

I don't usually watch a lot of television. I typically watch sports and news – pretty boring. However, recently the Netflix series Designated Survivor was suggested to us. I was hooked. The setting of the series is American politics (fictional). The plot is basically that the American capital building is destroyed and almost all of the American politicians are killed, including the president. As a result, the person who was established as the designated survivor (Tom Kirkland) becomes the new president. He has little experience and few qualifications for the role.

I am enjoying the series because it is action packed – never a dull moment, never a moment without a crisis. The interesting part for me is to observe what leadership qualities Tom exhibits to establish himself as a leader in unprecedented times. He leads with his true natural qualities: honesty, integrity, compassion, and transparency and ensures he surrounds himself with quality, committed people. Staying true to himself and working within a team, he leads and wins over the American population.

I can relate to Tom. I am leading in an unprecedented time in education. If you ask me about how to teach math (or maybe teaching any subject pre 2020), I can provide an answer with relative expertise and experience. If you ask me about the pandemic, masking, or social distancing, I will provide an answer with honesty, integrity, compassion, and transparency. I am hoping that you will provide us some grace as we work through these times.

It is interesting that in the latest communication I sent home I left off the line I usually end with “If you have any questions feel free to contact me” figuring that people will have questions and if they want/need to ask, they will. I had more contact this time than with most other communications. That is fine, in fact good. Please continue to ask and we will sort this out together. If I cannot answer with my expertise and experience, I will at least answer with honesty, integrity, compassion, and integrity. I can only hope that my answers are helpful. I hang on to the idea that God has not challenged us with more than we are able to handle. He gifted us with quality and dedicated people to work with. We have the ability to discern, as well as adapt and accommodate. We are exercising all these abilities during these time.

Recommending a television/Netflix series is risky. I am still watching Season 2 and so far there is no bad language nor sexual content. However, I am told that appears in season 3. I am not recommending that season.

February Events

15 - Family Day (no school)

Birthday Corner

February 8

Nadine N

February 11

Emmalyn G

February 14

Colton K

March Events

6 - LCS Information morning
9 am - 12 noon
15-19 - March Break
26-29 - Online Spring Auction

From the Classrooms

Junior Kindergarten – Mrs. Baarda

Welcome back to class! I am so excited to be back in the classroom with the students and I hope they are excited to be back as well.

This week our **focus letter** is **Qq**. We will learn the Jolly Phonics song for the letter Q and practice the sound that letter Q makes.

In our **Handwriting Without Tears** workbooks we will be printing letters H, T, I and U.

In **math**, we will begin our unit on measurement and explore and compare the size of various objects.

In **Bible**, we will continue our lessons on Jesus with how Jesus showed love by healing a man with leprosy and feeding hungry people. We will practice our memory verse in class as well, "The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor." Luke 7:22b

Library books: We will have the opportunity to choose new books from the library next Tuesday. Please remember to return this week any library books that you have at home.

Senior Kindergarten - Mrs. Heida

Hurray!! We are in the classroom today. I am sure it will be a time of getting reacquainted with friends, routines and the school building. This week we will **focus on the letter Z** and the buzzing sound it makes “ZZZZ” and also with the same sound but spelled with “ss”. Our new **sight word** will be “said”

We will wrap up our unit on shadows by making shadows with our flashlights and the poem “Hide and Seek Shadow” by Margaret Hillert. Bring a **FLASHLIGHT** on Monday!

In **math**, we will make groups of ten on our ten frames and see how many are left over to understand the place value of the teen numbers. We will look at patterns in numbers 0 to 20.

In **Bible**, we will learn about Moses and the fiery bush and the plagues. Our memory verse is Exodus 15:2a, which we will say together in class. On Friday February 12th, 2021, we will have a **Valentine’s Day** party where students will be allowed to hand out cards and pre packaged treats however will not take them home until Tuesday February 16th, 2021. They will stay at school so that we do not pass germs from one house to another with the treats.

I am excited to see you! Any questions please feel free to contact me at m.heida@listowelchristianschool.ca. Have a great week!

Grade 1 - Mrs. Duiella Boekestyn

Again, thank you for all of your flexibility and superb efforts throughout our Online Learning Program. Woo hoo! We're back in the building! Here's what we are working on:

Spelling Words: Please send me last week's spelling test. This week, our spelling words focus on -an, -un, and -in endings. They are; man, sun, chin, ran, run, win, plan, skin, fan, fun.

Sight Words: best, upon, these, sing, together, please, thank, wish, many, shall, laugh

Bible Verse: Hebrews 6:10 God will not forget your work and the love you have shown him.

Bible: Continuing to learn about Moses

Math: Memorizing our "make 5 number pairs" (5 and 0, 4 and 1, 3 and 2), measuring perimeter and area with non-standard measuring tools, and of course, we will continue to practice addition, subtraction, and skip-counting.

Library: We get to go to the Library on Friday. Please return your books asap.

Valentines: We will be celebrating Valentines on Friday, February 12th. Valentines will need to stay at school to quarantine until we return on Tuesday. Then, students can bring them home. If your student is bringing Valentines, please ensure they have one for everyone in the class (13... Jasmine, Ana, Blair, Jensyn, Peter, Henrik, Ria, Daniel, Gerrit, Dax, Dayna, Bella, Owen). Additionally, if you are bringing snacks, they must be individually packaged. For example, foil wrapped chocolate is okay, but little cupcakes are not.

100th Day of School: Heads up, the 100th day of school is on February 22nd. We intend to dress in costume as though we are 100 years old!

Grade 1 – Ms. ten Brink

Welcome back! It is so good to be able to teach and interact with Grade 1 again. We are starting a new unit in **Creation Studies** that will let us explore matter and materials, using our senses as tools to explore. We will be looking at how God makes matter and people use the matter from God to make materials.

School News

Some new protocols

Along with the new protocols I mentioned in an earlier letter, there are a few more that apply to our staff. Our staff will now be wearing medical grade masks. Masks protect others and since we sometimes work within close quarters with students, we are increasing the protection for the students. Staff will also be wearing shields or goggles. These products protect us from others. Again, as we work closely with students, we are invested to protect our staff members. Both shields and goggles are provided to teachers and they will use whichever is most convenient and comfortable for them. Teachers have taken time today to explain this to their students.

PD Day

This coming Friday (February 12) we were scheduled for a PD day. However, we took last Friday (February 5) as a professional day to prepare for the return of students. As a result, we will hold a regular day of teaching and learning this week Friday. Teachers are excited to be together with students again.



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Grade 2 – Mrs. Dykstra

Welcome back to in school learning!

Bible - We began the unit “Jesus Preaches” last week and we will continue to inquire about who Jesus is. Our memory words are: “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

Matthew 11:28-29. A fill-in-the blank memory quiz (with word bank) will be on Wednesday February 17.

Math - We will have a short test on Tuesday to assess the Number Sense unit taught during online learning.

Next up: Sorting and Graphing.

Spelling Words - check for your child’s differentiated list on Spelling City. Test is on Friday, February 12th.

Reading Workshop - This is our last week on our nonfiction unit, “How to Get Super Smart about Nonfiction Topics!” We will be doing some research on Canadian animals and writing a short report in Writer’s Workshop.

Word work: vowel digraph aw/au and short/long u sounds.

Creation Studies - We will continue with our animal unit in Science, “All Creatures Great and Small” by studying mammals, fish, and insects this week.

Health - we will complete a short health unit this week on Valentine’s fun -If your child would like to participate, we will exchange cards on Friday (Feb 12th). I will send the goodies home on Tuesday (the 16th) after the long weekend. Our class has 15 children.

Library - Our next library will be Friday February 19. Books may be returned anytime before that date. Please send books back in the ziplock bag provided to help protect books from damage.

100th day of school - a highlight of elementary primary life is the 100th day of school. We will have activities all day long to celebrate on Monday February 22nd. More details to follow; for now, please help your child think of a collection of 100 things they would like to count out and bring to school on the 100th day. It does not need to be purchased but can be creatively found around the home.

Scholastic - if you are ordering Scholastic (online), our classroom code is RC630977.

Grade 3 - Mrs. Claus

We have made it! I am thrilled to be back in the classroom with your children. I have heard from some parents that they are also very happy to have their kids back. It was great to chat with the children about our return last Thursday. We are all going to do our best!

I understand that there may be some anxiety around wearing masks full-time. There has been in our household. Please assure your child that I know they have concerns about not being able to breathe as this is something to get used to. We will have a desk in the classroom that will be designated for mask breaks. It will be fully sanitized after each use. Students may also be able to step into the hall for a break if the timing allows it.

I also want to take a moment to thank you all. You all worked so hard to ensure that your children were at their meetings and set up to do their independent work. I couldn't have been able to do it without you. I appreciated your help, your grace, and your kind words of encouragement. Thank you! This week:

Math: Today we reviewed money by playing store. Tomorrow is our quiz!

Language: We will continue to work with our spelling words from last week. We will also introduce more practice with reading comprehension.

Bible: Our unit came to an end last week. We did 2 days of review with videos. We will finish up our review in class and have our test on Wednesday.

Creation Studies: I am excited to be starting a new unit on our wonderful country this week.

Valentine's! With the COVID restrictions we ask that the children bring in their cards and goodies on Friday to share. The following Tuesday (after Family Day) they will be able to bring it home. This allows the items to rest for more than the allotted 72 hours. With this in mind, baked goods likely are not the way to go this year.

100s Day! is nearing us! According to our chart we only have 9 more school days until the day. Monday, February 22 will be our one hundredth day of school! We will be dressing up as 100 year old's and participating in a variety of activities. More info to follow in a letter.

Grade 4- Mrs. Delleman

Welcome back to school! Thank you again for all the work done by parents and students during the time of online learning!

All completed assignments from online learning have been marked. **Students can find their mark on Google Classroom by logging on and clicking “Classwork” then “View Your Work”.** An overall grade will appear, along with individual grades from each week. If the individual assignments do not have a mark and say “Assigned” instead, it means that students are still missing assignments from that week. **Any missing work needs to be completed as homework this week so all students are caught up.** Any work that is still incomplete by the end of the week will be sent home with students to complete over the long weekend.

This week we will take the time to transition back to in-person learning and will be completing our MAP testing for this term. **Here is some information on what to look for NEXT WEEK:**

Memory Work - Isaiah 43:12 - due NEXT Friday - "I have revealed and saved and proclaimed- I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "that I am God."

Spelling - This week we will be working on Unit 17, but will NOT have a dictation. NEXT WEEK we will work on Unit 18, which is a review week of all the units we did during online learning. We will have a dictation on Unit 18 NEXT Friday.

I Know It - There is NO IKnowIt assignment for this week. However, there are still some students who have not completed all their IKnowIt assignments from online learning. Parents have been contacted if their child has some IKnowIt assignments to still complete by the end of this week.

Grade 5 and 6 – Mr. Katerberg

Welcome back to at school learning.

During this week we will work hard to get back to the regular routines of our classroom and to mop up things remaining from December that were not easily done remotely. Also it is time for our MAP testing sessions for the winter. I have scheduled tests for Tuesday and Thursday this week during language time. We will do our math test next week.

Bible: Last week we started a unit on Jesus' early ministry. This week we hope to complete this unit. We will have a test next week Wednesday.

In **math**, both grades are working on a measurement unit.

For **literature**, we plan to complete the reading of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. Students will be asked to bring in the projects they completed for all of us to enjoy.

In **writing**, I will be conferencing with students to review their speech draft and students will work to create cue-cards for their speeches. We will be presenting speeches in the week of February 22.

Spelling work will include review quizzes each day of the week. Tuesday: Lesson 14, Wednesday: Lesson 15, Thursday: Lesson 16, and Friday: Lesson 17.

In **social studies**, we will continue with our unit on Canada's trading connections across the globe.

Grade 7 and 8 – Ms. Van Kampen

A message will be sent home to parents containing the information for this week.

Grade 7 and 8 – Mr. Boelens

Math: This week we will continue to work on problem solving techniques using math contests and group work. All work will be done in class to encourage working together, communicating together, and thinking together.

Gym: We will begin a badminton unit.