

# January

Class Newsletter

**École Edwards  
Elementary School**  
<http://edwards.rockyview.ab.ca>

Michelle Cyrzan  
[mcyrzan@rockyview.ab.ca](mailto:mcyrzan@rockyview.ab.ca)  
(403) 948-5922



**January Message**  
**Curriculum This Month**  
**Volunteering**  
**Allergy Policy**  
**Lost and Found**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies**  
**Literacy Focus**  
**Numeracy Focus**  
**Leader in Me**  
**Calendar**

Dear Families,

I hope everyone enjoyed a fun filled and restful holiday season with friends and family, and that students are excited and ready to head back to school!

January is always exciting in the classroom, students are happy to catch up with friends and share their holiday experiences; skating, skiing, sledding, playing with family and friends.

In the school, we look forward to French Culture Week January 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. During this week, students have the opportunity to explore, taste, dance and sing all about the French Canadian Culture.

Our classroom is always open to volunteers, if you wish to come in and work with our students, please send me an e-mail with your preferred dates and times. A valid criminal record check is required to volunteer in in the school. Forms are available to take to the RCMP from the main office.

Please remember that with the colder winter weather students are still going outside at least twice daily for recesses and for gym. Students will play outside as long as the wind chill is not colder than -19 degrees. Also, please label all items with your child's name as we have several classmates with the same clothing or boots.

Happy New Year!  
Michelle



## Curriculum This Month

**French:** We will be continuing vocabulary development by completing a unit based on the book The Mitten by Jan Brett. We will do guided story writing using action words, physical descriptions, places and feelings. We will continue to write in our journals, moving towards independent writing. We will continue to add descriptive words to our writing. In reading, we will continue with sound blend themes. Home reading will see the beginning of a new program where students will be choosing “best fit books” (books at their reading stage) and reading them at home.

**Math:** We will continue our focus on numbers from 0-100. Counting forwards to 100, backwards from 20-0, by 10's to 100, skip counting by 2's to 20, by 5's to 50, counting on from a given number and identifying numbers out of sequence. We will also look at concepts of measurement, addition and subtraction.

**Science:** We continue our look at the five senses and seasonal changes in winter.

**Socials:** We will be exploring our rights and responsibilities at home, at school and in our community.

**Art:** We will examine printmaking and photography.

**Gym:** We will explore movement through various types of cooperative games.

**Health:** Physical Differences & Similarities (hair colour, eye colour, height).



## Volunteering

Parent volunteers are a valued and important part of our school community. As per Policy GBCD, all volunteers in Rocky View Schools as part of a classroom, school or system-wide program are required to submit a Criminal Record and Vulnerable Sector Check prior to the start of the volunteer activities.

A letter to take to the RCMP is available at the school office.

## We are Nut Aware!

École Edwards is a nut and seed aware school. That means we ask that no tree nuts or peanuts be brought to the school. Let me know about nut or other allergies so necessary precautions can be made. Please refer to our school Allergy Policy at: <http://edwards.rockyview.ab.ca/publications/allergy-medical-policy/allergy-policy>



## Lost and Found

If your child loses something, please let me know so that we can help locate it as soon as possible. Lost items are donated monthly.



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies

## Civically Engaged

In grade 1, learners becoming aware that they are part of a community and a school community are important concepts for them to become familiar with. We work hard at understanding that everyone has different needs and that they can be met in different ways, while respecting and accepting those differences.

Being civically engaged in the classroom means advocating for your community and social participation. As we wrap up the 2015 school year, we would like to thank all the families that helped make Adopt-a-Family a success. This program is a wonderful example of all that we can do when we collaborate with one another. By identifying community issues and balancing individual and collective needs, learners were able to appreciate their own good fortunes and to help those less fortunate.

Civic engagement reflects a commitment to democratic governance, social participation, and advocacy.



CONTINUUM:

# Literacy Corner

## Reading Accurately

### Reading Accurately Using Beginning and Ending Sounds

When learning to read, students often focus only on the first letter of the word and guess at the rest, resulting in inaccurate reading that they can't make sense of. When this happens, reading the beginning and ending letter sounds will help your child read the whole word.

Here are some ways to support your child when they read the first letter and guess at the rest:

Have your child slow down.

Encourage your child point to the first and last letters of the word.

Stop your child at the end of the sentence or page and ask them if what they read made sense. (This can be tricky for our learners who are acquiring a second language!) In this case, ask them to look at the picture to make sure the word they read matches what is happening in the story.

Tackle the word by writing it in large letters on a piece of paper.

Ensure that your child is able to make the sound of the letter. A PowerPoint presentation is available on our class webpage if practice is needed.



# Numeracy Corner

## Problem Solving

### What is a Problem?

A problem is a question that motivates you to search for a solution. This implies first that you want or need to solve the problem and second that you have to search for a way to find a solution. Whether a question is a problem or an exercise depends on the prior knowledge of the problem solver.

### What is Problem Solving?

Mathematical problem solving is about finding solutions and not just answers to mathematical problems. We say that

**method + answer = solution.**

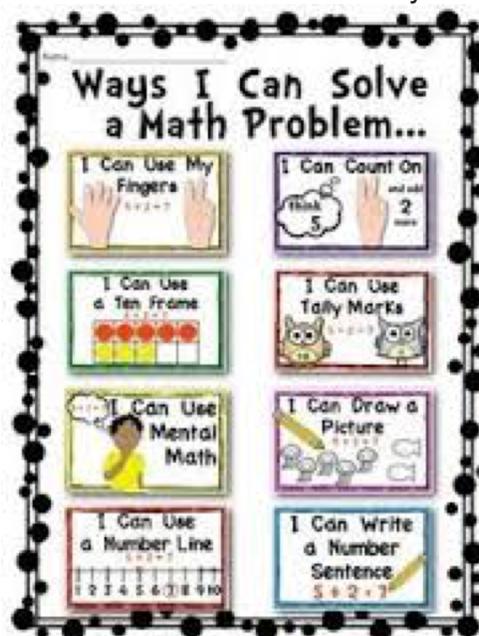
We believe that there are four steps that you need to go through in solving most mathematical problems. These are:

- understand and explore the problem
- find a strategy
- use the strategy to solve the problem
- look back and reflect on the solution.

### Why Teach Problem Solving?

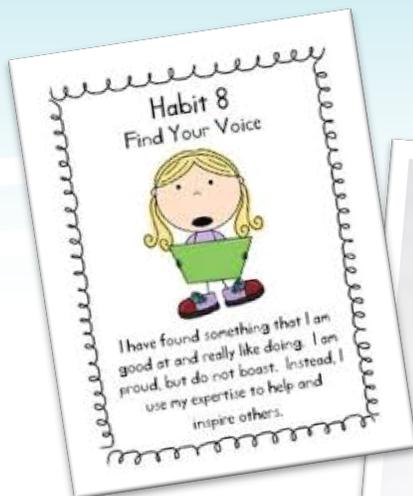
There are many benefits to teaching problem solving. These include:

- it bases students' mathematical development on their current knowledge
- it is an interesting and enjoyable way to learn mathematics
- it is a way to learn new mathematics with greater understanding
- it produces positive attitudes towards mathematics
- it teaches thinking, flexibility and creativity
- it encourages co-operative skills
- it is a useful way to practice mathematical skills learned by other means



# LEADER IN ME

We are a Leader in Me school and we will be focusing on The 8 Habits throughout the school year!



# January 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 Welcome back to school!	5 Last Day to purchase Jan 12 Fun Lunch	6 French Immersion Information night 6:30 pm	7	8
11 Kindergarten Registration date	12 Fun Lunch, if ordered	13 Theme day – stuffed animal day	14	15 Deadline to order Scholastic books, if ordering
18	19	20	21	22 Friendship Friday Grade 1 Led
25  French Culture Week	26	27 School Council meeting 6:30 pm	28	29 PL Day, no school for students

