

4M's News and Views

January 2012

Dear Parents:

Happy New Year to all of you! The fantastic students of 4M will continue to make it a Happy New Year for me. If you are able to join us at any time in the remainder of the school year, the students will make it a happy time for you!

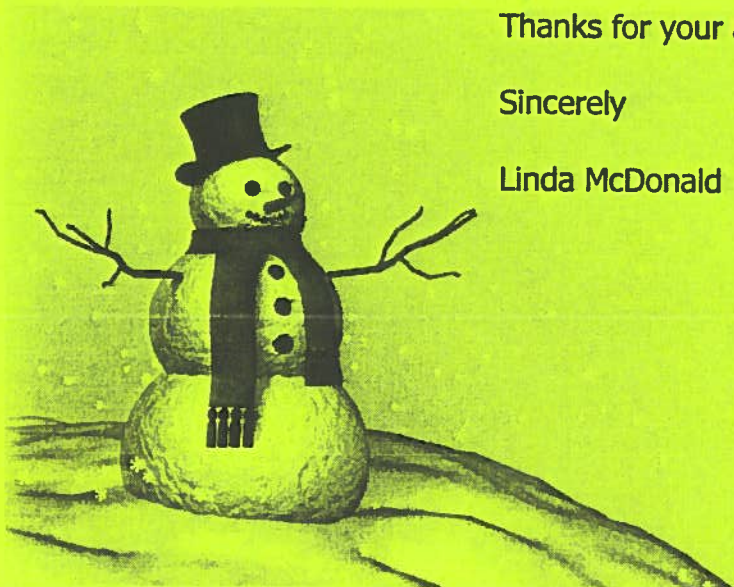


I was saying to my students, I truly feel January and February are the most productive months academically. Therefore, we put our dedication and energy into learning. Yahoo! Some of the Sweeties need to put more effort into preparations for spelling tests and Math basic facts tests. Some marks were low before Christmas which really indicated brains were tired and holidays were definitely a necessity. Attached is information regarding my Home Reading Program. There is a page indicating the purpose of Reading Logs and the chart I hope you and your child will fill out nightly. (this will be attached to the back of your child's agenda) Included with this is the valuable 3R's of Reading: Retelling, Relating and Reflecting which will assist you in this reading adventure with your child! Knowing full well we will be on a roll this month, handwriting is going to be a great asset to our assignments. Please encourage practice at home regularly. Some students have indicated they don't have pencil crayons or felts at home. Could you please buy some to have at home for homework assignments. I don't like the school supplies to leave the classroom. I have been very pleased with the responsibility demonstrated towards agendas and homework on a daily basis! I know this will continue.

Thanks for your attention!

Sincerely

Linda McDonald



Grade Four Reading Logs

Research has shown that in order for children to become good readers, they must read, read, read! We recommend that your child read at least 20 minutes per night, at least 5 times per week. Practice could include a library book, a magazine, newspaper, classroom book or comic - anything that involves reading!

As well as naming the words, good reading involves understanding what has been read. To help improve your child's comprehension, we are including the "3 R's of reading: Retelling, Relating and Reflecting". We encourage you to refer to this sheet after your child has done his/her reading. Have your child retell in their own words what they have read. The prompts will help your child think about what they have read. If you work with your child on the 3 R's of reading, please check the box and add your initials to their Reading Log.

Thank you for being involved in your child's education!

Name _____

3R's of Reading: "Retelling, Relating and Reflecting"

These three R's can help me to improve my reading comprehension which means understanding what I am reading. Good readers think about what they read. The 3 R's help me to "deepen my thinking".

R # 1 – Retelling

I can choose from these prompts to help me begin:

- *This is about...*
- *I notice that...*
- *I especially like...(my favourite part was when...)*
- *In this story...*
- *It started like this...*
- *It finished like this...*
- *This story / account is about...*

Remember to retell "wholes" (significant ideas not every detail) or "parts" (e.g. my favourite part).

R # 2 Relating

Relating is thinking about what I am reading and how it goes with my life or what I already know.

I can choose from these prompts to help me begin:

- *This makes me think of ...*
- *This reminds me of...*
- *I remember when...*
- *When I read this I felt...*
- *Something like happened to me...*
- *This is like...*
- *This is different from...*
- *It's hard to believe...*

R # 3 Reflecting

When I reflect, I wonder or ask myself questions about what I am reading.

I can choose from these prompts to help me begin:

Asking questions

- ***I wonder how...if...why...when...what...etc.***
- ***Why do you think...?***
- ***What do you think about when...?***

Sharing insights or things I have noticed

- ***This gave me an idea...***
- ***Now I understand that...***

Making plans

- ***I want to...***

As I improve my comprehension, I will be able to go from Retelling, to Relating, to Reflecting. Readers who have excellent understanding or comprehension, do all three R's while or after they read.