



THORHILD CENTRAL SCHOOL

BULLDOG BULLETIN

October 6, 2017



Student Information

- October 6—No School for Students/ Staff PD/Work day
- October 9— No School / Thanksgiving
- October 11— Health Day
- October 12— Fire Drill at 10:45
- October 17—Grade 5 Don't Meth With us Presentation
- October 19—Grade 5 & 9 Immunizations
- October 20— Dress for the Cause-Wear Pink
- October 25—ROE-Post Visit- Grade 4
- October 30—Photo Retakes
- November 1—ROE-Pre Visit- Grade 4
- November 3—Jostens-Grad 2018 Rings-viewing & purchasing
- November 6—Fire Drill at 2:30 pm
- November 8—ROE—Family Visit- Grade 4
- November 13—No School-Day in Lieu of Parent Teacher Interviews
- November 14 to 17—No School- November Break
- November 22—Health Day
- November 29—ROE—Post Visit- Grade 4

Events and Meeting

- October 16—School Council Meeting at 8:30 am
- October 18-23—Scholastic Book Fair
- October 18—Parent Teacher Interviews-4:00 to 7:30 pm
- October 25—Grad Meeting for Parents & Students at 6:30 pm
- November 1—Alberta Opera at TCS- 1pm
- November 8—TEAM meeting at 5 pm
- November 10—Remembrance Day Service
- November 23—Parent Teacher Interviews-4:00 to 7:30 pm

Field Trips:

- October 10—Ukrainian Village Field Trip-Grade 9 Social Studies class
- November 1—Blue Quills Field Trip-Social Studies 10 class

Please check the school website calendar at tcs@aspview.org in the event a change was made to the event .

Principal's Message

Many families are busy harvesting and we hope the weather continues to cooperate to make this year successful.

Each year, the staff works together to develop an action plan for school improvement. This school year, we are focusing on three key areas to improve student learning.

1. Developing a Healthy Community within the school which focuses on positive well-being, self regulation, and physical literacy.
2. Increasing student reading numeracy, and writing skills.
3. Increasing staff's foundational knowledge about First Nation, Metis and Inuit.

Over the course of the school year, staff will be engaged in various school based professional development, conferences, and workshops to support each of these goals. Last month we participated in a school based session to support staff in increasing their foundational knowledge about First Nation, Metis, and Inuit students. This informative session provided staff with some historical information to increase understanding and resources to access for further inquiry. We will be following up with another session on this topic later in the school year.

This month we will be attending a session on mental health. Increasing staff awareness and understanding of mental health concerns facing our children and youth, will aid in supporting students. It is just as important to teach children to regulate their emotions, thoughts and behavior as it is other skills. Self-regulation is an important skill for children to develop. Kids with good self-regulation can pay attention to classroom activities and ignore distractions, remember the teacher's directions long enough to carry out a task and resist impulses. All of these skills may give them an advantage to succeed in school. Accessing these tools will help us to promote a healthy learning environment to support our children and youth.

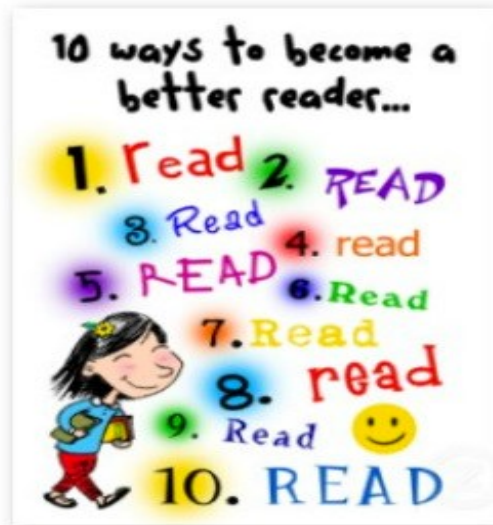
The last key area is on increasing literacy, numeracy, and writing skills. Language arts teachers are continuing to support students with their reading comprehension and fluency by incorporating the readers workshop model in their classrooms. This model targets specific learning outcomes, provides students with guided practice at their level, and allows teachers to provide direct instruction to small groups of students. To support the writing components, teachers have adopted a similar model using writers workshop. This approach enables teachers to support students with specific writing strategies to improve their skills. Through guided and purposeful practice, students are examining ways to enhance their written communication skills. In mathematics, we are examining our past mathematical results and identifying ways we can adjust our instructional practices to support our students. Teachers are researching best practices and incorporating these ideas into their lessons. Parents are encouraged to talk to their child's teacher regarding ways they can help their children at home with their reading, writing, and mathematic knowledge and skills.

If you have any questions about the areas we are concentrating on this year or if you have any additional ideas on ways we can enhance these topics, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. Parental feedback is welcomed and appreciated.

Yours in education,

**Mrs. K. Carson
Principal**

Families are busy. To help with the busyness, here are 10 quick and easy activities parents can do to help their children build their reading fluency at home.



1. Reading and re-reading easy books is a great way to build your child's reading fluency. Have your child select a favorite book and read it aloud two or three times. This approach, called repeated readings, is one of the best ways to promote reading fluency.

2. Model fluent reading for your child by reading aloud daily. Be sure to use expression in your reading. You can even use funny voices for dialogue as you read aloud.



3. Echo reading helps to build reading fluency. You read a phrase, sentence, or paragraph aloud to model fluent reading. Your child then reads the same phrase, sentence, or paragraph afterwards, like an echo. Continue this pattern until you have read a book, story, or page of text with your child.

4. Have your child practice reading a simple book to share with a younger sibling or another young child. Once your child is able to read the book fluently, ask him or her share it with the other child. Both children will benefit from the reading experience.

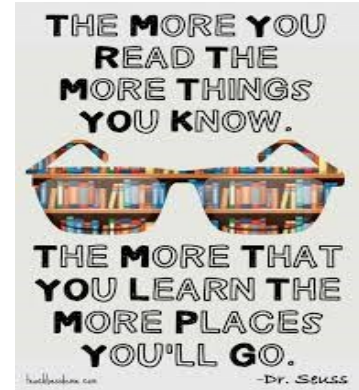


“READING is to the Mind what exercise is to the BODY”

“Sir Richard Steele”

5. Poetry and nursery rhymes can be used to practice fluency. Take turns with your child reading a short poem or nursery rhyme until he or she can read it fluently.

6. Use paired reading to build reading fluency with your child. First, you will read a poem or short passage to your child. Then, you and the child will read the poem or passage together several times. Finally, have your child read the poem or passage to you.



7. Review basic sight words with your child to make sure that he or she knows these words automatically. Knowing these common words on sight will help to improve your child's reading accuracy and rate. For a lists of basic sight words and online sight word review games, visit this website: <http://www.learningbooks.net/Dolchflash.html>



8. Choose a comic strip from the newspaper. Read the comic strip aloud, using expression. Then ask your child to read the comic strip aloud. This is a fun activity to do at the breakfast or dinner table with the newspaper.

9. Have your child practice reading a text aloud while riding in the car or on the bus. Your child will stay busy and entertained, and this extra practice can make a big difference in your child's reading fluency.

10. Set aside reading practice time every day. Even 5 minutes of reading fluency practice using any of the activities listed above will help to develop your child's reading fluency.

