

7/8-DA @ COURTYCE NORTH
DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

How many days to go?!

Hard to believe that it's almost that time of year, but here we are! With just over three weeks to go until Christmas, our room is still running hot and students are as productive as ever. I know that as the excitement begins to build, we'll be able to bring 2015 to a positive, constructive close.

Many different projects will be coming to a head this month, and students are reminded to use their agendas and the website to stay abreast of all deadlines. In language, art and math there is still a ton to do and staying focused will help place you where you need to be for the best possible start to 2016.

Progress reports will be coming home by December 11th. Parents wishing to meet to discuss their child's progress report should get in touch via ian_dewell@kprdsb.ca to arrange an interview. With the irritation of job action out of the way, I look forward to seeing as many of you as I possibly can. Please feel free to get in touch to arrange a mutually convenient time.

In closing, please accept my best wishes for a peaceful, restorative holiday season for you and your family, and all the best in 2016.

Happy holidays,

Mr. D.



CURRICULUM UPDATE:

Language:

All of the standard weekly components of the language program continue unabated. Students have shown interest in and good responses to “WF4T” and “Write Now!” and Short Films are being well received as writing prompts. Occasional “Friday Features” have also been well done, and students have enjoyed studying films like *Big Hero Six* for big ideas and enduring understandings. Keep up the good work on these items, guys.

The last month of the year will see us wrapping up our final look at *The Hobbit*. Major pieces are all due on the 17th of December, but not before we learn the basics of the 5-point essay. This skill set, in particular, will prove essential as we prepare ourselves for high school next fall.

Math:

Math continues to roar full speed ahead, and we should be through our new unit on 3DGeo (7) and Circles (8). After that, it’s a quick look at Probability before we wrap for the holidays. Students are reminded to attend to all weekly work (Math Journal, Homefun Handouts, and nightly homework) in order to keep sharp heading into bi-weekly tests.

PHE/The Arts:

Regular gym class will conclude this month and we’ll start our health unit on healthy lifestyles/the benefits of exercise in January. Please remember to pack your clean gym clothes each week, gang.

Our recent art unit on visual puns was very well done, and you can see those results spread throughout this newsletter. Up next, we’ll be working with cut white paper in 3D. It should be fun!



Coming Events:

As of this writing, my plans for the second floor's annual Christmas trip to the movies are coming together nicely. Through the efforts of the Cineplex Odeon head office in Toronto, we will soon be traveling to the Clarington Cinema to view *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. The film trip will take place on either opening day (the 18th) and you should have seen forms for the trip this week. Forms and the \$10.00 fee should be returned to the school no later than December 9th.

Once back from the break, I intend to piece together a trip to Toronto that links closely with curricular expectations in one of more of the core subjects. I had initially looked at scheduling a trip in November, but with the film trip on deck for December, and holiday shopping likely taking priority on peoples' finances, I've opted to instead move this venture to the new year. Check the newsletter space in 2016 for an update on where we're headed.

Odds & Ends:

This may sound like an odd thing to say, but I'd like to talk to you about Christmas presents. Each year, many families endeavour to graciously honour my in-class efforts through a small gift at Christmas. While NOT an expectation on my part (at all!) if you were interested in doing so, I'd humbly suggest that rather than a Tim's card or the like, why not make a small donation to the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation?

CF is an awful disease that affects 1 in every 3600 children born in Canada each year. The disease shortens life span and reduces quality of life, and it has taken its toll on my own family (my cousins Barry and Mark lost their lives to CF while only in their 30s.) I worked for the Foundation for many years while a student at Queen's, and have since forwarded many donations of the kind suggested above to the culminative tune of over \$1500.00. If interested, you can start at: <http://www.cysticfibrosis.ca/get-involved/donate-today/>.

In Closing,

I'd like to extend my best wishes to you and your family. Please enjoy an outstanding break, and I'll see you in 2016!

Sincerely,

Ian A.G. Dewell
Intermediate Teacher
Courtice North P.S.