



OCTOBER

Grade 4

Miss Basten

October, 2017

REMEMBER Even Einstein asked questions!

Now that we're into October, the students have grown quite accustomed to the class routines. They've encountered many "firsts": the first writing tasks, the first homework assignments, the first quizzes, the first club meetings, and the first fire drills, to name just a few. Here is a summary of some of the activities and events that the students have encountered in my classroom so far.

Seating Plan

Periodically through the year I will move the children around to sit with different students in different parts of the classroom. The aim is to have every student in the class be a working neighbour to as many different classmates as possible by the end of the year. By doing this the students have the opportunity to get to know their classmates better, especially those boys and girls who have interests very different from their own. Students also learn to work with others who have different ability levels, temperaments, viewpoints, and perspectives on the world. In addition to this, there will be random pairings created for short discussions, projects, and games. A student's desk is not so much a permanent home, as it is a flexible home base to go to at the beginning of a block, knowing that, before long, they may find themselves working at one of the group tables in the classroom or on a foam mat on the floor out in the pod.

ECO School Program

St. Luke is fully involved in the ECO school program this year. A wide variety of initiatives have been started to help our school be increasingly environmentally friendly.

Black & Blue Bins

Many items used in the class are deposited in one of our classroom recycling bins when students have finished with them. Scrap paper, wet paper towels, cardboard boxes, and newspaper pages are deposited in the black bin, while meal packaging such as yogurt cups, milk cartons, and drink boxes are placed in the blue bin. Students have gotten the hang of this quite quickly, no doubt aided by the practice that they have already received at home!



Litterless Lunches

Students are encouraged to have the least waste possible in their lunch kit. Perhaps reusable plastic containers could be used rather than disposable packaging?

Water Bottles

Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle for their personal use. Students can drink their fill at the beginning and end of every block, during snack times, as well as at convenient moments during every block. Water bottles can be refilled at the refilling station at one of our water fountains. Please ensure bottles are labelled with your child's name, thank you.

Crayola ColorCycle

This year, we will be participating in the "Crayola ColorCycle" program. Students are invited to bring in markers, highlighters, Sharpies, and dry erase markers to send back to Crayola for re-purposing, rather than being sent to landfills.

Battery Collection

Used batteries can also be brought to school for collection. When our container is filled up, we dispose of the batteries safely.

Thank you for your ECO support

We Give Thanks

Some of the ways students have given thanks for all the good in their lives has been by attending Mass in our gym on October 3, by making a decorative "thank you leaf" to decorate the walls of the gym for the Mass, and by singing songs of thanks.

Bible Presentation Ceremony

Every Grade 4 student will be receiving their own Bible in a special ceremony on Thursday, November 23. Parents are invited to witness this special moment in their child's spiritual growth. More information about this event will be sent home in a few weeks.

DE Buddies

When Mrs. Klein came to our class back in September looking for volunteers wanting to help out in the DE (Developmental Education) room, many hands were raised with enthusiasm, hoping to be part of the DE Buddy program. The names of the willing volunteers have been put onto a schedule for one recess each week. When their turn comes up, they head to the DE room and spend time with one of the students there, reading a book, playing a game, or going for a walk in the hallways. The children in the DE class benefit from the one-on-one contact with another child, while the Grade 4 students learn that everyone can smile and make the world a better place!

Respectful Requests

To show respect for those to whom the boys and girls are speaking, use of correct phrasing is expected. Although gentle reminders are sometimes necessary, most students remember to politely ask "May I please go to the washroom?" and are moving away from saying "me and my friend" to instead proudly share, "My friend and I have done something memorable". Thank you to parents who help reinforce this phrasing at home!

Ottawa 67s Hockey Game

Just a reminder that on November 1 the students in Grades 4-6 will be travelling to Canadian Tire Centre to attend a hockey game featuring the Ottawa 67s.



Arrival Time at School

Just a reminder that students are not to arrive at school until 8:55 a.m. – there is no supervision before that time. The safety of the children is always our priority!

Names on Belongings

It is very important that every student has their name on items such as lunch bags, pencil cases, shoes, and water bottles. It is so much easier to return items when some sort of identification is present.

Cross-Country Team

Congratulations to Karina, Christopher, Wyatt, and Kenneth who will help to represent our school as members of the cross-country team. They will compete against their peers from other schools on October 12. Good luck!

Headphones / Earbuds

If possible, your child would benefit from having access to their own personal set of headphones or earbuds. Your child would keep this equipment in a container or baggie in their backpack until they need to use it. Examples of use of this equipment would be to listen to audio on the Chromebooks or iPad when working with RAZ Kids or Mathletics, viewing instructional videos when doing research, or listening to an audible read-back of what they have written in a document on Google Drive. In the meantime, there are a few pairs available in the classroom for shared use.

Please sign your child's agenda each day - thanks!

Orange Shirt Day

The Grades 4-6 students of St. Luke School marked "Orange Shirt Day" on Thursday, October 5. Begun in B.C. in 2013 as a way to honour the survivors of the residential school experience, the class learned that *Every Child Matters* no matter what their background. Ask your child about it!

Dates to Remember

October 9 – Thanksgiving
17 – Parent Council meeting > 6:30 pm
18 – Feast of St. Luke
27 - Photos > Class & student retakes
27 – CSC – Halloween Spooktacular
31 – Halloween Costume Day

Nov 1 – Ottawa 67's hockey game
10 – Remembrance Day – 10:45 a.m.
23 – Bible Ceremony – 1:15 p.m.
24 – P-D Day – no school

RAZ Kids

All of the students in the class now have an account on the "RAZ Kids" website. This award-winning site has reading material leveled by alphabet letters A-Z according to difficulty.

In the "Level Up" section of the site, I have assigned a reading level to your child that I would like them to practice. They can choose any of the books at this level to read silently on their own, or they can listen to it being read for them (using earphones) as their eyes follow the highlighted words across the page. At the end of each book, there is a short multiple choice quiz that the child can do to check for understanding. As a teacher, I have access to each child's quiz results so that I can identify patterns in your child's reading strengths, as well as areas where more teaching and practice is necessary. When meeting with consistent success at the assigned level, students have the ability to move up through the levels as the year progresses. It is possible that your child has read books provided on the site when working on RAZ Kids in a previous grade – no worries! Reading it again will only help them become a more proficient reader, and they will notice and retain information presented in the book better than before.

Students can also choose to enter the "Reading Room" section of the site. Here students can select books at other difficulty levels. They might choose an "easy" book to read aloud in order to improve oral reading fluency and expression. Or they may choose to listen to a more challenging book in order to learn new vocabulary words or to learn about a topic that they are interested in but cannot read about independently.

Although there will be some access to this site during class time, your child is strongly encouraged to spend some time using this site at home a few times through the week.

The address of the website is:
www.raz-kids.com

- > A link directly to this program is provided on the classroom website
- > This site can be accessed on mobile devices using the "Kids A-Z" app.

Every student has a slip glued into their agenda with all the login information, including teacher username and the student's password.

Thank you for supporting your child in this very worthwhile reading program!

Meet the Teacher Night

Thank you to all parents who came out to the "Meet the Teacher" night on Thursday, September 14! It was great to meet you all, and I look forward to working with you throughout the coming year!

Terry Fox School Run

Thank you for your generosity when you helped your child bring in "Toonies for Terry" during our recent Terry Fox Week. All donations go directly to the Terry Fox Foundation and will be used to fund research in the hope of finding a cure for cancer.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

A big thank you also goes out for all the donations that you helped your child to bring to school for the recent Thanksgiving Food Drive. Needy families in our own community of Barrhaven are very appreciative of your generosity!

Morning PA: Student Prayers

Each morning, the students in the school put down their pencils to listen to the morning announcements. In addition to singing "O Canada", recognizing students who are celebrating birthdays, and listening to news & sports reports, there is a daily "Faith Reflection". On Thursdays, this faith reflection consists of student-written prayers. Each student in the class has written a prayer to read when their turn comes. As the year progresses, pairs of students will be asked to come into the school a few minutes early (~9:05 am) so that I can help them get prepared to read their prayer to the whole school. Students are both excited and nervous when their turn rolls around, but they always say that it is an experience that they would like to try again someday!



Halloween Activities

October 27 – Our Catholic School Council (CSC) is organizing a fun and frightful "Halloween Spooktacular" that will run 5:30-8:00 p.m. The spooky games and music are fun for the whole family! More information will be sent home soon.

October 31 – Students are welcome to wear their costume to school, if they wish. We ask for a \$2 donation from all costume-wearing kids to be added to our school's United Way fundraising campaign. In addition, there will be Halloween Bingo and "punny" jokes and riddles to mark this fun occasion.