounds in spoken language; being able to identify the sounds in different words (i.e., the word *cat* is made up of three different sounds and if we remove the first sound, it makes the word *at*)
- Initial consonant sounds

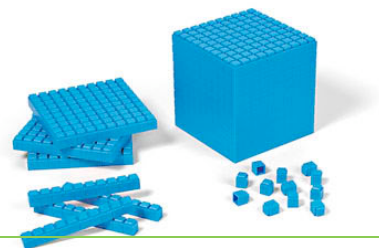
Math

Math skills covered this month have included:

- Learning to count by 1s, 2s and 10s to 100
- One-to-one correspondence (counting concrete objects)
- Position in space – rotating coloured-coded squares to match squares on a board
- Matching number of concrete items, written numbers, and numerals:



- Patterning (A B C C A B C C)
- Sorting objects according to attributes (colour, shape, size, etc.)
- An introduction to base-10 sets (see picture below). We are currently working with *units* (ones) and *longs* (sticks of 10). The girls are learning that 10 units = 1 long and that 23 is made of two longs and 3 units, for example.



Uniform

Please ensure that all clothing items are clearly labelled with your child's name. If your child has lost any items, please check the Junior School's Lost and Found, which is located in the cupboard underneath the glass display case to the left of the main office.

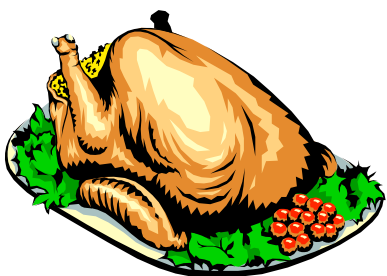
Field Trip

We have already planned our first field trip of the year. We will be going to Valleyview Little Animal Farm on Friday, October 14. The students will go on a train ride to see the crops, watch a presentation about harvest, play on the play structure, and visit large and small farm animals. We always love to have parents come along on our field trips. We believe that a higher adult-to-student ratio makes it safer for our students. If you would like to join us, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can make sure there will be room for you on the bus. A letter with more details and a consent form will be sent home soon.

October Events

Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

- Elmwood's **Thanksgiving** holiday is from Friday, October 7 to Monday, October 10, inclusive.
- **Grandparents' Day** – Tuesday, October 11. You will receive an invitation in your daughter's communication folder.
- **Keller House Day** – Wednesday, October 19. All students in Keller House may wear their House colours to school. Other students are required to wear their Number One Uniform for the Whole-School Assembly.
- Our annual **Halloween Party** will be held on Monday, October 31st. Students from the Senior School will assist in entertaining our little ghosts and goblins in the afternoon. Your daughters will be allowed to wear their Halloween costumes at school all day.



We wish you a
Happy Thanksgiving!

