



Elmwood's Grade 1 News

October 14, 2010

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. When talking about different jobs, try and use gender neutral terms like police officer (instead of policeman) or fire fighter (instead of fireman).
- 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.
- When talking about different jobs people in our community, most children are familiar with fire fighter. You might like to go over the safety procedure for your home in case there was a fire. At the end of this letter you will find 'The Great Canadian Fire Drill' which provides you with some resources.

SPECIAL GUEST PRESENTATIONS: 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. Also, if you have any friends or family members that would be interested in doing this, please pass on that information as well. I'll do my best to accommodate all interest, as time permits.