



# Omega October Newsletter

## Mrs. Evenson's News

It's been a great start to the month of September for our Early Years students. We have been exploring our letters, learning to write sentences using nouns and verbs, as well as starting to look at good fit books. Students have been broken up into smaller UFLI groups, which we are starting to see make a difference in how quickly they can decode a word.

In math, we have finished talking about patterns, and how they are everywhere around us. In October, we will begin to move to more centre-based math to ensure that each grade group is able to get individualized instruction. Grade 1-3 students will also be beginning this month learning their 0 & 1 times table - skills that are important in the later grades.

In Science we are quickly wrapping up our unit on Plants. Students were excited to see their beans sprout, as well as beginning to grow lettuce for a feast at the end of the month. Shortly we will be moving onto Social Studies, where we will learn about our connections to other Canadians.

**Progress Conversations will be  
October 23, 2024.**

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**Please remember  
to call the school if  
your child is going  
to be away for the  
day. We have a  
calendar we put  
aways on, so the  
sooner we know,  
the more we can  
plan for it :)**  
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## **Mr. McDonald's News**

September went by faster than I thought possible so it is time to look back and reflect on the first month of the new school year. In Physical Education we have been working on our basic skills for throwing and catching as we transition to volleyball skills as our first sport of the year. Students have learned and practiced the following throws: underhand (lateral pass/football), chest pass (basketball), overhead pass (soccer) and baseball pass (basketball). Catching has included the basket catch (against the body) and the hands catch (football). These skills transition to bumping and setting in volleyball. The older students have been working on their bumping (passing), setting (passing) and serving with our new volleyball. The students are excited about getting our volleyball court set up so they can put their skills to use in an actual game setting.

Math is off to a good start and I am trying to develop skills and supports to gain a better understanding of mathematics basics. All students have a new calculator with a two line display (so I can see what steps were entered to help diagnose errors) thanks to the generosity of the Colony. Having everyone using the same calculator and being able to view what keys they entered in trying to find their answers is a tremendous benefit to me as their teacher in diagnosing problems and misunderstandings. We have also started on MS-Excel, a spreadsheet program, and have entered values, labels and basic formulas. Spreadsheets are a powerful tool in understanding mathematical concepts. MS-LOGO is a co-ordinate geometry simulation and students have begun exploring polygons (multi sided shapes) and the angles and turns required to create them. Although we are behind where we should be in the curriculum the students are applying themselves well and making good progress on the material we are covering.

English has been focussed on developing our reading and writing skills through a series of mathematics readers to allow students to read, write, discuss, practice and apply their knowledge. This combining of numeracy and literacy skills prepares students for higher level courses and reinforces their existing knowledge and skills. We are beginning to use IXL which provides a series of grade appropriate questions to develop the specific skills outlined by the province. We are also progressing quickly through our Bible Story and I think the students are enjoying listening and discussing what was read. The high school students are on individualized programs that incorporates both IXL and textbook work for Math and English courses.

On a personal note I have enjoyed lunch at the Colony and both Mrs. McDonald and my Dr. are happy that I am eating more vegetables in my diet. I am also feeling better spiritually that I can only attribute to praying with the children every morning. I hope the students are enjoying their year as I realize there have been a number of changes in both personnel and practice at the school. I am always available to discuss any concerns or questions that parents may have. Feel free to contact the school or speak to me personally after lunch on Wednesdays.

**Paul McDonald**  
Teacher, Omega School