

December 2020, a year to remember, a new year to look forward to.



In the spirit of the season and tradition, we present you with Teulon Elementary's annual family-style letter from our school to your home. Take the time to make a cup of cocoa and curl up with the following words...

Dearest Families, Friends, and Community Members,

Let us begin with the wee.

The **Kindergarten** classrooms are abuzz with excitement as the children work on writing letters to Santa, decorating their classroom Christmas tree, and creating special Christmas cards for the residents of Goodwin Lodge. **Mrs. Skinner** and the K's recently had a pyjama day which was sure a lot of fun. Both classes have wholeheartedly enjoyed the mild December weather and have been busy exploring the playground, looking for

animal tracks. **Mrs. Powroznik** reports that the year has been off to a wonderful start and she cannot wait to see what 2021 has in store.

Mrs. Reeb's 1-2 class has been working hard to improve their reading and writing skills. Students have been excited to create their own little books and are learning new skills every day. They are also making sure to take time to enjoy the beautiful December weather by getting outside often. Everyone is excited for the holiday season and 1-2R looks forward to seeing their classmates again in the new year.

The **1-2S** gang is fueled by smiles...the smiles from seniors/shut-ins who will receive the Christmas Cards we made; the smiles of parents who will receive the thoughtful gifts from the Presents for Parents program; the smiles from TES Staff as we do our best to be safe, responsible and respectful; the smiles of our friends and classmates as we continue to get along and work together in our classroom; and the smile of **Mrs. Stevenson** as we complete our units on communities, healthy eating, and the growth and change in animals. The grades 1s and 2s here also look forward to the New Year where they will continue to do their best to make those around them smile.





If you are looking for **Miss Jack** and her class, you may want to look amongst the trees... The children have been enjoying the beautiful weather and love to go on adventures every chance they can get, finding so many things to learn about in nature. Time has flown by in **1/2 J** and Miss Jack says, “We are having so much fun together!” The 1-2s are becoming stronger readers and writers every day, and they love doing arts and crafts. For the month of December Miss Jack’s class has also been travelling to a new country everyday to see how holidays are celebrated around the world. Mrs. Watson has enjoyed all the excitement in the orange cohort and wishes all a Merry Christmas. **Mrs. Spence, Mrs. Shipley, and Mrs. Watson** also send their greetings: as this letter is being written, these wonderful people are likely outside, reading to a child, opening

a container for someone, or working with a small group.

Ms. Trombo has been enjoying the new part of her job as literacy co-teacher, spending time in all the grade 1-2 classes. She enjoys watching the children grow as readers and writers. From the speech room, and Kindergarten lunch time, **Mrs. McMahon** wishes all a happy holiday and many joyful days together.

The scholars in **Mrs. Murray’s grades 3 and 4 class** have been dabbling with poetry by creating rhyming Christmas couplets. As this letter goes to publication, their Christmas stories are in the process of being finished; they really hope you get to enjoy reading them when they are sent home. 3-4M has many wonderful budding authors! The 3-4s are also engaged in creating a mosaic and enjoying the game of ringette outside. Hopefully, there will be enough snow to snowshoe before Christmas holidays. Grade $\frac{3}{4}$ M and the upbeat, and always busy, **Mrs. Knor** would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



The themes this year in **Mrs. Kiel and Mme Shinnie’s classroom** are Citizenship and Making a Difference. The 3-4KS class worked alongside Mrs. Murray’s class and Mrs. Shulha’s class this fall to clean the area along Beach Road in front of the school and the walking trail area along the old railway tracks. The students mailed thoughtful letters of appreciation to a veteran as participants in the Postcards for Peace program, and now are excited about creating homemade Christmas cards for seniors in our community. Also, they are excited about creating a number of Christmas crafts that they can share with their families! How giving and thoughtful. Down in the library, **Ms. Voth** has sure found creative ways to ensure we can share books without spreading germs. There have also been many plants added to our library this fall; they have names and children have been writing letters to each of them. Although Goldie the library fish is a little lonesome, he just keeps swimming.

Enjoying Phys. Ed. outside, the beautiful weather, or playing ringette and volleyball is where you can find **Mrs. Shulha** and her **3-4 class**. They absolutely loved building habitat dioramas in science and creating a brochure on a Canadian province for Social Studies. The kids wrote and illustrated their own Christmas books (to give to someone special) and have been working on completing beautiful holiday artwork and crafts to give to others as Christmas gifts.

Mr. Blackwood's grade **five** class is looking forward to snow and the related activities of tobogganing, x-country skiing and snowshoeing that will begin in January. Our class is very excited and engaged in their simple machines project with many innovative ideas being developed. They have also become masters of the multiplication lattice. The 5B class, Mr. Blackwood and **Ms. Faschauner**, wish all our fellow students and families a relaxing, enjoyable Christmas Break.



The fantastic and fabulous scientists in **5G** have been designing and building their own catapults, parachutes, and gravity maze models. **Miss George** is consistently amazed at the problem-solving skills and creative ideas that happen each and every science lab. With the help of **Mrs. Derbrowka** and **Ms. Woods**, the students are currently designing and building their own playground models that will incorporate all six simple machines. The folks in 5G wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday!



Now, last (if we go by age), but sure not least, are our dear grade sixes and their teachers: **Mrs. Conway** and **Mrs. Phill**. The sixes have been spending lots of

time outdoors, being creative in the activities we can be active with, organizing ourselves into cooperative games and having fun with volleyball, hockey, soccer, handball, sliding, treasure, man-tracker, flag tag, AND football. The blue cohort has been spreading Christmas cheer by writing Christmas Cards for our Canadian Troops overseas, as well as the Seniors in our community. They are currently writing their own Christmas skits and turning them into plays, puppet shows and movie trailers. Not only this, these kids have been researching planets and working on a constellation design, a Mars Lander Mission Design



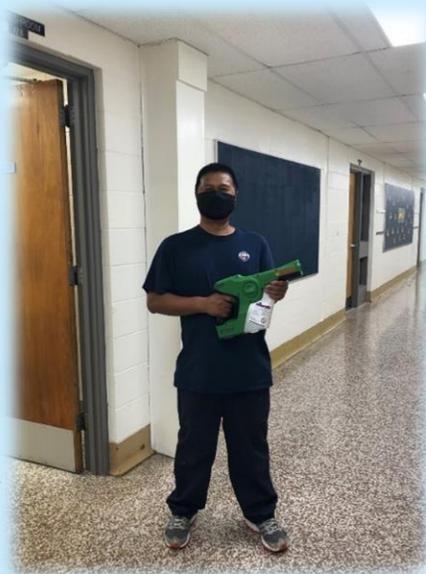
Challenge, and participating in rich tasks through various hands on challenges, games and problem-solving tasks to support their learning of perimeter, area, multiplication and division. As slow as the days & months seemed to have been, it really is hard to believe that another year has come & gone. Now that the 6s are spread out in different places around the school (thank you, covid) **Ms. McMahon** has been spending her days of late with Mrs. Conway & her Grade 6 class. The resiliency of these students is quite admirable, as is their abilities to adapt to ever-changing situations. And their enthusiasm? Remarkable! Watching the students working, collaborating, & growing together truly feeds the soul. After such an unusual & unprecedented year, these connections become so important & she is so proud to see all of the students getting on so well with & helping each other. Teulon Elementary has also been very fortunate to have **Ms. Van Roon, Mr. Hepples, and Ms. Barylski** greatly help us out as trusty and frequent supervisors this fall.



Music classes at TES have looked a lot different this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. Instead of our usual busy December routine of preparing for a big concert, students have been enjoying many different seasonal activities that we normally wouldn't get to. Some activities include making up actions to winter songs and composing gingerbread rhythms. Older students have been illustrating their favourite holiday song and making virtual playlists of favourite tunes. **Ms. Ponask** wishes everyone a happy and safe holiday. **Joyeux Noël!** All **French** classes are learning noel vocabulary and some classes are working on

noel projects with **Mme.**

This year more than ever, the T.E.S. community owes a huge thank you to our hard-working custodians: **Ms. Brennan, Mr. Abacan, and Mrs. Altvater** who have wiped more door handles and desks this fall than they even want to talk about. Mr. Abacan has mastered the electrostatic sprayer and our school has never been cleaner. Something to definitely be thankful for in 2020 (and 21!).



Mr. Harrison, who has turned an outdated lab into a bright and bustling multi-purpose room of learning and (socially distanced) group work, wishes all a safe and healthy break from school and looks forward to seeing everyone in the new year. **Ms. Tait**, our guidance councilor has been taking many a class out doors this year, and we are so appreciative. The space and the fresh air have been beneficial to our health and our well-being.

We were grateful for the return of staff and students in the fall, as we were missing seeing everyone's smiling faces. Although office protocols may look a little different this year, **Mrs. Moeller-Johnston** appreciates that all parents and guardians quickly adapted to all of the changes and is always available to answer any questions or concerns. She is wishing everyone a Happy Holiday!

Many of our students wouldn't get to school each day without dedicated and careful **bus drivers**. Each year, we take the time to thank them for their work, as we know it sure must be a gift to have your children picked up and delivered safely each day. This year especially, with all the new protocols and safety measures, we know they will enjoy the time at home.

On behalf of all of our dedicated staff here at Teulon Elementary, **Ms. Hadfield** would like to close this letter by saying a whole hearted "thank you and good bye" to the year 2020. I learned a lot this year, and we all (staff, students, and ESPECIALLY parents) bravely arose to the challenge of *pandemic response teaching and learning*. To the Teulon Elementary Parent Council (TEPAC): thank you for looking out for our well-being, our safety, our best interests. You keeping this school classy.

Happy Holidays to our much-appreciated friends, community members and volunteers that bring us into your places, events, and lives. You have all played a distinctive part in the year 2020 and we would like to take this opportunity to wish you more great things in 2021.

May your holidays be healthy, your hearts light, and may peace and love surround you this Christmas,

Teulon Elementary School

