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## December 2018 E.C.S. Newsletter



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Brrr! There is snow on the ground and it has been cold and we have also had some rainy days causing some freezing rain and bus cancellations. Usually, if the busses to Hay Lakes School are not running, Hay Lakes ECS will not operate that day for the safety of students and parents who may drive their child to school. There are "snow days" allowed for in the kindergarten schedule. If more than the allowed for snow days occur during the school year, kindergarten days will be rescheduled.

We have been continuing to work on students independently completing the kindergarten morning routine. If you bring your child to school, **you can show your child that you believe in their abilities** by saying a quick goodbye at their locker (or boot room if you prefer) and letting me or the parent of the day supervise them as they put away their outerwear, put on their inside shoes and enter the classroom bringing in their lunch kit, water bottle and communication journal.

Please remember to send your child to school with appropriate outer wear for recess and bus rides. Your child should now be bringing/wearing snowpants to school every day. If possible please label boots, mitts, toques and other winter items. This makes it so much easier to return the items if they get lost. Keep in mind that mitts are more water proof and much warmer than knit gloves (which tend to get wet quickly when playing in the snow). Toques are also needed to provide warmth and cover ears. I have the students wear hoods during really cold weather as well.

In November, we learned about healthy habits such as eating well, staying healthy (fighting germs) and exercising. The students learned about healthy foods on the Canada Food Guide rainbow which give us energy and help our bodies grow big and strong and the "extras" that are not on the rainbow, but we enjoy after eating our healthy food. The students are now using their knowledge about the Food Guide rainbow to decide whether

their snacks and lunch food are healthy (and what in their lunch box is an extra and should only be eaten at afternoon snack). Ask your child to explain the Canada food guide colours (green, yellow, blue and red) to you. Our themes for December will be Winter Fun and Christmas. I am hoping that the weather is suitable for our Clever Creatures field trip which has been re-scheduled on December 3<sup>rd</sup>!

In early literacy, we developed our sense of story. For example, we recalled and discussed characters and events after listening to a read out loud of one version of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* and viewing another version on our smart board. We asked questions and made comments about both stories. We also learned the letters M, A P and C. Ask your child to teach you about our "Sound Friends" (and accompanying gesture) for each letter using their red Sound Friend duotang. You can also help your child to use letter sounds they know to say the words and read the sentences in their blue "Reading Friend" duotangs they are now bringing home. About once a week, the students add a new page to their Reading Friend Book. Ask your child to tell you about our "Reading Friends" **Sam, Pam and Pat**. Then have them have them "read" to you! *It is OK to read the pictures!* Even a few minutes of reading a day whether you read to them or they read to you can make a big difference. We have started learning **kindergarten star words** (also called sight words)! Our kindergarten star words include the 12 words that make up approximately 25 percent of all reading. So far we have covered six star words: **has is a was the of**. We will be continuing to learn and review the star words throughout kindergarten. When reading at home with your child, you can play "notice the star words" and have your child identify them or you can point them out to your child. A complete list of star words will be sent home later in the year.

We had a wonderful time with our bears/stuffed animals who enjoyed their school visit. As I'm sure you heard, the "bears" had a party the night they slept over and made a big mess which we had to clean up before we could start our day. The students were amazed with what "bears" can get up to when they are left on their own. We made sure our bears/stuffies were included in our activities. For example, took our bears to gym so they could participate in bear relays, we read to our bears, we sorted our bears by

various attributes, and finished our day with bear games including working as a team to send our bears into the air with a blanket!

Library Information: I may send home a slip of paper from the library stapled in your child's communication journal if your child has a book or books out a long time. Hopefully, this give you a chance to look for the book(s) and send them back! If you cannot find the missing book(s), please contact the Hay Lakes School librarian, Patsy Yurkosky. If the book has gone missing for a long time, she may send you a letter letting know how much the book will cost to replace.

Christmas Concert!! The Hay Lakes School Christmas concert is **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>**. So you can make plans for the evening, this is how it works for kindergarten. You bring your child to the kindergarten classroom **after 6:30 p.m.** You then go get your seat(s) in the gym for the concert. Your child will be in my care (and will be in the kindergarten room **all evening** except when we are performing) so that you can enjoy the entire Christmas concert. While you are enjoying the concert, we will be watching a Christmas movie and eating a few munchies. If you would like to send along a favourite blanket and/or pillow for your child to snuggle with to watch the Christmas movie, that would be great! **After the concert**, come back to the kindergarten room to pick up your child. More information about the Christmas concert will be sent out in December!

Each class will have their own Christmas Party on the last day of kindergarten before Christmas holidays. We are planning to do some Christmas activities and games, eat some party food and also have a visit from Santa!

Happy holidays!

Mrs. Wrubleski

