



Hello Parents/Guardians,

March Break already?!? Here are some updates for our school year from Mrs. Ripley and Mrs. Higgins. In February, Mrs. Higgins' class became a grade 6/7 class and Mrs. Ripley's class took on all the grade 8s remaining as a grade 7/8 class.

In Literacy, we are working on short stories and the editing process. Students are working on writing a short story on a topic of their choice. The draft story will be printed and edited by peers. Changes to stories will be made by the author based on suggestions from their peers. Mrs. Ripley's class is reading *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle and Mrs. Higgins' class is reading *Restart* by Gordon Korman. **You can help by** reading their story at home as it is stored in their Google Drive.



In Math, we are working on Number Sense and Numeration. In this unit we are focusing on working with fractions, decimals, percentages and integers. **You can help by** talking to your child about these types of numbers and how they are used in everyday life.



In Science, students are starting to think about the upcoming Science Fair. This is just not creating a bristle board of something interesting that students like or a model of a volcano. Students have to actually think about science and discuss their findings. The Science Fair will be evaluated in mid-March and should be completed on the student's own time.

You can help by brainstorming ideas with your child and then allowing them time to conduct experiments, make observations and draw conclusions. More information can be found at: <http://www.simcoecountyrstf.ca/>

Mrs. Ripley is teaching her class Geography and Mrs. Higgins is teaching her class Science. In April the teachers will switch classes so that Mrs. Ripley will teach grade 6 Social Studies and grade 7 Geography, and Mrs. Higgins' will teach grade 7 and grade 8 Science. Currently, Mrs. Higgins' grade 6s are learning about Flight and designing a paper airplane. The 7s are learning about Pure Substances and Mixtures and conducting labs. In Mrs. Ripley's class, the grade 7s are learning about Landforms and will be creating their own three dimensional topographic map. The 8s are identifying pros and cons about placing their business in a selected country/population.



Please ensure that your child has **indoor shoes**. This will help keep our classroom neat and tidy as the muddy months approach.

What can you do to help your child be successful at school this year?

- Encouraging your child to consistently do their best work and to value the learning that is happening at school and at home will help to build a positive foundation for motivation and engagement.
- If you have access to technology at home, your child can continue to extend his/her learning through the links and activities we will post on our class website: www.mrskhigginswhd.blogspot.ca
- Checking his/her online agenda ([linked through the class website](#)) for **important dates** and regular homework (which may include reading, math practice, or extending his/her learning from ongoing classroom projects).
- A strong foundation in math computation is important in the Grade 6/7/8 program. We will not have time to revisit math facts. If your child is not proficient with his/her math facts (multiplication and division), spending a few minutes a day working on memorizing them would be beneficial.
- It is assumed that reading is a part of the regular homework routine. Establishing a time and place for 20 minutes reading on a daily basis will help strengthen your child's basic skills.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at the school (905) 775-9691. We look forward to working with you and your child over the school year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kylene Higgins

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Mrs. Tracy Ripley

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P.S. Please send us a text (via Remind) or an email so we know you have received this.