

AMBER TRAILS COMMUNITY SCHOOL JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Dress for the Weather

For children to be comfortable and enjoy being outside, proper outerwear is a necessity. This is true for recess breaks and for those children who walk to and from school.

Winter Jacket **Ski Pants** **Winter Boots** **Hat or Toque** **Mitts/Gloves**
Scarf / Neck Warmer

We will be using Environment Canada's reading at the Forks to make decisions.

To summarize (all temperatures include the windchill):
-26° and warmer: Outdoor recess, patrols, and walking school bus are all on as scheduled.

-27° to -30° : Indoor recess and direct morning entry, shortened patrol time, walking school bus still on.

-31° to -34°: Indoor recess, no patrols on post, walking school bus still on.

-35° and colder: Indoor recess, no patrols on post, walking school bus cancelled for the day.

Reporting Student Absences

Please call or email the school if your child will be absent or late.
call 204-697-5965
(voicemail 24/7) or email ambertrails@7oaks.org

Important Dates

Monday, Feb. 2 - Divisional PD Day
- No Classes
Monday, Feb 16 - Louis Riel Day - No School
Monday, Feb 23 - School PD - No Classes



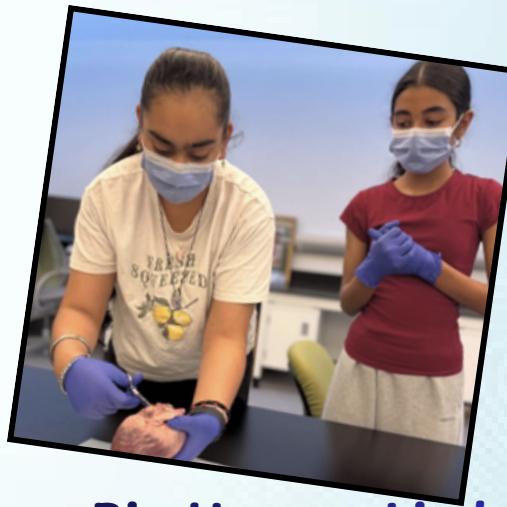
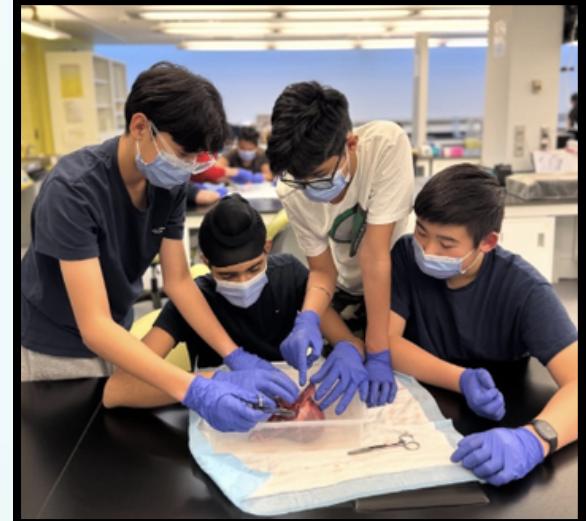
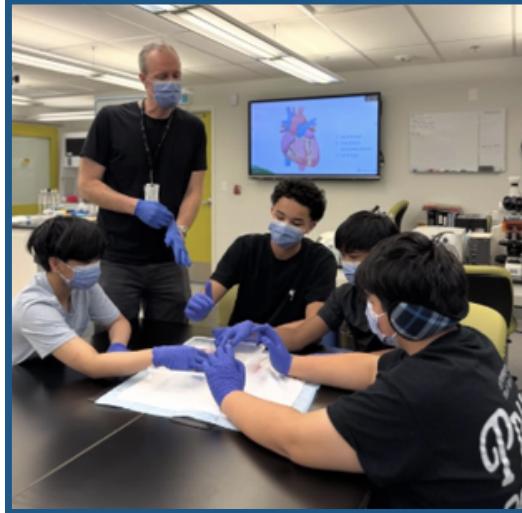
Kindergarten Registration 2026-27

Seven Oaks Kindergarten Registration
Opens February 23, 2026!

Families will be able to register online or they can make an appointment to register in-person at their catchment school. Visit [Kindergarten Registration](#) for more information and to use School Locator to determine your catchment schools. Students born in 2020 can register now. Students born in 2021 are eligible to start Kindergarten in September 2026 and can register on or after February 23, 2026.

Hands-On Science at the Youth Bio Lab

Ms. Yev's class was pumped to learn all about the heart during their visit to the Youth Bio Lab at St. Boniface Hospital! Guided by a real cardiovascular doctor and scientist, Dr. Steve, students examined live fibroblast cells, discussed cardiac research, and participated in a pig heart dissection. This engaging, hands-on experience connected perfectly with their science unit on cells and systems and sparked lots of excitement and interest for future career aspirations and physical well-being.



Buddies Program: Big Hearts, Little Friends



Our older students have been teaming up with younger students in our Buddies program! Together, they engage in fun, interactive activities that build connections across grades. It has been truly heartwarming to see our older students inspiring, supporting, and leading our younger learners. A beautiful example of community in action!

Mrs Sheena's and Mrs Saini's kindergarten students visited Mrs. Holly's Grade 1/2 classroom to learn about sweetgrass, one of the four sacred medicines. The Grade 1/2 students shared that sweetgrass can be braided and represents a grandmother's braid. They explained that ancestors braided their hair because it is believed strength and power are held there, making braids very sacred and important. Students had the opportunity to touch, see, and smell the sweetgrass. They also learned that a sweetgrass braid has three strands representing the body, mind, and soul. Mrs. Holly showed us that when sweetgrass is burned, it creates sacred smoke for smudging. She taught us that we smudge our eyes to see good things, our ears to hear good things, our mouth to say good things, our brain to think good things, and our body to feel good things.



Confidence in the Water: Learn to Swim

Our Grade 4 students are currently participating in the Learn to Swim Program at the Cindy Klassen Pool. With the Seven Oaks Pool closed for renovations in 2026, classes were relocated to ensure students could continue developing these important life skills.

Guided by Seven Oaks instructors, students are learning essential water safety skills and building swimming confidence at their individual levels. The program supports student well-being while promoting safety and confidence in the water. It has been wonderful to see students grow more comfortable and capable with each session.



Fun With Friends: Celebrating Our Strengths



On January 20, Ms. Rebecca organized another wonderful Fun With Friends session. Students created self-portraits using paper plates and shared an adjective that best described them. The theme, “Different Faces, Different Strengths, One Community of Friends,” encouraged self-awareness, confidence, and appreciation for one another.



Winter Weather & Toboggan Hill Fun



January brought extreme weather, from melting temperatures to the frigid cold, but it also created the perfect conditions for building up our toboggan hill!

A reminder to families: if students bring toboggans to school, please remind students to store them properly at school and use safely outside. As always, please bundle up for the weather.

A huge thank you to our “big man on campus”, Mr. Gilbert, for piling snow, even in 40-below temperatures to keep our hill as safe as possible. We are also very grateful to our custodial team for clearing the schoolyard and ensuring it remains safe and accessible for everyone.

To help keep recess safe and enjoyable, we are introducing a grade-based schedule for using the school hill:

Mon: Grades 1-2
Tue: Grade 3
Wed: Grade 4
Thu: Grade 5
Fri: Grade 6

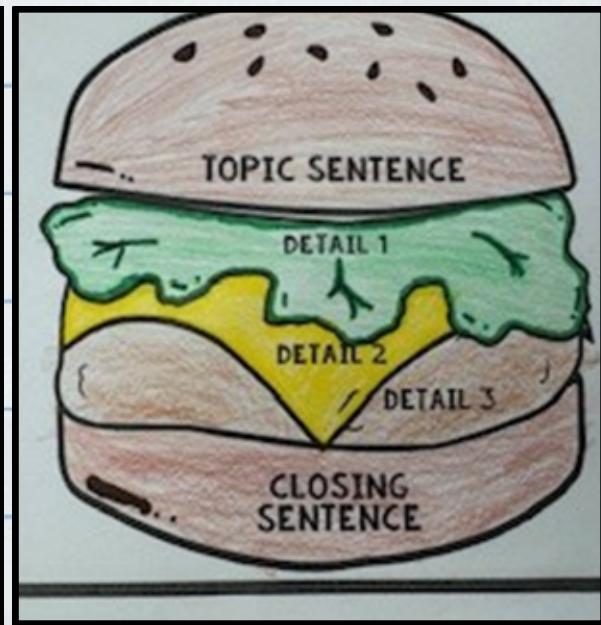
From Classroom to Camera!

Ms. Kira's class won a national contest through CBC Kids News, earning the exciting opportunity to help produce a news segment for their website. Students went behind the scenes to learn how news stories are created, from brainstorming ideas and developing a compelling pitch to spending a full day filming alongside CBC crew members and producers.

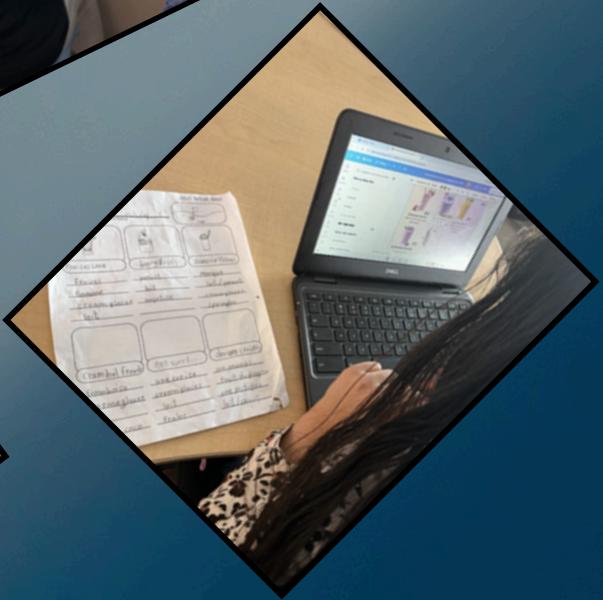
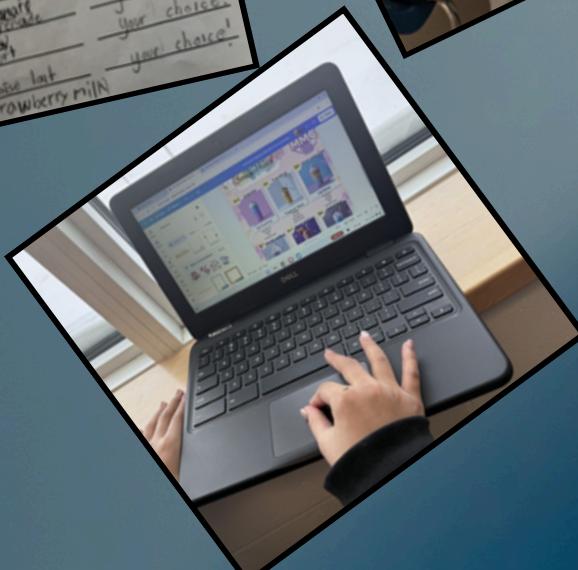
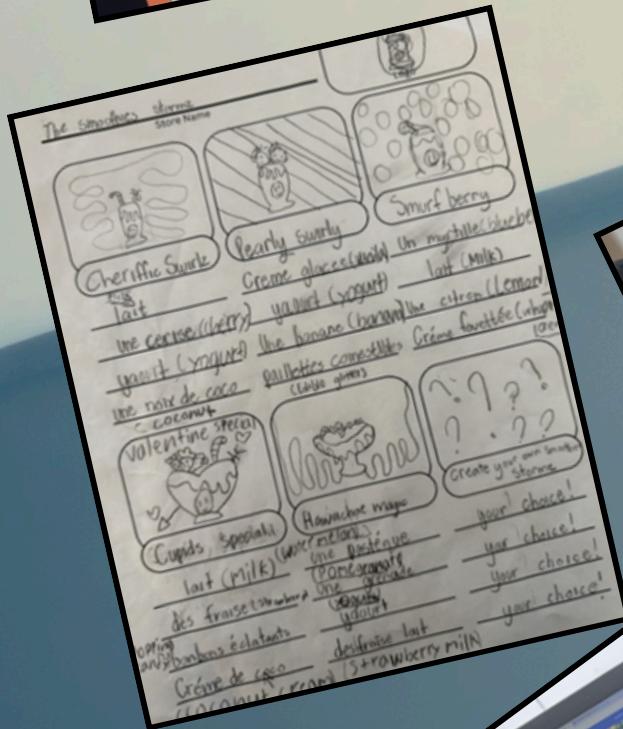
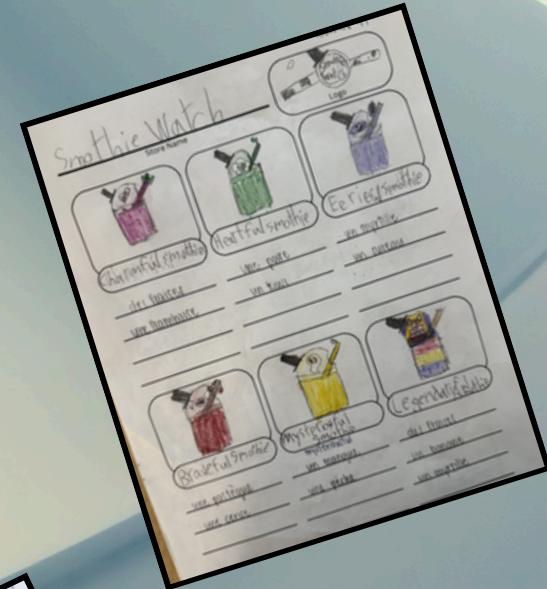
Their guiding question, "What does it take for a hockey player to make it to the Olympics?", led them to interview coaches, sports psychologists, a two-time Olympic gold medalist, and Olympic-bound players Jocelyne Laroque and Josh Morrissey. Be sure to watch their finished segment on the CBC Kids News website beginning February 4th.



This week, students in Room 104 have been focused on paragraph writing. They learned how to develop a strong paragraph by identifying a main topic, include supporting details, and conclude with a closing sentence. Through modelling and hands-on activities, students demonstrated growing confidence in organizing and expressing their ideas. We look forward to seeing their continued progress in writing.

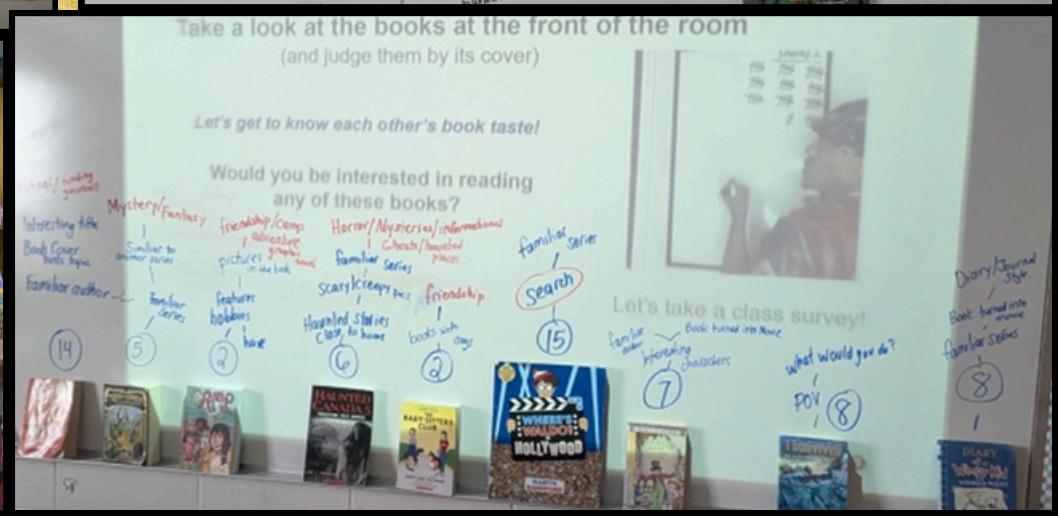
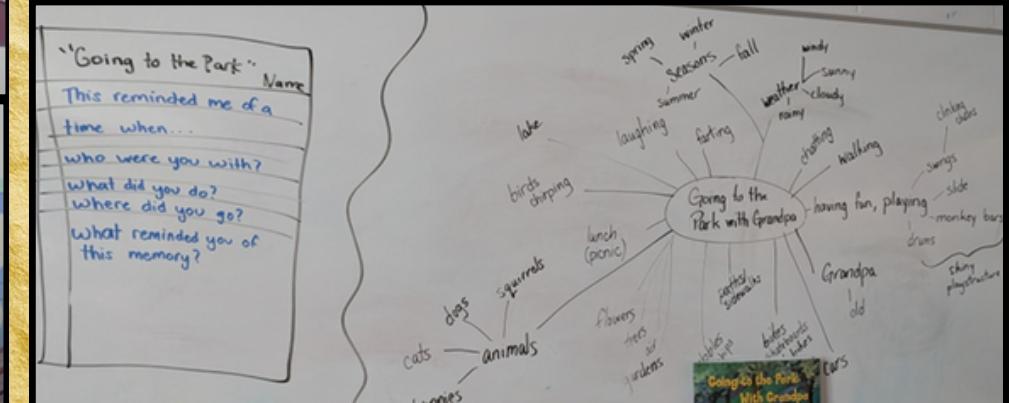
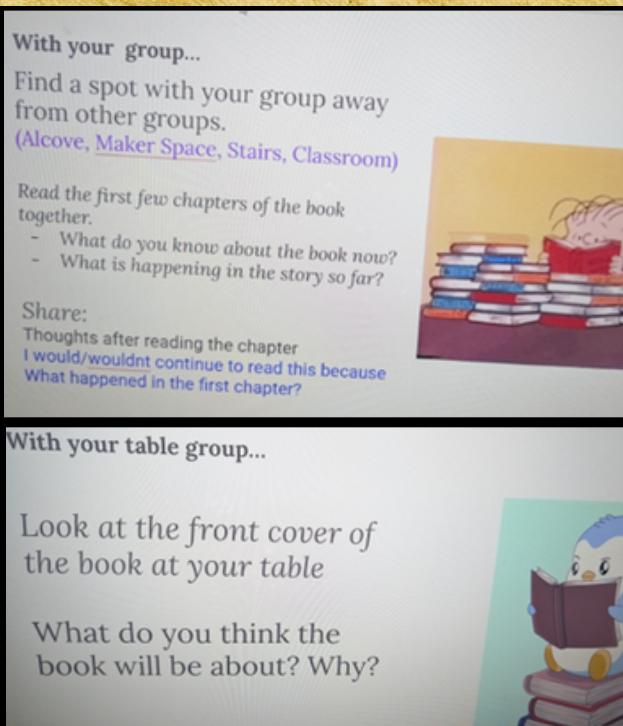


Students became young entrepreneurs in Room 207 by creating their own smoothie company from the ground up. They designed a company name and logo, then used their French fruit vocabulary to create a bilingual smoothie menu in French and English, complete with creative names, prices, and photos. The goal of the project was to propose their brand, menu, and unique ideas to an investor (their teacher) and convince them why their smoothie company stands out and deserves investment.



In room 203, students in the Grade 4/5 class have been spending the past few weeks building important reading skills as they begin an exciting journey into deeper comprehension. They have been learning about schema - what it is and how readers use their background knowledge to better understand texts - as well as making predictions and connections. Their learning was brought to life with a recent visit to McNally Robinson Bookstore. Ahead of time, they discussed what genres and topics they enjoyed, provided rationales as to why, and created criteria for choosing books for the classroom library. They also spent time learning how to "look for books".

Through making text-to-self connections, practicing inferring, making predictions, and exploring other key comprehension strategies, students are building the skills they need to think beyond the words on the page. This hands-on experience further sparked curiosity, encouraged them to explore a variety of genres, and build excitement. These foundational strategies will support thoughtful discussions, stronger understanding, meaningful connections, and success as we prepare for upcoming book clubs.



Student Drop Off/Pick Up:

Thank you to everyone for supporting our new drop-off and pick-up routines. Please remember that the staff parking lot is staff only and cannot be used for pick up/drop off. The front parking loop is reserved for kindergarten and daycare families, as well as student who have mobility concerns. Please do not park/stop on left side of loop (fire lane) and by the intersection on Novara street .Parking passes are required to enter the loop. Please continue to park a minimum of one block away from the school to avoid traffic congestion.

Thank you for using the streets surrounding the perimeter of our school yard as a drop-off/pick-up location. Please be respectful of our community residences by not blocking or parking in driveways or using them to turn around. We thank you for your support!

With almost 900 children, we have been receiving a high number of phone calls where parents/guardians request to speak with their child during class. Please plan and discuss non-urgent matters with your child outside of school hours if at all possible. If it is an emergency or urgent matter, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We appreciate your help with this!

REMINDER

If your child needs to be picked up early from school, we request the parents call the school and inform who would be coming to pick up the child and call at least 15-20 minutes ahead of the pick-up time to give the student enough time to gather their belongings and come to the office. We also ask that parents (or any visitors) check in at the office and not go directly to the classroom. We will call the student to the office for their pick-up. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.