



# Stoneybrook Public School

Principal: M. Curran

Vice Principal: J. Sweeney

Superintendent: S. Builder

Trustees: C. Rahman & P. Cuddy

## February 2020 Newsletter

### ***A few words from the office...***

February has begun and so has the countdown to spring. On February 2nd, we found out if we have six more weeks of winter or if spring is just around the corner, let's hope the ground hog was right and spring is on it's way!

This month our grade 3 students will be learning about water safety and learning some swimming skills with our *Swim to Survive* program.

Registration for Kindergarten for September 2020 opened on January 20<sup>th</sup> and will close February 7<sup>th</sup>. Parents are encouraged to register their new "*Future Stoneybrook Sharks*" who were born in the year of 2016. Students registering for Junior Kindergarten (K1) must have their fourth birthday prior to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. A Kindergarten Open House will be offered in the spring, watch for details to follow.

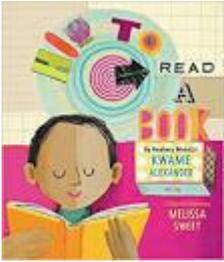
Cake Day will take place on February 14<sup>th</sup>. All donations of cakes and other goodies are appreciated greatly. This is an event that the entire community looks forward to each year! (For more details, please refer to the poster page in the newsletter).



Please save the date of Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> 2020, 12-4pm for our "*50<sup>th</sup> Stoneybrook Reunion*". This is an event you will surely not want to miss! We will have live music, decade rooms, food trucks and a car show as well as a silent auction to help celebrate 50 years of Stoneybrook Sharks. If you have an item or a service you could donate to the

silent auction please send an email to [electric.o.t@rogers.com](mailto:electric.o.t@rogers.com). Please spread the word to Stoneybrook Alumni!

With the winter weather comes icy conditions, a reminder to please be careful when you are walking on school property. Please remember that there are 500 students that do attend Stoneybrook. We want all children to be safe on their travels to and from school. Remember that no one should be turning around in front of the school and please only drop off on the school side. Continue to use the marked pedestrian crossover and use the Kiss and Ride as a drop off only, not a parking spot.



We will kick off February with World Read Aloud Day 2020 on February 5<sup>th</sup> and we will continue to celebrate reading throughout the month. On February 19<sup>th</sup> Stoneybrook students will participate in I Read Canadian Day where we will encourage and celebrate Canadian authors and illustrators. Just as fine athletes



and musicians must practice daily to maintain successful performance, children must practice reading! In order that your child maintain success with reading, it is very important that he/she continues to practice successful reading often. Parents can support the reading by listening to their child read and by reading to them. The way the reading sounds is very important. It should sound like talking, not too fast, or word by word, using expression, intonation, and phrasing at appropriate places. Using the punctuation will help your child read with meaning. Conversations about the stories will increase their understanding and enjoyment. "What was the problem?...How did they work it out?...How did you feel?..." Conversations with adults are very valuable as well to help your child's vocabulary grow and to enrich your child's self-expression. Reading is fun, enjoy reading to your child, with your child, and listening to your child read to you! We also have many of our Primary and Junior classes involved in our annual Forest of Reading Program where we celebrate fiction and non-fiction books that have been selected as the best reads for 2020.

With Valentine's Day falling in the month of February, this month is often thought of as a time to recognize those who are important to us. It truly does take a village... our Stoneybrook Community prides ourselves in our ability to create and foster a safe and caring learning environment. There are many people who play a role in this process and we would like to take this opportunity to celebrate their efforts and thank the students, staff, parents, local partners, and community members who contribute to creating a culture of kindness and respect in our school.

# News from School Council....

Our next School Council Meeting is Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in the Library Learning Commons.



## Cake Day

Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>

**Cake Day is a Stoneybrook fundraising tradition where students can purchase tickets to win a delicious treat or fun item!**

### How to Win:

1. Tickets can be purchased through School Cash Online at <https://tvdsb.schoolcashionline.com>. The cost is 5 for \$1.00 or .25 cents each.
2. Students fill out tickets with their name and classroom teacher name.
3. Students will be given the opportunity to view all tasty treats and place their ticket in the bag with the treat they want the most.
4. Students may enter with as many tickets as they would like but they can only win once.
5. The draw begins at 2:00 pm. Students will be called to the gymnasium to pick up their treat, if they win.

**Volunteers needed!** If you can assist with setup on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> between 8:30 – 9:30 am, or with the draw and distribution of treats between 1:30 – 3:30 pm please email [volunteer@stoneybrookpsc.ca](mailto:volunteer@stoneybrookpsc.ca)

### We need your Donations!

*Food safety is important. Please follow the school's nut-free guidelines!*

Think outside the "cake box"

Get creative and consider, cupcakes, boxed candy or chocolates, popcorn, baking mixes, cookies and gift cards.

Please deliver your treat to the school on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup> between 8:30 – 9:00 am. Kindly box, cover or bag your treat for easy transportation home.

*Thank you for your support!*

## February 2020 -Children's Literature and Mathematics

We have known about the importance and benefits of reading with our children for a long time. Children's literature can be a rich source of learning mathematics at all levels, not just primary. Using literature helps to meet the needs of all learners and accommodate a range of learning styles. The use of literature should continue throughout the junior years as stories help to bring mathematics to life. Students of all ages love stories and love to talk about stories. When teachers and parents use literature with a mathematical connection, they help students learn to "talk mathematics". Good stories provide good opportunities for math talk. Author and researcher, ReLeah Cossett Lent asserts that background knowledge is the glue that makes learning stick. "Picture books, sometimes known as children's books, aren't just for little kids anymore. Surprisingly, picture books contain more rare words per thousand words than prime-time television or the conversation of college graduates. Picture books build background through visual images as well as through words, an especially important factor for this generation of visual learners" (Cossett Lent).

Literature can be used in numerous ways to create challenging math problems with a variety of entry and exit points. For example, in the magical Chinese folktale,



*Two of Everything* (Hong, 1993), a couple finds a pot that doubles whatever is put into it. Children can be challenged with how many people would be in their family if the entire family fell into the Magic Pot. Children

of all ages can use a variety of strategies to solve this problem. You can also extend the activity by changing the Magic Pot to tripling what is put into it, and so on.

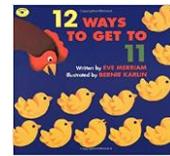
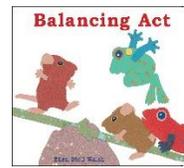
A variety of non-fiction (books, newspapers, magazines, the Web) literature can be used in teaching mathematics. They are all great sources for problems that have the added benefit of helping students make connections to the world around them.

One excellent online math site and resource for children's literature and mathematics is the **Erikson Institute Early Math Collaborative**. We have included here an example of 3 children's books that build an understanding of equivalency. <https://earlymath.erikson.edu/3-childrens-books-build-understanding-equivalency-and-teaching-equivalency-concepts/>

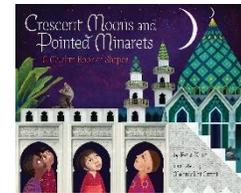
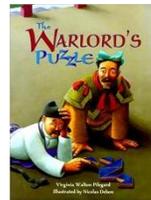
"Long before young children are writing equations with the equal sign, they are exploring how amounts that look different can actually be equivalent.

Ideas about equivalence develop through everyday, concrete experiences that require children to find something that is **the same as** something else. Imagine a child figuring out how to fill a space in a block structure when the desired shape is not available (two isosceles right triangle blocks are **the same as** a square block) or sharing colored candies with a sibling (my 3 reds and 1 yellow are **the same as** your 2 reds and 2 yellows).

The following books offer engaging visual representations of equivalence—in the form of balance and equivalent representations of numbers."



Another great book is *The Warlord's Puzzle* by Virginia Walton Pilegard, where children can explore spatial, geometry and fraction concepts using tangram pieces.



*Crescent Moons and Pointed Minarets* by Hena Khan, celebrates the shapes—and traditions—of the Muslim world

For students of all ages, literature resonates with their experiences and imaginations, making them more enthusiastic about solving the related mathematics problems and more likely to learn and to see mathematics as a useful tool for exploring the world.

Here are some great links to children's literature and activities to go with them. Also be sure to check out your school and local library. Have fun!

<https://earlymath.erikson.edu/>

<https://dreme.stanford.edu/news/children-s-books-foster-love-math>

<https://www.the-best-childrens-books.org/math-for-kids.html>

# **Screenagers Event**

**We have postponed our Screenagers event that was scheduled for Feb. 20. Please stay tuned for a date in the Spring.**

## **Upcoming Events:**

**Feb. 5 – World Read Aloud Day**

**Feb. 12 - School Council Meeting**

**Feb. 14 – Cake Day**

**Feb. 17 – Family Day**

**Feb. 19 – “I Read Canadian Day”**