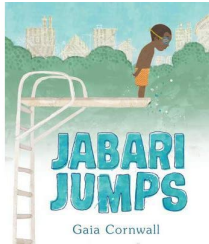


Hello Families,

What a busy first full week to school! We hope that you had a chance to relax and catch your breath over this beautiful weekend. Your children are learning so many new and amazing things about our classroom and routines. Did your child tell you about Writer's Workshop? We gather at the mat for a short lesson. Then Ms. Warren draws and writes her own personal story, before your children go on to write their own. We are starting to get to know your children better by listening and seeing their stories come to life. This week, Ms. Warren read *Jabari Jumps*, a book about a



boy that overcomes his nervousness about diving from the tall diving board. Ms. Warren then wrote about her jumping from the rock cliff into Tea Lake with her family on Monday after school. This started many discussions about swimming and different things about which your children are anxious or frightened. Some children were inspired and went on to write about their own experiences.

Writing in Grade Primary can look very different depending on the child. It always begins with a picture to tell a story. Then, children work towards getting some print down. Many children were excited to find their own name on the Word Wall to label themselves in their pictures. Some labeled using all the letters, other children are working on the first letter only. Some children are also labeling the objects in their pictures using beginning sound (e.g. "D" for Dad) or beginning and ending sounds (e.g. "SN" for Sun). In her writing, Ms. Warren showed the class how we can write a simple sentence in Primary – saying the sentence and counting the words on our fingers, writing lines on the paper to represent the words, and then putting down the sounds we hear. Again, the words may only be represented by one or two sounds, but we can easily read it back using one line for each "word". You'll see more of that later!

During your child's writing time, Ms. Warren circulates around to conference with individual children, meeting each child where they are. She may encourage a child to find and label their name, or to sing through the alphabet to find out how to print a letter, or model drawing. She never writes or draws directly on your child's work, so that they retain their ownership and pride and independence. For example, she worked with one child that was struggling to draw a person. On her own paper, she drew a circle for a head, and the child drew a corresponding circle. From there, eyes, mouth, body arms etc. were added. Depending on the confidence of the child, by the end of the drawing it might be the child that naturally takes over modeling the step while Ms. Warren watches and copies on her paper. This might be something that you do at home together!

Our Centre time continues to be a time of joyous learning and collaboration; it is an amazing way to incorporate math and literacy naturally into your child's day. We will be highlighting some Centres in the coming letters.

-Dates to remember:

- Thursday September 26th is the day of the **Terry Fox Run**
- Friday September 27th is a **PD Day**. There is no school on that day for your child
- Monday September 30th is **Orange Shirt Day**; it is intended to commemorate the residential school experience and honour and take part in reconciliation

-**Please label everything** that comes in with your child, such as **coats** and **sweaters** (as the days get cooler), and even **food containers**. There is a small and growing collection of Tupperware lids and containers that were unclaimed starting from the first day of school; your child may not recognize their own containers even the same day! **Boots and shoes** can also be easily returned to your child if they are labeled with their name. Many children have the same shoes and sizes. We do not have cubbies in Grade Primary and our hooks are very crammed, things do get mixed up and pushed down the hallway on occasion.

-Your child may bring in a labeled **water bottle** to keep in class. We will send them home on Fridays for a wash.

-A spare **change of clothes** to be kept at school would be much appreciated. Please send in a **labeled Ziploc bag**. We will keep them in class.

-Please check your child's bag and **Communication Scribbler** every day and ensure it is **returned on a daily basis**. Thank you! You may also send us a message in the Communication Scribbler. If you have an **urgent message**, leaving a **telephone** message is another option 902-457-8422.

-As a school, we ask that birthday party invitations to be distributed outside of school. We would like to compile a **class list of phone numbers and emails for parents** to use as needed. Please return the sheet from the previous week, indicating whether or not you wish to be included on such list.

-It is very important and helpful to label any money you are requested to send to school. We recommend an envelope that includes your **child's name**, the **amount**, and **purpose of the money**. Thank you very much!

-Here is our **weekly schedule**:

Monday: Gym and Library
Tuesday: Music
Wednesday: Gym
Thursday: Gym
Friday: Music

-We have **class website**, which is a great way for you to view pictures of your children at work and play! We will also post our class newsletters, as well as send it home in the message bags. ****If you selected 'No' on the Media Release form, your child's photo will not be on the website****

-We are excited to go on **nature hikes** in Hemlock Ravine and **field trips** this year, but we need your help to take your children off-site! We require 5 adults to chaperone our class of 17 children. If you would like to be a parent volunteer at any time this year, the school requires a current **Criminal Record Check** and **Child Abuse Registry** background check. You will find links to those checks under the **Parents section** on our website: <http://gww.hrsb.ca/our-school> .

We appreciate your time to read through this note, and your support with the items above. We look forward to building a partnership with you and learn with your child in the coming year. Stay tuned for more news about our classroom and program next week.

Thank you,
Ms.Warren and Mrs.Klyne