

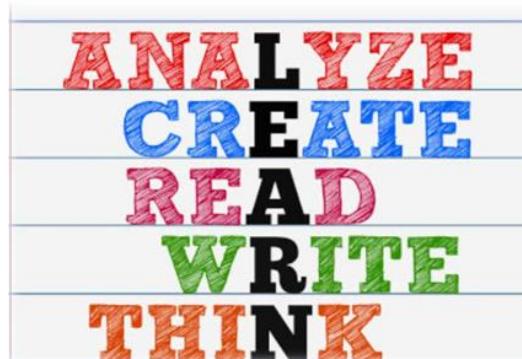
### **A Message from Mrs. Thompson**

January has flown by! As we leave January and move ahead into February, we look forward to a busy month. February is “I Love to Read” month, and it will be a fun month as we have some guest readers lined up and some fun activities to promote the love of reading!

Anyone that would like to be a guest reader during the month of February can call Mrs. Thompson at the school to set up a date and time. You are welcome to bring your favourite children’s book or read one from the school.

Progress Conversations will take place on Friday, February 20th. Letters with appointment times will be sent home. Please let us know as soon as possible before the 20th if you cannot make your appointment time and need to reschedule. We look forward to seeing you all.

As always, our doors are open for parents to come and see all the great things happening at the school. Please feel free to drop in anytime! Please keep reminding your children of the importance of respect and following the rules and routines at school.



## **BOOKMOBILE**

If parents could please send a note in student agendas, letting us know how many books each child is permitted to bring home, that will make keeping track of the books easier for all! Happy reading!

Please remember that families are responsible for the books borrowed by their children – if a book gets lost or damaged, you will need to pay for a replacement book so the library can keep it in circulation for all library users. That means keeping track of the books and making sure they stay out of the hands of young siblings. Books never need a bath!

## **A Message from Mrs. Coutu**

K-4 Students will be celebrating I Love to Read Month with a variety of activities. We will be enjoying read alouds in our classroom, having guest readers in the school, Mrs. Palcat will visit with the Bookmobile and students will bring home a Bingo book challenge.

Friday, February 27th will be our Mercy Watson Book Character Day! More details to come from Mrs. Coutu as the date approaches

On Friday, February 13th, students are invited to share Valentines with their friends at school. Searra and Tobias are invited back in the afternoon. We will exchange them in the afternoon. Here's a list to be sure you don't accidentally miss anyone!

Girls: Searra, Tanya, Aleesa, Joyce, Lindsey, Janelle, Jolene, Tammy, Kristina, Alana, Cayla, Jenna, Avah and Esther.

Boys: Tobias, Moses, Alex, Brayden, Ezra, Nathan, Jerias, Jacoby, Christen, Thaddeus, Timothy, Henrik, Collin and Andreas

Staff: Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Coolidge, Miss Mason, Mrs. Hanchar, Miss Long, Miss Leah and Mrs. Coutu.

## **6 Reasons to Read to Your Children**

Reading aloud to your child is one of the most important things you can do to promote his or her future reading ability. Sharing this special read-aloud time with your child is beneficial in numerous ways. There are six *really* great reasons why you should read aloud to your children.

Reading aloud to children creates a lifetime interest in reading. If you start reading to your children while they are young, they will be much more likely to grow into the habit of reading. When they associate reading with happy memories, they are more likely to persist in learning to read, even when they run into occasional roadblocks in the process of learning to read.

Reading to young children extends their attention spans. Don't overdo it at first. You might need to start with just ten minutes of read-aloud time, and gradually extend the time until your child is able to maintain full attention for longer periods of time. A longer attention span will help a child perform better both in school subjects and in real-life projects.

Reading aloud to children aids in language development. As children listen to you read, they gain strong language skills. They pick up correct word pronunciation, word usage, and proper grammar. It increases their vocabulary, and they hear and learn correct sentence structure. All these skills will eventually transfer to their own speaking and writing. Improper grammar will begin to sound wrong to them, and they will be more likely to choose good grammar when they communicate.

As you read aloud, the power of a child's imagination is strengthened. As you read to your children, they visualize the book's events in their minds. Through the pages of a book, children are able to experience events and situations that are outside of their own personal experiences. They can picture life in other parts of the world and in other cultures. Children who have been read to are usually more adept at creating stories from their own imaginations.

Reading aloud helps build a child's comprehension. As you read and discuss books together, your child increases his problem-solving abilities and gains insight into characters' motives. Discussing a book as you read helps teach a child how to make good predictions. As you read aloud, you can fill in missing background information that helps a child better understand the book's setting, historical background, and characters—details that might be missed if a child reads a book on his own. Reading aloud also gives you the opportunity to emphasize important character traits as you read. Point out examples of compassion, kindness, perseverance, and optimism, then take a moment to discuss these traits with your children.

Last, but certainly not least, read-aloud time is great one-on-one bonding time. Reading aloud is a wonderful chance to share adventure, intrigue, and emotion—without having to leave your living room. And that is irreplaceable.

Source: <https://blog.allaboutlearningpress.com/6-great-reasons-to-read-aloud/>

## **Reminders**

As the weather begins to cool, it is important that all students come to school dressed for the weather everyday. Mitts, scarves, toques, winter boots and snow pants are recommended especially on Phys Ed. days (Monday and Wednesday). Students will still be going outside for recess once a day unless it is colder than -25! Dress for the weather!! We will be sending kids home to get warmer clothes if they don't come to school prepared.

If students are going to be away from school due to illness or appointments, please write a note in the agenda or call Mrs. Thompson or Mrs. Coutu at the school. It is really important that this information comes directly from the parents and not the students.

Please discuss the importance of safety around all vehicles on the colony with your child(ren.) With winter weather comes slippery surfaces, large snow hills and limited visibility. Please encourage your children to stop and look both ways across the road on their ways to and from school. Better yet, encourage them to use the sidewalks that run beside and behind the staff parking lot.

Recently, kiddos are extra bundled and working against the wind. They cannot see very well, nor are they looking. Many kids are taking a short cut between vehicles and in front of them when leaving for lunch, after school or returning to German School. They appear very quickly and are not aware of their surroundings enough to be safe.

We have vehicles that can be moving at all times of day, depending on staff schedules and visits from administrators and clinicians. We back in, as often as we can, to increase visibility, but we need students to safely remain on the sidewalk so that danger is reduced for all parties. Please help your children to better understand the importance of staying on the sidewalks, away from the cars, to be safe! Thank you for your help.

If your child has any cold or flu-like symptoms (sore throat, stuffy nose, fever, cough, nausea, etc.), please keep them home until they are feeling better.

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

February 13<sup>th</sup>- Bookmobile Day  
February 16<sup>th</sup>- Louis Riel Day (No School)  
February 20<sup>th</sup>- Progress Conversations  
March 28<sup>th</sup>-April 5<sup>th</sup> -Spring Break (No School)  
April 6<sup>th</sup>- Inservice Day (No School)  
April 7<sup>th</sup>- Inservice Day (No School)  
May 14<sup>th</sup>- Inservice Day (No School)  
May 18<sup>th</sup> – Victoria Day (No School)  
May 25<sup>th</sup>- Inservice Day (No School)  
May 26<sup>th</sup>- Inservice Day (No School)  
June 30<sup>th</sup>- Last Day of School