

# MJ Coldwell School

*Every Student Counts. Every Moment Matters.*

November 2020



## **Dear Comet Families,**

Our first week of November weather has been tremendous! We have really enjoyed the warm autumn days and have appreciated the opportunity to be outside. As we know, this is Saskatchewan and the weather will turn. Yes, the winter and snow are coming. It is time to pull out those warm winter jackets, boots, hats, and mittens.

**Lifetouch Photography** will return to MJ Coldwell School on **Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>** for picture retakes. Pre-K and eLearning students are welcome to the school to have their pictures taken beginning at 9:30 a.m. Please contact the school prior to November 13<sup>th</sup> so we know to expect you on this day.

Again, we will need families to wait outside the main doors. Families will be greeted by staff and students will be accompanied inside the school to have their picture taken.

**MJ Coldwell School Community Council (SCC)** held their Annual General Meeting in early October. Regrettably, we were unable to elect an executive for 2020-2021 school year. Even so, we want to provide opportunities for parents, caregivers and community to have part in our incredible school.

We will host a meeting for interested families on **Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will involve plans for the school year, learning celebrations and more. There will be no expectations for volunteering, but it will still give you an opportunity to contribute your thoughts and ideas.

A ZOOM link will be provided on our website and forwarded to families upon request.

**November Conferences** are scheduled for Kindergarten students, **November 18<sup>th</sup>** and Grade 1-8 students, **November 19<sup>th</sup>**. Conferences have been offered virtually, or by phone. Families will receive information notifying conference times early next week.

A **Professional Development Day** has been scheduled for staff on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. There will no classes this day.

Health and safety is always a primary concern for MJ Coldwell School. We must be mindful of **allergies**. This includes scents and fragrances. Then, too, **nut allergies**. We must not package snacks or lunches that include nuts – including spreads like Nutella.

**Upcoming Dates:**

**Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>** - Virtual Remembrance Day Presentations

**Wednesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>** - Remembrance Day There will be no classes this day.

**Friday, November 13<sup>th</sup>** - Picture Retakes

**Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>** – Conferences for Kindergarten students. No regular classes for Kindergarten students only.

**Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>** – Conferences for Grade 1-8 students. No regular classes for all students.

**Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup>** - Professional Development Day. No regular classes for students.

**Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Coldwell SCC ZOOM Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>** – Grade 8 Immunizations

**Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>** – Last Day of School before Winter Holidays.

As always, we want to thank you for being such a caring and understanding community. We really do have a great community.

Sincerely,

Mr. G. Urban, Principal

# The Best Readers Are Engaged Readers



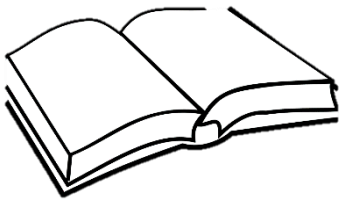
## Compare Books to Movies

Have your child read a book and then check out the video version of a book. Talk about the similarities and differences between the two. What did you each like (or dislike) about each form? Did you prefer the book or the movie, and why?

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## Read Alongside

Take turns reading passages or allow your child to follow along as you read. Consider using interesting voices that correspond to characters' personalities or to the tone of the story. It may sound corny but it works even for Grade 8 children. Take a CHANCE! This is where great memories are made!



## Asking Your Child for Help

For younger children, practical things such as looking up store hours, simple instructions, or ingredients on a package of food, can give your child a sense of the practicality of reading in small, manageable doses.

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## The MAGIC of Reading

We read to children for all the same reasons that we talk with children: to reassure, to entertain, to bond; to inform or explain, to arouse curiosity, to inspire. But in reading aloud, we also condition the child's brain to associate reading with pleasure, create background knowledge, build vocabulary, and provide a reading role model.





## Play Word Games

There are lots of word games that families can play to build vocabulary. The great part is that little planning or materials are needed for some of the family fun. Here is a small list of ideas provided...Check them out!

### Word Boggle

Write out a long word on a piece of paper – or a white board if you have one. Set a timer for 3-5 minutes and challenge kids to come up with as many smaller words as they can using only the letters in the designated word. For example, if the word is “basketball”. basket, ball, sat, tell, ask, etc.

A more challenging example, if the word is “onomatopoeia”: poem, name, top, pot, ate, etc.

### SMURF

Remember the SMURFS. Smurfs would often substitute words in sentences with "SMURF" – leaving us wonder what word was replaced. So, let's make a game of it. Say a sentence – replacing a key word in the sentence with SMURF.

For example, “I **SMURF** when I sleep.” Then, kids will use clues from the sentence to guess the word. Is it DREAM? Is it SNORE? Maybe, TALK? Be creative but be certain to provide clues in the sentence.



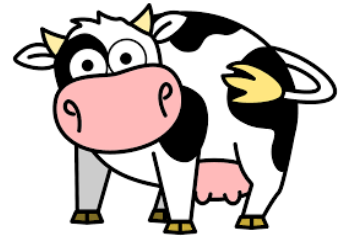
### Hot Seat

This game is for 3 or more players. Two players are placed on the "hot seat". The third player (or host) chooses a word keeping the word unknown to the players in the hot seat. The host then gives one-word clues to those in the "hot seat". Each player has a turn trying to guess the "secret word" from the clues. The clues must be one word, cannot rhyme, or contain parts of the secret word. The host continues to give a clue until the secret word is found. When a player guesses the word, the player gets a point then offers his seat to the host.

### “Bulls” and “Cows”

This game, which can also be called “Mastermind” or “Jotto”. It involves one player thinking up a secret word of a set number of letters. The second player guesses a word; the first player tells them how many letters match in the right position (bulls) and how many letters are correct but in the wrong position (cows).

It is a great way to develop her spelling and handwriting as well as logical thinking about which letters can or can't be the correct ones after a few guesses.



### G-H-O-S-T

Steer clear of the ghost! A player loses when he acquires each of the five letters G-H-O-S-T. To avoid getting a letter, a player simply has to avoid spelling a complete word. The first player selects a letter. Then, each family member takes a turn selecting subsequent letters. The trick is to add letters that are part of a word but do not complete a word. For example, imagine the starting letter of the first round is B. The second player might add A, thinking of barbecue. The next player adds N with bank in mind. Oops! He would receive the G of GHOST because N completes the word “ban.” The next and following rounds follow the same pattern until someone gets all five letters of GHOST.

What happens if someone adds a letter that another family member doesn't think is part of a word? The player must reveal which word was his inspiration. A player can also question whether a completed word is a genuine word. If it isn't, the player who accused him of spelling a word gets the ghostly letter!

