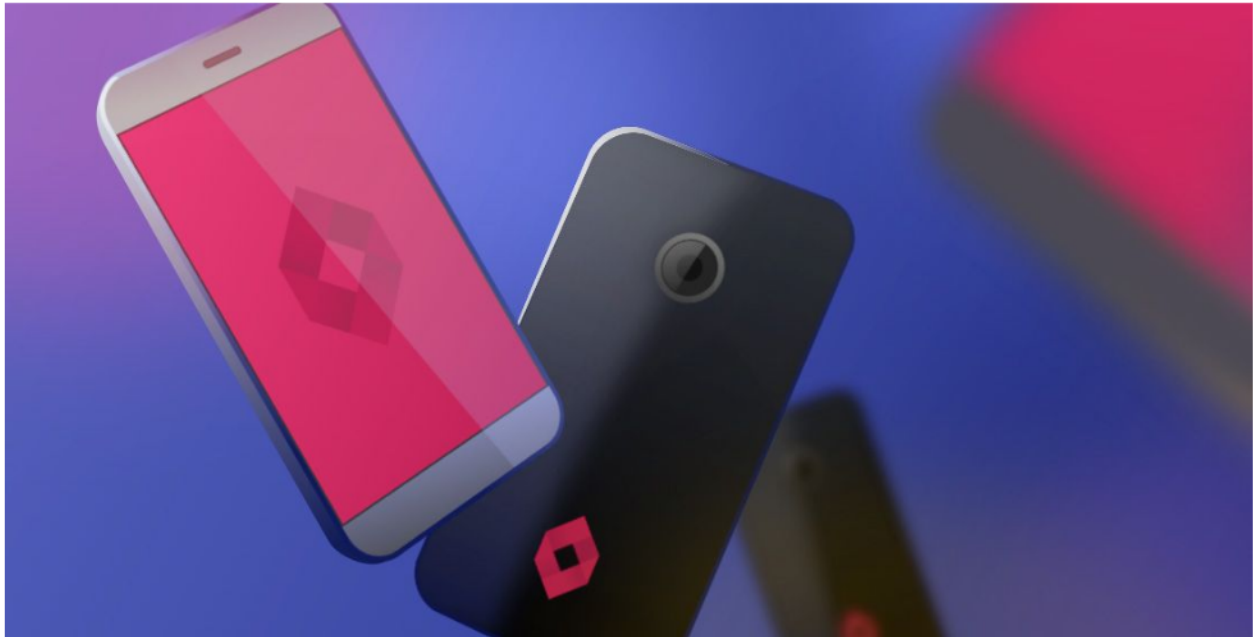


Room 1

November Newsletter



Students are up and running with technology

We have started using technology for many of our classroom activities. Students have come home with their Google username and password. This can be used to log into many of our classroom resources from home, such as Google Classroom and Google Drive and many other resources such as Knowledgehook for Math, typing.com, and the school's virtual library. We also use platforms that don't collect any personal information such as mPower and CS First for coding. I am sending these usernames and passwords for home use as well. Please feel free to peruse your child's progress, especially in Google Classroom, regularly, as any unfinished work can be completed at home. For a list of links, see my website:
teachers.wrdsb.ca/mssmithslearningspace

Don't throw out your old, working cell phones!



Students can use old cell phones in the classroom

We can reuse your old cell phone and charger! Clear it of all your personal data, and we will use your old device to take pictures for design and for the collection of assignments for student portfolios. We can also use old cell phones with apps like Google Cardboard to take virtual field trips! Students are only permitted to use devices as tools for specific learning purposes, so rest assured they will not be used as toys and student identities will be kept private.

Now that progress reports have been completed, we are motoring ahead with our learning. Progress reports are based mostly on assessment data and observation of the transition to school so far. We have finalized classroom routines and expectations to maximize student potential. In the coming weeks, we will be accessing the Virtual Learning Environment. I plan to use this secure site for classroom news, announcements and student portfolios.

Here is a summary of learning to date in Room 1:

Math: We have finished units on Patterning, Angles and are working on 2D shapes and 3D figures. Up next, we will be working with fractions. I will be sending home parent summary pages and activities that can be used at home to consolidate classroom learning. Student assessment is done on an ongoing basis with Ontario standard grades provided at the end of each term.

Reading: We have focused on many comprehension, accuracy, fluency and expanded voice (vocabulary building) activities. We will continue to learn strategies and choose personal goals to be thinking about while reading. We will focus on nonfiction text features and using these structures to assist with comprehension next in our reading program.

Writing: We have been working on generating ideas for our writing. We chose a topic that is clear and focused and matters to us. We then present the information to our audience by showing, not telling. Whether we are writing in fiction or nonfiction, we practised presenting a problem that needs to be solved. We used graphic organizers to get our ideas down on paper and then wrote first drafts of our stories. We will be learning how to revise our work and to edit with peers. Next, we will learn how to add more details to our writing through exploring word choice.

Social Studies & Science: Grade 4s have learned the provinces and territories and their capital cities. They are learning about animal habitats and adaptations. Grade 5s have learned about the Rights and Freedoms of Canadians and how the Federal Government is elected. They are learning about the organs in the human body. This has proven to be an interesting topic of study!