

# Grade 7 September & October Newsletter 2022

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Welcome to Grade 7! Grade 7 comes with many new ‘middle school’ opportunities such as competitive level sports teams, complimentary courses, and more. We are looking forward to supporting your child in and out of the classroom as they embrace their middle school experience. As we gear up for a year of great projects, hands-on learning, and research-based inquiry, families are reminded that we would encourage students to bring a personally owned device (laptop, Chromebook, iPad, etc.) to school for educational purposes. September has been focused on building our classroom and school community and we have begun creating routines in our classroom to set the foundation for the year ahead. In October, students will be starting an inquiry in their humanities class focused on personal, collective, & media biases. In Math, we are began the year looking at adding and subtracting integers, as well as applying them in a problem-solving context. In October, we will continue our study of number, by looking at decimals and how they relate to fractions and percentages. Students will revisit these concepts throughout the year as we apply them in a variety of different ways. In Science, we dove into our study of Heat and Temperature. Through this unit we will investigate what heat-related technologies do we use to meet human needs? Upon what scientific principles are these technologies based? and what implications do these technologies have for sustainable use of resources? Provided below is a breakdown of what to expect in each subject with relevant learning tasks as well as their corresponding to the RTR Outcomes for assessment. These Outcomes will be what will be summatively assessed & uploaded onto PowerSchool over the next ~8 weeks. Please feel free to reach out to your child’s teacher if you have any questions.

## Language Arts

### September Overview:

This month in Language Arts our “focus skill” is increasing our ability to express ourselves in writing. In our Coat-of-Arms Project, students were tasked to choose six symbols of importance to their identity. Based on their chosen symbols, we went over the importance of informative paragraph writing and practiced writing paragraphs by following the informative paragraph format. Students wrote an informative paragraph about their Coat-of-Arms, and then edited their paragraph based on feedback. Afterwards, we moved on to learning about Indigenous creation stories where students read various creation stories from different nations from present-day Canada. Students worked on expressing themselves through their creative representation of the story and their small group verbal story retelling presentation. For Orange Shirt Day (Sept. 29), students will complete a reflection based on “The Secret Path” (by Gord Downie). We will be working on how we can express emotions, learning, and questions through this media study.

**Below are our Assignments for Assessment this month with their relevant RTR outcomes:**

- Goal: I can express myself in speech, writing, & creatively
- Learning Tasks:
  - Coat of Arms Paragraph
  - Secret Path Reflection
  - Indigenous Creation Stories Jigsaw
- Related RTR Outcomes:
  - 11A Make connections to things I see/read/hear

- 11B Share ideas & listen to others' ideas
- 24A Generate/elaborate on the expression of ideas
- 24B Identify and apply structures when creating texts

## October Overview:

This month in Language Arts and Social Studies we will be studying the topic of “Bias”. In this Bias Unit, we will be examining the question *To What Extent Should We Use Animals for Different Human Purposes?* Our goal is to support students in using different strategies to identify bias in different sources of media including images, videos, and articles, to be able to read, watch, and record thoughts and facts. By being able to begin identifying bias, students will also grow their skills as persuasive communicators. Through informal debates and writing practice we will be focusing on sharing what our opinion is and what evidence supports these ideas. This month our focus editing strategy will be self-reflecting & peer-feedback to improve quality.

### Below are our Assignments for Assessment this month with their relevant RTR outcomes:

- Goal: I can use persuasive communication strategies to support an argument.
- Goal: I can gain independence in identifying bias language and perspectives on a topic.
- Learning Tasks:
  - Weekly Summary graphic organizer
  - Fur Farming ‘virtual field trip’
  - Persuasive communication (paragraph & in-class debates)
  - Magazine Cover Project
- Related RTR Outcomes:
  - 31 Plan & focus to organize ideas & information
  - 32 Select & process information
  - 33A Organize & record information
  - 33B Evaluate information to develop new learning
  - 34 Share ideas and reflect on the research process for improvement
  - 41A Reflect on own & others' work

## Social Studies

### September Overview: The Origins of Turtle Island

This year, we will be learning about essential moments in Canada’s history that led up to confederation and that also continue to shape our nation today. Through this historical perspective, students will be focused on skills such as considering multiple perspectives, critical thinking, and application of knowledge. Our first era of study will be “Pre-Contact” and the Origins of Turtle Island. Together, we will be discovering the culture, language, and ways of live of distinct Indigenous nations from coast to coast.

### Below are our Assignments for Assessment this month with their relevant RTR outcomes:

- Goal: I can share examples of how Indigenous Peoples of North America are diverse.
- Learning Tasks:
  - Creation Story Jigsaw
  - Turtle Island Map
  - Comparing Indigenous Societies quiz/project
- Related RTR Outcomes:
  - SP Work in groups to develop leadership skills
  - T3 Interpret maps to analyze issues
  - A1 Compare pre-confederation societal structures

## October Overview: Bias Unit

As introduced above, we will be completing a cross-subject inquiry in the month of October. In Social Studies, our goal is for students to build the skills of critical thinking about individual perspectives as well as collective biases. Throughout each week, students will be asked to reflect on how their own point of view was confirmed or adjusted because of new information they learned. By using a variety of sources, students will gain skills of research notetaking, identify reliable sources, and paraphrasing researched information into their own words. These skills will be fundamental to our grade 7 year as students grow independence as researchers while also looking at historical and contemporary examples of 'bias' in new contexts.

### **Below are our Assignments for Assessment this month with their relevant RTR outcomes:**

- Goal: I can gain research skills and strategies to grow my personal knowledge & opinions on a topic.
- Goal: I can articulate my learning gained through research in my own words.
- Learning Tasks:
  - Source Analysis
  - Fur Farming Virtual Field Trip
  - Magazine Cover Project
  - Persuasive Communication (paragraphs & in class debates)
- Related RTR Outcomes:
  - T1- Determine the reliability of sources
  - CO- Communicate in persuasive and engaging manner
  - R- Recognize changes in viewpoints through inquiry

## Math

### September Overview:

Throughout September, students will build their understanding of integers (negative and positive whole numbers) concretely, pictorially, and symbolically. By approaching their understanding in a variety of ways, students will develop a personal toolbox for working with integers that they can take with them through the rest of the year (and beyond). In order to build their toolbox, students will engage in activities focused on each aspect of understanding this curriculum outcome. Through these activities, teacher check-ins, and engagement with problems, and a final project students will demonstrate their understanding in a variety of ways.

### **Below are our Assignments for Assessment this month with their relevant RTR outcomes:**

- Goal: I can build a toolbox for approaching integer problems
- Learning Tasks:
  - Pre-Assessment
  - Station work guided by their own individual needs as shown by the pre-assessment
  - Post-Assessment
  - Project: Stock Market Challenge
- Related RTR Outcomes:
  - N6a – Demonstrate an understanding of addition and subtraction of integers, concretely, pictorially and symbolically.
  - N6b – Solve problems with addition and subtraction of integers

## October Overview:

In October, students will explore the essential question of what the different ways are we can represent numbers. We will begin this study by looking at the different ways that the same value can be expressed (eg. decimals vs. fractions). To create meaningful learning opportunities, students are challenged to engage with concepts first and build understanding from those experiences. After we explore the different ways, the same number can be expressed, students will then dive deeper into operations with decimals towards the end of the month. As the year moved forward, students will have the chance to make connections between all number formats, where we see them, and why we use them when we do.

### **Below are our Assignments for Assessment this month with their relevant RTR outcomes:**

- Goal: I can describe the different ways we can represent numbers
- Learning Tasks:
  - Understanding Check-Ins
  - In class observations
  - Problem solving questions
  - Summative Project
- Related RTR Outcomes:
  - N2a – add/subtract decimal numbers
  - N2b - multiply/divide decimal numbers
  - N4 - Understand relationship between fractions & decimals
  - N7 – Compare/Order Fractions, Decimal Numbers and Whole numbers

## Science

We are starting off our grade seven science the hot way, through Heat & Temperature! In this unit, students will be introduced to the scientific method which we will be applying throughout every unit when working with labs. The concepts of hypothesis, experimental design, procedures, analyzing qualitative and quantitative data to form conclusions in science are consistently revisited in all Science courses up till grade 12. For our heat and temperature unit, there will be two quizzes and one final test with a lab and multiple check ins throughout the unit. The outcomes we will be covering are down below:

### **RTR Outcomes:**

- C1: Illustrate and explain how human needs have led to technologies for obtaining and controlling thermal energy and to increased use of energy resources
- C2: Describe the nature of thermal energy and its effects on different forms of matter, using informal observations, experimental evidence, and models
- C3: Apply an understanding of heat and temperature in interpreting natural phenomena and technological devices
- C4: Analyze issues related to the selection and use of thermal technologies, and explain decisions in terms of advantages and disadvantages for sustainability

### **Skill Outcomes: (these will be assessed throughout the year)**

- SK1 - Designing and hypothesizing in science
- SK2 - Gathering evidence within the scientific method
- SK3 - Analyzing within the scientific method
- SK4 - Collaborating and communicating within the scientific method

# Physical Education

Welcome to Meadowbrook PE! Students will be participating in indoor and outdoor activities throughout the year. Please make sure to bring proper attire, which includes a change of clothes and a proper set of indoor running shoes. In September and October, students will be participating in the sports of volleyball, soccer, and field games. In volleyball, students will be learning three basic skills: forearm pass, the overhead pass and serve. In volleyball, students will also be evaluated on performing and refining their skill during gameplay. In soccer and field games, students will be focusing on teamwork and positive communication.

## Physical Education RTR Outcomes Covered in September & October

- A1- Perform/Refine locomotor, non-locomotor, & manipulative skills
- C1- Use positive communication & leadership skills
- C2- Demonstrate etiquette & fair play
- C3- Demonstrate teamwork
- D1- Put forth effort.
- D2- Follow safety rules/routines