



inside look

MAY 2021



From the Principal's Desk

How many stomachs does a cow really have? That is the question that I asked the Kindergarten to Grade Three students after our recent field trip to the Pencil Patch in Abbotsford – a field trip specifically devoted to agriculture and that specifically talked about cows and how their digestive system worked. I expected the answer to be a resounding “Four.” The display said that cows have four stomachs. It even talked about how they “burp” up their food and chew their cud. Everything from my childhood, growing up on a cattle feedlot, reinforced my knowledge that cows have



four stomachs (or more accurately, one stomach with four compartments). And even Google confirmed that cows definitely have four stomachs. However, I was told quite emphatically that, “My dad says that cows have seven stomachs, so you (and Google) must be wrong.” Who was I to argue? I did some further digging with the students, and I was given almost any number but four. “Um, two?” “One, of course.” “Three?”

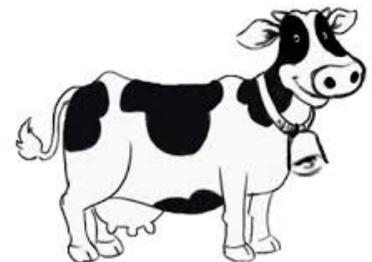
So, I went to an expert. I went to a Grade Four student who is heavily invested in the family farm and knows a lot more than I do about cows. And his answer? “Six.” “Well, technically, Mrs. de Waal, if you look at the drawing of a cow’s insides, you will see that there are actually six parts that make up a cow’s stomach. You should just look at my genius hour project.” I give up!

But actually I was quite

proud of our students that day. There was a lot of developmental and critical thinking going on. They were using their prior knowledge and some experiential learning to shape and mold their thinking. We might not have reached the correct answer just yet, but I was thrilled to watch their thought process in motion.

I was also thrilled to see their wonder as they learned about bees, invasive species, and how cows turn their food into milk. As we moved from station to station, it was evident to every one of us that God’s handiwork is so amazingly intricate.

But I am still left wondering? How many stomachs does a cow really have? ●



An **inside**look ...into our Music Room

COVID protocols in B.C.'s school system allow us to safely continue learning in person, and for that we are incredibly thankful. But when we are not able to sing together, play wind or brass instruments in our music room, or share items like smaller instruments or percussion instruments, what does that mean for our school's music program? How do we engage students in music making activities, spreading the joy that music brings into our lives, and also meet the curricular competencies, when it would seem that we cannot make music together? Well, here's a peak at some of the things we've done! ●

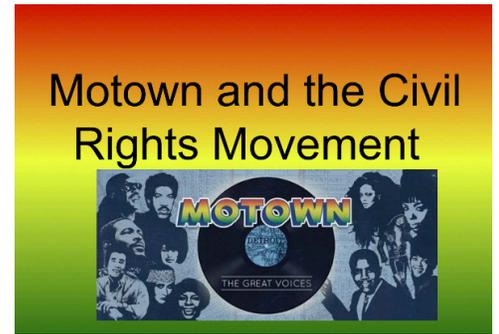


COVID Friendly Music Activity #1: Bucket Drumming!

Thank-you for the donation of buckets from school families and Kent's Ice Cream Company in Chilliwack, our 6/7 class have become quite the talented bucket band! Rhythms are learned by rote and hammered out with enthusiasm (which led to us seeking some additional bucket donations)! It is amazing to see the kind of fantastic music that can be created strictly through rhythm. Stay tuned for an upcoming video performance!



COVID Friendly Music Activity #2: Projects, Projects, and More Projects! Project-based learning is a fantastic way to allow students to deepen their understanding of a topic and unleash their creative skills! Our 2/3 class had a lot of fun with music mapping projects in which they learned all about musical form and the structure of larger pieces of Classical music, while using their artistic skills and imaginations to create their own maps depicting musical form.



Students in Grades Four through Seven explored Motown music this year, and this project allowed us to dive deeper into the curricular competencies of understanding and appreciating personal, social, cultural and historical contexts in relation to music as we learned about Motown's role in the Civil Rights Movement. This opened up the door for some insightful questions, discussions and projects on music and social justice. Sometimes restrictions actually lead us to new and amazing opportunities for exploration and growth!



An **inside**look ...our students' perspective



K/1 Joelle – I would like to be a dolphin because they can do cool tricks. I can do cool tricks too, like front flips and spins on the trampoline.

2/3 Essie – I would want to be a shepherd dog. I could run, chasing the sheep. I could sleep in the shade all day. I could take care of the sheep walking up and down in the valleys. It would be a dream.



K/1 Wade – I would be a green cobra because they are cool. Their head looks like a rain drop. They are beautiful.



2/3 Jessica– I would be a snow leopard. Snow leopards are my favourite animal because they are good hunters and they live in the snow. I love snow.

Question of the Month

A petting zoo is coming to our school later this month. So we are wondering...

If you could be any animal, what would you be?

4/5 Aiden – I would be a cheetah so I could run fast and in P.E I could go super, super, super fast!



6/7 Paige– I would be a lemur because they are cute and agile.



4/5 Jeremiah – I would be an eagle because I would want to fly.



6/7 Wade – I would be a wolf because they are very fast and have sharp teeth.



An **inside**look into next year

Staffing Updates: Things will look a little different around our school next year.

Mrs. Victor is taking a semi leave of absence. She is stepping away from the K/1 classroom to devote more time to her family. However, she will be joining us on a limited basis to teach Music.

Mrs. McGregor is also leaving us next year. She has enrolled in a PDP (Professional Development Program) to obtain her full teaching license.

Miss Feenstra is moving to Alberta. We wish her all the best as she pursues new adventures there.

Mrs. Driesen will be joining us to teach in the K/1 room. Mrs. Driesen is relatively new to the teaching profession but comes with experience in both Grade One and Kindergarten. We are excited to welcome her to our team.

Mrs deWolde will be teaching in the 4/5 classroom next year. Mrs. deWolde taught at Agassiz Christian for one year, before she moved with her family to Saskatchewan. We are excited to have her back.

Mrs. Peters and Mr. Giesbrecht are joining our EA team. I am confident that they will be excellent additions to our staff. And Mr. Braun is excited to have another male staff member in the building. ●

Position	Staffing
K/1	Mrs. Driesen Mrs. de Waal
2/3	Mrs. Sache Mrs. Wouda
4/5	Mrs. deWolde Mrs. Wouda Miss Lagemaat
6/7	Mr. Braun
Principal and Itinerant Teacher (Coding, Library)	Mrs. de Waal
Librarian	Mrs. Hertgers
Music	Mrs. Victor
Preschool	Mrs. Neudorf
EA's (Learning Support)	Mrs. Timmins Mrs. Peters Mrs. Timmers Mr. Giesbrecht Miss Lagemaat Mrs. Jarvis
Office Administration	Mrs. Bruneski Mrs. Goosen (Gee)

Important Dates to Remember

- May 21 -- Staff Retreat
- **School Closed**
- May 24 -- Victoria Day
- **School Closed**
- June 16- Grad 7 Graduation
- To Be Confirmed
- June 18- Last Day of School K-6
- June 25- Report Card #3 pick up



June 19- Sept. 6, 2021



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