

MARY F. JANVIER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

December 2021 Journal



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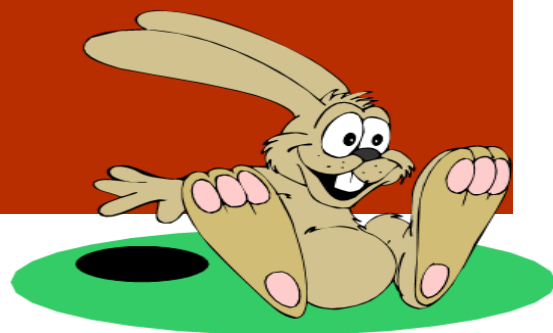
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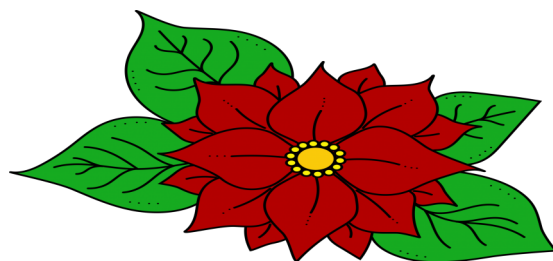
The Janvier Journal

Mr. Kobik's Corner

December has arrived and 2021 is quickly drawing to a close! During the initial portion of this school year, our children have accomplished so much and December is a great time to reflect on past achievements while planning to move ahead in the new calendar year. Yes, 2021 has had many challenges and we, as a school community, have continued to rise to the occasion to overcome hurdles and to set goals as we move towards a post – pandemic world. While the challenges of Covid – 19 have required us to adapt beyond traditional ways of teaching and learning, our children have continued to grow. The practice of goal setting is an important component in the measuring of growth and our children continue to show that they are developing academically and socially. Kindergarten students have demonstrated understanding of fundamental mathematical and literacy concepts with the children commencing the reading process. Additionally, the primary concepts that comprise proper sentence writing are also being presented in the Kindergarten classrooms. Grade 1 and Grade 2 students are also working towards the attainment of their goals that focus on developing their ability to read fluently while understanding what they are reading. Various instructional methods are being utilized in the classrooms in an effort to address the needs of all children. Of note, while maintaining Covid – related safety measures, we have been able to re-introduce small groups and learning centers in a manner that further engages the students in the learning process. Additionally, our students in Grades K-2 are using their chromebooks to access technology – based sites and activities that assist in bringing the content to life. As we move into our Winter Recess, I encourage you to read with your child and to make reading an active process by asking your child questions as the story is read. As an elementary school student, I did not like to read because I viewed reading as a boring, passive act. When I started to question what I was reading and began to predict what would happen next in the story, I found that reading became more enjoyable. Perhaps, this held true for you, as well. As our children are active by na-



ture, it makes sense that reading be made active by having your child engage with the content through questioning. Our Basic Skills Team provides additional information on this topic in this edition of the Janvier Journal and our School Librarian, Mrs. Monaghan promotes the reading process while also informing us of some books that would make great gifts for your child. You will also find information in this edition of our newsletter regarding specific learning activities in Grades K – 2, news from our Speech Department, information about our upcoming Holiday Spirit Week, and an update from Music Class. With the start of the new calendar year only a few weeks away, the students and staff at Mary F. Janvier Elementary School are anticipating a great 2022 that includes many new learning activities that provide enriching experiences as we prepare our children for their future. The entire Janvier staff continues to appreciate the support that you have shown towards our school and we wish all of you a healthy and happy 2022!



Notes From BSI

WAYS TO TALK WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT BOOKS

1. Ask your child to predict what might happen next while reading a story. Be sure to ask your child to give reasons for the prediction.
2. Ask your child why a character might have taken a specific action. Again, ask for the reasons behind the answer.
3. Ask your child to compare a book to another familiar book. How are the characters alike or different? Do the stories take place in similar places? How are the illustrations similar or different?
4. Ask what part of the story the child

liked best and why.

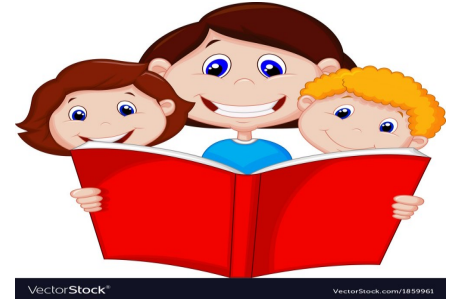
5. Ask whether the child liked the ending of the story and why or why not.

WAYS TO HELP YOUR CHILD CONNECT READING AND WRITING

1. Encourage your child to draw pictures about books or experiences. Drawing is a preparation for writing because it develops both the muscles needed for writing and children's ability to represent their ideas.

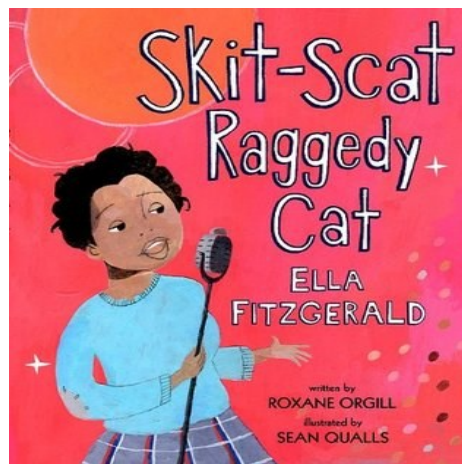
2. Help your child write a sentence or two about what they have read. Provide sentence starters for younger children.

3. Help your child to compose a note to a relative or friend. Younger children can dictate the note while you write it. Writing thank-you notes for gifts is a great writing activity for the upcoming winter break.



What's Happening In Music Class

I am so thankful for my Janvier Jackrabbit families! It is truly such a gift to teach my amazing students. We have enjoyed learning about the Elements of Music this trimester. In January, we will begin to explore Jazz! We will be welcoming the music of Ella Fitzgerald, Duke Ellington, and Louis Armstrong into our classroom! I wish you all a happy, healthy Winter Break!!



Notes From the Counselor

The School Spirit Committee and the staff at Janvier are so excited for our annual Holiday Spirit Week! The Spirit Week will run from Thursday, December 16th to Thursday, December 23rd. Also look out for more information about Polar Express Day!



Holiday Spirit Week
December 16th—December 22nd

Thursday (12/16) Frosty Day

Wear anything white or anything with snowmen or snowflakes on it!

Friday (12/17) Santa Day (Unity Day)

Wear your favorite holiday clothing, hats, and accessories!

Monday (12/20) Rudolph Day

Wear red or anything with reindeer on it!

Tuesday (12/21) Grinch Day

Wear green or anything with the Grinch on it!

Wednesday (12/22) Polar Express Day

Wear warm pajamas to school. No slippers please! More information will be sent home regarding Polar Express Day!

Thursday (12/23) Holiday Day

Wear your favorite holiday attire!



Happy Holidays From The Library

What a wonderful time we have been having in the Library this year! The students have been doing an excellent job! We have learned how to utilize Google Classroom, Classkick and began checking out Library books in December. Please have your child keep their Library book in their backpack after they read it so that they may select a new book on their Library day. The Library also subscribes to free e-books that can be accessed on any computer at www.tumblebooks.com. Type in the username: **janvier** and the password: **books**. Books make terrific gifts. Their enjoyment lasts long after the season is over. You might want to

consider the books listed in this newsletter as you plan your holiday purchases. Listed below are some grade level appropriate selections in order to help you get started.



Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
Max and Ruby Series	Frog and Toad Series	Magic Treehouse Series
Clifford Series	Henry and Mudge Series	Geronimo Stilton Series
Biscuit Series	Pete the Cat Series	American Girl Series
Fly Guy Series	Junie B. Jones Series	Owl Diaries Series
Books by Eric Carle	Scholastic Branches Books	Puppy Place Series
Nursery Rhymes	Books by Mo Willems	Ramona Series
Books by Dr. Seuss	Books by Dr. Seuss	Books by Dr. Seuss
Books by Mercer Mayer	Fly Guy Series	Dog Man Series

Talking In A Winter Wonderland

The winter and holiday season has taken over Speech Therapy with snowmen and Christmas ornaments! Our Preschool Speech Therapy students are working hard to meet their speech and language goals including expanding their vocabulary, following directions, expanding the length of their phrases, using regular plurals and much more! Some winter activities we have been doing include our Christmas ornament dot marker activity as well as a Feed the Snowman activity. What do you

think our snowman would like to eat? The Kindergarten-2nd grade students are working hard to produce their target sounds and meet their language goals. This week we have worked to earn decorative pieces for stockings. We took turns in conversation, described holiday items, and practiced our speech targets. Our stockings are hung for all to see in the hallway!



Polar Express Day In Kindergarten

Each year, Janvier celebrates the lead up to the holiday season with a school wide Spirit Week. There are many fun days during this time, but one of our favorite days in Kindergarten is *Polar Express* Day. On Wednesday, December 22, Kindergarten will celebrate Polar Express Day with a hallway transformation. Students will enter into a winter wonderland that is complete with train tracks and a train at the end of the hallway.

They will get to wear pajamas as they take part in listening to the *Polar Express* storybook and engage in many educational activities themed for this day. We will be retelling, writing and playing math games that all relate to Chris Van Allsburg's story. The Kindergarten team is very excited for this day and can't wait for our classes to experience the fun. We hope everyone enjoys our Holiday Spirit Week!



First Grade News

Have you ever dreamed of traveling around the world? Well, the 1st Graders are doing exactly that this month while learning about different holiday traditions from around the globe. The students are getting their suitcases packed and heading off to countries like Italy, Germany, Sweden, Mexico, England, Australia, and India. It will be a fun and exciting time learning about different cultures, listening to stories, and completing activities for each country. I am sure they will be coming home with interesting facts to share with

family and friends. May you all have a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season!



What's Happening in 2nd Grade

The 2nd Graders have been working on our second unit in Math. This unit spans a few months and includes two-digit addition, two-digit subtraction, word problems, telling time, and money. When we are teaching two-digit addition and subtraction we do not frequently use the traditional method of "carrying the one" or "borrowing". We have been using base - ten blocks, number lines, decomposing, and friendly numbers in order to promote mental

math and number sense. When we get to time and money, students greatly benefit from real world practice using actual clocks and real money. Some ways you can have your child practice telling time are by letting your child wear a watch with an analog face, asking them what time the clock says, and discussing clocks when you see them in different places. To practice counting money, you can have your child count a handful of coins. Providing these real world

experiences with time and money will reinforce the activities completed in class. It's so much more fun to count real coins than our plastic school money!

