



Hello Grade One Families,

Wow! What a day for the Brantford Classic Run! The weather turned out to be perfect for running! We had a great turn out and I was so pleased to see so many grade ones running this year! I hope you had fun. I certainly did! I hope to see everyone out again next year, too!



We begin the month of May with a chance to come in and see some of the amazing work that we have been doing this term. We are having an Open House to celebrate Education Week at James Hillier School! Please join us on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup> between 5:30pm and 7:00pm to explore our classroom and school! There will also be a Book Fair set up in the Library!



In April we began learning about the Writing Process and how a book is made. We've been reading about how an author comes up with a story idea and then sticks with it to write it down, revise it, have an editor work with them and then finally produce a published copy! We are writers! We have started writing about our good ideas! The students were given a HUGE challenge for this task.....their story had to have a problem and a solution! We can't wait to show you our published copies during the Open House!

We have started to learn about Money in our dedicated Math Block. (We are still so proud and eager to read the clock at the hour and half hour times! Some of us can even do quarters now as well!) We need to learn the names of the coins and how to add and subtract small amounts of money. I have set up a store in our classroom so that students can practice making small money amounts with our plastic coins. It's a popular spot to go after their math tasks are complete! It becomes harder and harder every year for students to practice using change at home and in stores since we rely on debit cards so much (and everything is so expensive now!)



But, if you're creative, you can play around with it at home, too! Use some empty cereal boxes and granola bar boxes and add price tags and then give your child your change jar! Or, put a price on snack time or tablet time! Can they give you the right amount using coins? Can you be tricky and get them to make the same amount, but with different

coins? Have fun with it! This is one of the big reasons why we learn to skip count in Grade One! Keep practicing counting by 5's and 10's....then flipping over to counting by 1's!

Our dinosaur visits have been going so well! We have had so much fun reading about their adventures with your child! A few days after we started the dinosaur campaign, we had a visit from a firefighter, dropping off a fire safety kit for us! It works the same way as the dinosaurs - it visits your home for a night and then you run through the safety tips with Sparky the Fire Dog! The class can't wait to get started with it! I will have it organized and it will be set to go by the first day of May! This kit can be done in one night - I'll have some Sparky dogs printed out to help with the pictures for the book. Thanks so much for your involvement! The Firefighter will visit us once we are done hanging out with Sparky!



One more thing! Our Science this month will focus on Living Things!! We'll even have a visit from Scientists in the Schools to help present a really fun lesson as well! Thanks goes to the parents at School Council who are paying for it!



Thanks for reading our Grade One news!

Mrs. Metcalfe