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November 2009 Newsletter # 5

November 13 , 2009

Homework Help ONLINE



Homework can be frustrating for parents, students and teachers, but it doesn't have to be, "says Jason McNish, a Grade 4.5 teacher at Commonwealth Public School in Brockville, Ont. Help is just a click away. And if kids visit websites that include educational games, learning may even be fun. Here are some of McNish's favourite websites for grades 2 to 6.

www.math.com

Using the site's collection of calculators, mathematics tables and other tools, your kids will master fractions and decimals in no time. Parents, check out the Help your Kids link for simple instructions on explaining math to your young scholars.

1. Bouffe Pontiac

Bouffe Pontiac has launched its Christmas Food Drive. All donations received allow low income families from the Pontiac to have food during the holiday season. Last year McDowell did an outstanding job at helping out our Pontiac Community.

As usual we are asked to send non-perishable items. The food drive has officially begun and will end December 11, 2009.

In advance, thank you for your kindness.

2. National Art Gallery of Canada

Marion McGahern visited cycle 1, 2 and 3 classrooms and with the aid of reproductions, discussed and shared ideas about genre painting - painting about everyday life.

Mrs. McGahern hopes that you will come as a family to visit the National Gallery of Canada. For information about family weekend workshops call 613-998-8888. For other information call 613-990-1985 or visit the National Gallery web site: www.national.gallery.ca

3. Be on Time!

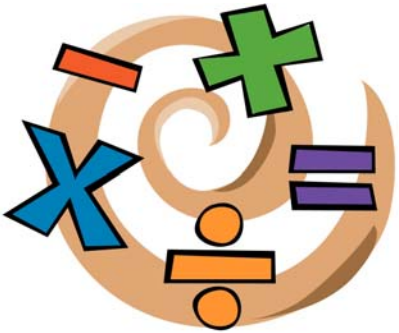
Punctuality is an important social skill we all need to have. Have your child practice this skill by arriving on time for school. Homeroom bell rings at 8:25 and all students should be in class.

4. Support McDowell Home and School Initiatives

- Scholastic Book Fair will once again be held in the gym during Parent/Teacher Interviews, Tuesday, November 17 and Wednesday, November 18.
- Christmas Craft Sale will be held Saturday, November 21 in the gym. This event has grown over the years and has become very popular.
- Family Christmas Photos

www.mathforum.org/dr.math.

Paging Dr. Math. More than 300 volunteers personally answer every question sent to them, and then post their favourites. The searchable archive, which goes back more than 10 years, is organized by grade level and topic.



www.homeworkhelper.ca

This portal will help kids navigate in the right direction on 12 subjects, including history and geography.

www.internet4classrooms.com

Click on the grade level help link and find language, math, science and social studies skill-builders for every age.



5. Public Speaking Contest

Over the past 3 weeks cycle 3 students have been working on writing and delivering speeches. To culminate this activity finalists from each class will compete with one another for the opportunity to represent McDowell at the Western Quebec School Board Public Speaking Contest on November 26, at Maniwaki Woodland School in Maniwaki.

6. Request from Ms. A.

I have an idea in mind to create a very unique McDowell Christmas tree. In order to complete this project I am making the request for you to send any piece of "Costume Jewelry" you no longer want to keep to me via your child within the next week. The glitterier the better!

IMPORTANT DATES

November 16th

Picture Retakes/Class Group Photos

November 16th

Reports go home

November 17th/18th

Parent Teacher Interviews/Scholastic Book Fair

November 17th

Public Speaking

November 21st

Christmas Craft Sale