

Rolling Acres Colony School Community Report 2020

What a year the students at Rolling Acres have had! They have experienced many teachers, many teaching styles, and a pandemic. They have taken each new experience in stride and continued to press on and continue with their established routines in school. Their resiliency was certainly tested and although it was not without some struggles and bumps along the way, they persisted and we were able to celebrate the graduation of George together and end the school year with a fun and positive day.

From January on Mrs. Buchanan was back as a familiar face to Rolling Acres students in the school. We started with some getting to know each other time as well as some new routines in math and ELA. Math classes are set up in rotations and students are either in a small group working on their assignment with the teacher, playing math games or doing math activities in a small group or on their own, or they are using technology such as computers and iPads to participate in math programs such as Prodigy Math, Reflex Math, Sum Dog, or Khan Academy math.

ELA was spent in a Daily 5 model where each day students participated in at least 3 of 5 activities each day. These activities are read to self, work on writing, word work (spelling), listen to reading, or read to someone. Often when students are reading to someone it is the teacher and it is guided reading books at their level as part of our intervention program or a group novel study. The students at Rolling Acres all share a love for reading and books. They are excited to read new books on their own as well as they love listening to a book read aloud.

Despite only being all together in the classroom for a little less than 3 months the students worked hard, and had some fun too. We went to Riverside for fun and interesting presentations by Oak Hammock Marsh. We went on our sledding trip to Valley View Bible Camp, as well as had an ice cream party, and movie days in the school.

We are all so very grateful to Michelle for supervising the students at school each day during the COVID19 school suspension. It was beneficial for the students to maintain their school routines and Ms. Cardinal and I really appreciated being able to communicate with the students over the iPads and computers multiple times each day. Michelle and the students from grades k-7 did some great work during the school suspension. They also created a school newsletter every 2 months. This was a great way to communicate to the community all the things that were happening in the school and around the colony. We will try our best to continue this into next year. The students at Rolling Acres are very lucky to have had such a great opportunity during a most unique time for education across Canada. It is amazing what technology enables us to do from a distance but we have also learned it certainly does not replace the personal experience of being in the classroom with the students each and every day.

We will continue to learn and utilize the technology at school so that all the students have equal opportunity and experience to communicate with Ms. Cardinal and I in the event that

schools enter remote learning in the future. We will hope and plan for a usual fall school opening but the province has asked all schools to be prepared and plan for 3 different scenarios, including remote learning. I appreciate all the effort by parents, students, and staff to make the best of each situation we encounter.

When we do come back to school we will focus on literacy and numeracy and building on each students' strengths in reading, writing, and math. There are new guided reading kits at school that I am really looking forward to utilizing as the students enjoy reading them together in small groups with their teacher. We also look forward to some discussion time as well inquiry and project based learning that we did not get to do much of during the school suspension; especially in the subjects of science and social studies.

I am very glad to be back at Rolling Acres to stay. I'm looking forward to a new and fresh school year and I know we are prepared and can work with any situation that may come our way. Thank you to the community for being so flexible, cooperative, and patient during the uncertain times this school year has brought. Enjoy your summer and keep reading students!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Amy Buchanan