



# Principal's Message

It's hard to believe that Spring Break is just a few weeks away! Soon, the warm weather will arrive to stay, and we'll leave the snowy memories of winter behind.

March has been a busy and exciting month for both students and staff. With just three months left in the school year, we remain focused on each child's learning journey. Literacy and numeracy continue to be a priority for all our learners. On March 20th, students had the opportunity to showcase their growth during student-led conferences. Thank you to everyone who attended—it was wonderful to see families celebrating learning together!

## Mini Basketball – What a Great Season!

This past month, our Grade 4, 5, and 6 students demonstrated sportsmanship and hard work while representing our school at Coalhurst Elementary's basketball tournament. They exemplified what it means to be a DDS Dolphin and were true ambassadors of our school—well done!

A special thank you to our amazing coaches, Mrs. Vandenberg and Mrs. McLeod, for their dedication and support of our student-athletes. Your leadership made this season an enriching and enjoyable experience—thank you!

## Indigenous Learning

Last week, we had the privilege of hosting Marge Fox Small Face, a First Nations designer and creator, who shared the beauty and tradition of beadwork with our students. We also welcomed Westwind Thunder, a dance group from Cardston made up of elementary to high school students, who performed both Indigenous and contemporary dances. It was a meaningful day of learning, culture, and connection!

## Early Learning & Kindergarten Registration for 2025-26 is Now Open!

We're excited to announce that Early Learning and Kindergarten registration for the 2025-26 school year is now open!

Developmental check-ups are scheduled for Friday, May 9th, so be sure to register your child as soon as possible. We look forward to welcoming new families to our DDS community!

I hope everyone has a fantastic Spring Break, and we look forward to seeing everyone back on April 28th.

Yours in Learning,  
Mrs. McGregor



# Kindergarten

What an exciting and busy month it has been in Kindergarten! March has brought so many wonderful moments, and it's been incredible to see the growth of each of our young learners. From celebrating St. Patrick's Day to welcoming the first day of spring, and even hosting our student-led conferences, there has been so much to celebrate and reflect on.

**Language Arts:** In our phonics lessons this month, we covered the letters **X, W, Y, and Z**, which helped expand our letter knowledge. We've also been working on spelling some of our high-frequency words like "at," "bed," "the," "stop," and "love," among others. It has been exciting to watch the students gain confidence in their reading and writing abilities. In writing, we've continued to practice using our writing journals. The children have been focusing on writing small, within the lines, and remembering to leave spaces between words using their fingers. This is a skill that's coming along beautifully, and we're so proud of the progress everyone has made!

In **Physical Education**, we've been working hard on building resilience, particularly with tag games. The children are becoming more confident in their movement skills and perseverance. We've also started practicing soccer skills, like kicking toward a target, which has been a lot of fun! For **Wellness**, our focused feeling this month was insecurity. We discussed why we feel this and how we can see that we are all different, but that is what makes each of us beautiful!

In **Social Studies**, we've begun learning about **traditions** and how they differ around the world. It's been a fascinating exploration of how people celebrate different customs, and the students are becoming more aware of the diversity in the world around them.

In **Science**, as spring approaches, we've started discussing the **life cycle of plants** and how they grow. We've also been learning about seasonal changes and what that means for both nature and our day-to-day lives. It's been a great way to tie in the changes we see outside with our learning in the classroom.

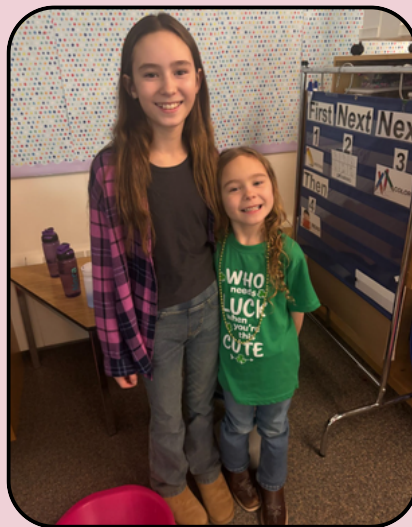
March also saw a big focus on **Numeracy** skills. The students had the opportunity to showcase their addition skills during our student-led conferences, and they've continued to build on these skills with the help of our Grade 6 buddies. We've also been using manipulatives to solve addition problems and will soon begin practicing subtraction. Additionally, our understanding of **patterns** has grown, and the children are recognizing patterns not only in shapes and colors but also in our daily routines at school.

It's truly amazing to see how much the students have grown this month. Their hard work and dedication to learning continue to impress all of us, and we can't wait to see what April brings! Thank you for your continued support. We are so proud of all the hard work and effort that the Kindergarten class has shown.

Miss Babe



# Kindergarten





# Kindergarten





# Grade 1

And just like that...March 2025 is a memory! What a jam-packed month. We had a great time celebrating so much learning in our classroom and our school. From cheering on some amazing athletes in Mini-Basketball to report cards to student-led conferences to watching the incredible Westwind Thunder Indigenous Dances, we couldn't have had more to celebrate. We are such a fortunate school to have so much going on.

We have continued to be busy learning more about literacy and numeracy. In Social Studies, we are just finishing up learning about long ago and today. We are interested in how some things have changed so much, and yet some things are still the same! In Science we are getting close to finishing our unit on Earth Systems and are so excited to see Spring bloom soon!

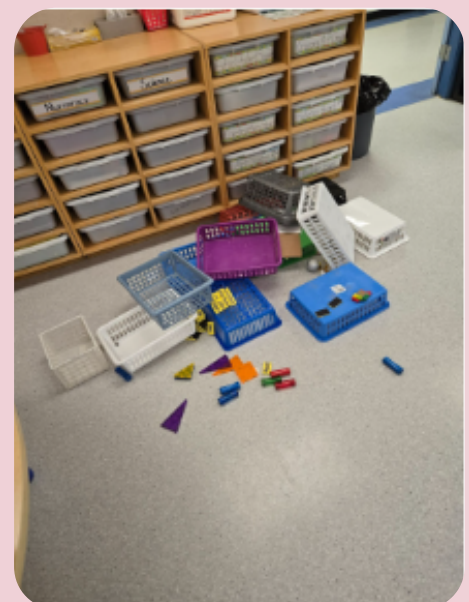
We had a naughty visit from the leprechaun on St. Patty's Day, and enjoyed seeing the mess he made of our traps. He left us some goodies because he felt bad for us. We would like to thank Mrs. Pittman for hosting another amazing book fair for us. We raised a lot of money to buy books for our library, and we can't wait to read them all.

I would like to thank all the parents and families that were able to come for Student-Led Conferences. I love watching your children show all that they have been learning. It's also fun to watch them be so shy when their parents and teacher are together in the same room.

Again, we would like to thank all the incredible moms who help with hot lunches and Miss E. for the fabulous hot dogs!

We are gearing up for Spring and are looking forward to nicer weather! Have a wonderful end to March everyone!

~ Mrs. Nish





# Grade 2/3

April is finally here! What an exciting month ahead with Spring Break just around the corner!

In Reading we recently finished *The BFG* by Roald Dahl. The students thoroughly enjoyed the plot and consistently demonstrated excellent comprehension skills! They also enjoyed learning a plethora of rich, new vocabulary words from each chapter!

In Writing the children have begun a Fictional Narrative Unit, whereby they will be using the five story elements to craft a narrative of their choice. Students will analyze a variety of Mentor Texts for inspiration. We are very excited for the creativity and craftsmanship that comes with this unit!



In Math we finished the algebra and pre-algebra units, whereby students worked at balancing equations and determining unknown variables. We have started learning about measuring time. Grade 2s have been learning about measuring with non-standard units and using months, days, and years to represent the passage of time. The Grade 3s are currently working at interpreting time accurately using analog clocks. In addition, the Grade 3s continue to work hard at their multiplication facts. Please continue to review fact flashcards at home!

Congratulations to Jesus, Octavia and Maverick for mastering their 2 and 10 facts, to Sam for mastering his 2, 10, 5 and 1 facts in 2/3B and to Max and Alex for mastering 0-2 facts in 2/3A!

In Science, students continue to investigate movement and energy sources. They have enjoyed learning about the six simple machines and how these make work easier! Students have engaged in a variety of experiments where they have seen these simple machines in action!

We are wrapping up our Ukraine Unit in Social Studies. Students have made a lot of meaningful connections to the subject matter in this unit!

Thank you to all families who attended Student Led Conferences. It was wonderful seeing the students take initiative and share their learning with each of you!

Also, thank you to those who baked or purchased a cake for the Cake Auction! We are so lucky to have such a supportive, engaged parent community!

A big thank you to Mrs. Pittman as well for organizing a fantastic Scholastic Book Fair! We love to read!

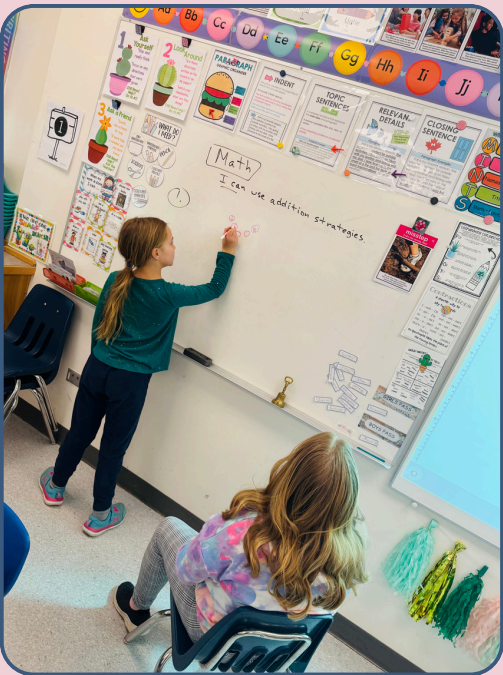


As always, if you ever have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us through Edsby or call us at the school.

Mrs. Gurr and Mrs. Vandenberg



Grade 2/3A





# Grade 2/3B





# GRADE 2/3

## VOLLEYBALL







Two students from DDS were recognized in the Coalhurst Legion Remembrance Day Poster Contest. Congratulations to Maverick for winning first place in the black and white category and Octavia for winning third place in the coloured poster category. Maverick's poster has now been sent to the provincial competition!



# Grade 4

**Happy Spring!** It's hard to believe we're down to the last three months of the school year! A big thank you to everyone who attended our Student-Led Conferences—the students loved sharing their learning with you. A special shoutout to Mrs. Pittman for organizing another fantastic book fair, which helped us add some wonderful new books to our classroom! Grades 4, 5, and 6 recently wrapped up our mini basketball program with a tournament that showcased the skills they developed during intramurals.

The Grade 4 class would like to extend a huge thank you to Mrs. Vandenberg for her support, as well as Mrs. Van Zeggelaar and Miss Wiebe for volunteering to run Flip's Food Cart during the tournament. We also appreciate the incredible staff at DDS who made this event possible!

In **Literacy**, we recently completed our Informational Writing unit and had the opportunity to showcase our books at the Student-Led Conferences. The students put in a tremendous amount of effort, and they should be proud of their final products! This past week, we kicked off our Poetry unit, which has been off to a fantastic start.

In **Numeracy**, we wrapped up our unit on fractions and have now moved on to Patterns. Next week, students will begin exploring algebraic expressions and problem-solving strategies.

In **Science**, students have been investigating the four Earth system spheres and the various relationships that shape our planet.

In **Social Studies**, we've been delving into Alberta's history, learning about Indigenous peoples and the arrival of European settlers.

Looking ahead, our next **Intramural** activity will be **belly baseball**, which will take place on Mondays from 12:00-12:20!

**Cheers,**  
Mrs. McLeod



# Grade 5

March has been a busy and exciting month in our classroom! It was wonderful to see students proudly showcase their hard work during student-led conferences. Their growth and dedication over the past couple of months were evident, and I truly enjoyed celebrating their accomplishments with families.

In Language Arts, we continue our word study and writing descriptive paragraphs. Students worked diligently to structure their paragraphs with a clear topic sentence, three supporting details, and a strong closing sentence. They also practiced incorporating similes, metaphors, and sensory language. Next, we'll concentrate on writing engaging topic sentences that hook readers and using transitions to create smooth, logical flow in their writing. I'm excited to see their progress as we prepare to write an expert essay after the April break.

In Math, we completed our units on ratios, fractions, decimals, and percents. Students are now exploring different methods for multiplying 3-digit by 2-digit numbers, including the standard algorithm and the boxed method. Our daily number talks have been a great opportunity for students to strengthen their mental math skills and confidently share their strategies. We also celebrated Pi Day with a hands-on activity where students discovered the value of pi for themselves by measuring the circumference and diameter of various circles around the school, finding the ratio between them.

In Science, students investigated the forces of flight by designing and testing various paper airplanes. Through careful adjustments, they experimented with how forces like lift, thrust, and drag affected their planes' performance. Next, we will explore buoyancy as students compare how forces act on objects in water versus air.

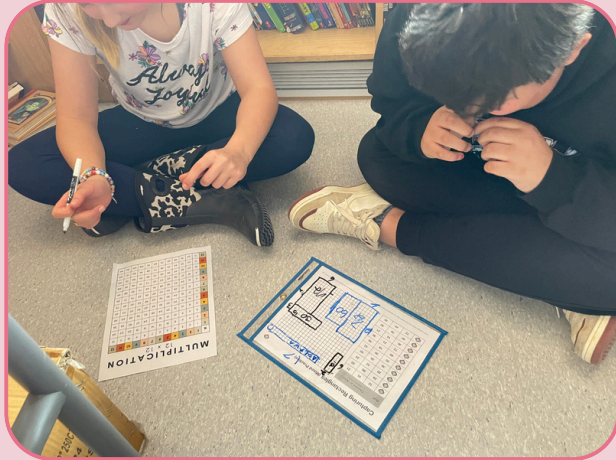
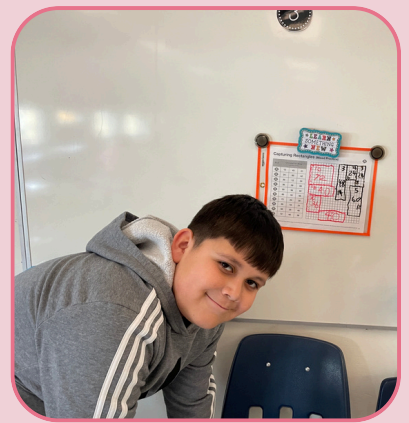
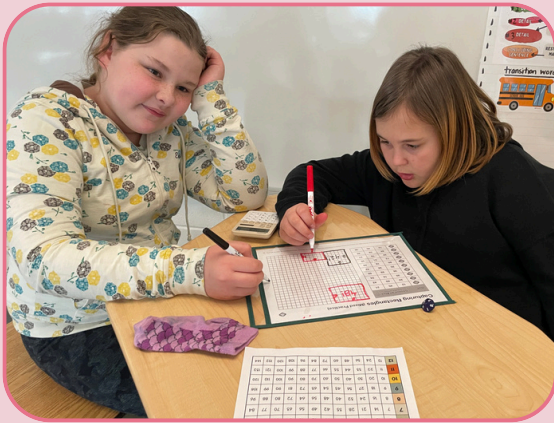
In Social Studies, students independently completed a current events assignment, selecting an article from CBC Kids News that interested them. They thoughtfully reflected on how these stories connect to their lives or impact the world around them. We also explored primary and secondary sources and how they help us learn about the past. Up next, we will dive into learning about select ancient civilizations!

Notes:

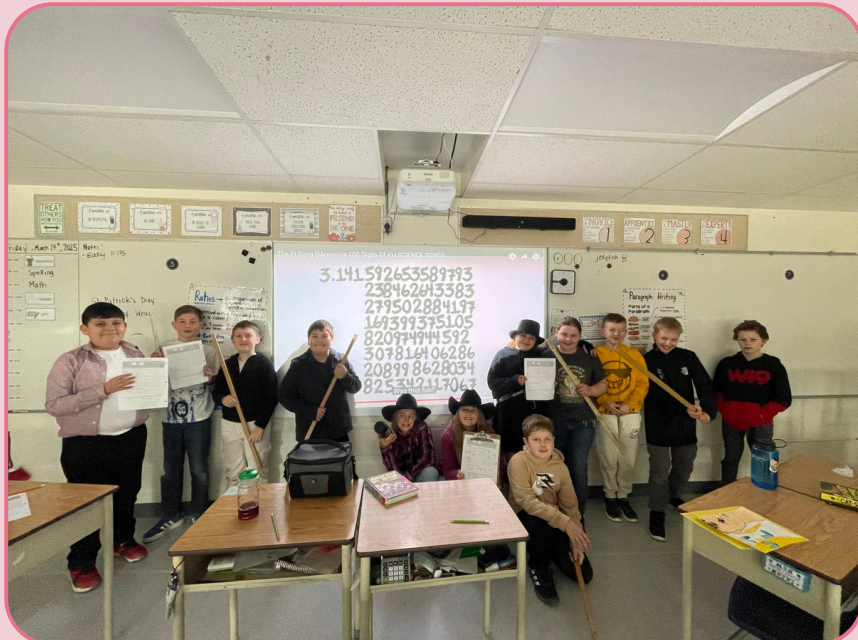
- A big thank you to all families for donating cakes for our cake auction! Your generosity helped raise funds for our upcoming field trip to the Royal Tyrrell Museum.
- Another heartfelt thank you to the Parent Council for providing a delicious hot lunch this month.

~ Mrs. Andrews





# G r a d e 5





# Grade 6

A big thank you goes out to all the parents, students and staff who baked cakes, cookies and cupcakes for our Cake Auction!! We raised over \$1000!! Preparations are in place for our Royal Tyrrell Museum field trip next month. We are also very excited to experience the Westwind Thunder, a group of Indigenous dancers from Cardston Elementary who will be performing at DDS this week, along with Indigenous beading and learning activities.



In **Language Arts**, students are learning about media which encompasses a study of website and news validity, advertising and digital citizenship. Students are currently analyzing advertising. Next, students will develop a product and advertising campaign to present to the class.

In **Mathematics**, students are able to solve one-step algebraic operations. We are 'thin-slicing' these concepts into small, manageable steps, and emphasizing the importance of 'showing your work.' Next week, we will begin two-step equations which are essentially the same concept, only a little more challenging:)

In **Science**, we are finishing our Temperature and Particles Theory unit. Students have built homemade thermoscopes to observe the effect of thermal expansion and are able to speak to the concept. We'll be studying Energy & Climate next.



We continue to study Democracy in **Social Studies**, and we are currently looking at the consensus-based democracy within the Haudenosaunee culture. Students have created storyboards detailing 'The Great Law of Peace,' how Hiawatha spread the word of nonviolence and used the wampum belt as a treaty amongst the five Iroquois nations. Students will be studying the roles of Clan Mothers, Chiefs and the Grand Council in the next week.

A few Reminders...

- Now that spring is here, the classroom feels a lot warmer, so students are asked to not wear toques in the classroom.
- Multiplication fluency facts are so important to the math units we are studying. Quizzing your kiddo at home on multiplication facts would be a great benefit!
- If you have not yet returned your permission form for the Royal Tyrrell Museum field trip, the time is now!

"It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold, when it is summer in the light and winter in the shade."

– Charles Dickens

Happy spring!  
Ms. Milne





# Music Class “Notes”

March is one of my most favorite times in the music room because we get to learn about the music of Ireland and why many people celebrate St. Patrick’s Day.

In Kindergarten, we enthusiastically enjoyed listening to and playing along with a Celtic piece of music. We also had fun moving in different ways to the song March Along Like Leprechaun. We have been exploring the unpitched percussion instrument families and also singing about bees and flowers for Spring.

The Grade 1 class took advantage of the last few weeks of winter to explore unpitched percussion instrument families and learn a song entitled “Snow Snow” to use with the book Froggy Gets Dressed by Jonathan London. We also enjoyed learning a stepping pattern to the song Lucky Little Leprechaun. We are taking turns being “action leaders” at the beginning of music class and have also begun learning about the difference between beat and rhythm.

Grade 2/3 had a lot of fun learning the song “If You Catch a Leprechaun” and then singing their wish. We then discussed the number of sounds we needed to transfer that wish to its musical notation and practiced writing out our wishes. In the latter part of the month, we shifted our focus to rain for our “Spring” theme as we started reading and singing “It’s Raining, It’s Pouring” where we will add 3 different instrument parts to accompany our singing. A highlight of the month was learning the song Caimarusa as a movement warm-up.

The Grade 4 class began learning the ukulele and have been mainly playing along with songs using the first chord position we learned, C chord. We recently added the F chord to our repertoire and have begun practicing switching between the two chord positions. As we get used to moving between different chord positions, we will add new songs to our repertoire.

The Grade 5 class has been extending their ukulele skills from last year with the review of C, F, Am and G7 chords. We have been playing along with the song Kookaburra in order to practice reading chord progressions along with lyrics of a song and listening for the changes without having an external accompaniment or video.

The Grade 6 class has also been extending their ukulele learning with a focus on trying out different strumming patterns using a song called Hill and Gully Rider. It’s pretty cool to hear a group of students focused and strumming along in unison to a song. We have recently learned the G chord with the hopes of playing along with a pop song of choice before the Easter break.

I would like to say a big THANK YOU to the parents that came with their children to celebrate learning in the music classroom during Student Led Conferences. It was such a joy sharing and making music with you! Wishing you all a lovely Spring 🌸

Keep Singing!  
Mrs. Neufeld





# Westwind Thunder and Beadwork Activity









# Student of the Week

## March 14



Mya-Kindergarten, Georgia-1, Enrique- 2/3A, Logan-2/3B,  
Blayde-4, Hailee-4, Daniel- 5, Raylee-6, Chase-6

## March 28



Isabela-Kindergarten, Alondra-1, Avery- 2/3A, Austin-2/3B,  
Jaxton-4, Ivan-4, Kaitlyn- 5, Darius-6, Valentino-6



# Mini Basketball Tournament





# Early Learning Program



## APRIL

### HELLO!

I want to start by saying THANK YOU for making the change of educators so seamless.

You should have received an invite to Edsby last month, we are encouraging parents to sign up with the **Edsby app**. This app has so many great features such as access to report any absences of your child. If you have not received this yet, please let me know and we can get Mrs. Beth Neilson to send that right away.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS MONTH ?

- This month's colour is **Brown** and the shape is **oval**.
- This month's nursery rhyme is "This Little Piggy"
- The main Theme will be Easter/Spring but we will also be exploring Insects
- we will do Easter activities Wednesday 16th (M/W class) and Thursday 17th (T/T class)
- **There will be no school April 18th-25th**

### REMINDERS

Please remember to **notify** if your child will be **absent** as soon as possible to ensure accurate attendance is recorded and not missed in the morning.

Friendly reminder that children must be **picked up** promptly at **11:30** as I have afternoon classes I assist in.

If not possible, please make alternate arrangements to ensure a safe pickup for your child. After 11:30 your child will be walked down to the office where they will wait for you .

### THANK YOU

Savhana Allin

Savhana.allin-hendry@pallisersd.ab.ca



## School Council News

Council past a couple of motions at our March meeting including funds for the kindergarten classroom library, additional drums for music and funding for field trips to help reduce costs for families. Thank you to those who have supported the Harvest Gala, and our past casinos, as the money raised from those events go back to the school through these purchases. Our chair, Michelle Marti, announced she will be resigning with May being her last meeting. This is a yearly position, with a possibility to serve 2 consecutive terms. Responsibilities include creating the monthly agenda, communicating with Mrs McGregor and Mr Olivier (school trustee) and being a member of school council committees (ie. fundraising).

Our next meeting will be Monday, April 14 at 4pm in the project room. We will review the proposed bell times for next school year. If you're unable to attend in person, you can hop online with a Google Link and join us virtually. As always, please reach out via email, [dds.schoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:dds.schoolcouncil@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

Our hot lunch program needs your help! We currently have a small team of volunteers, and we would greatly appreciate any time you could give. Starting around 9:30am, we begin cooking the ground beef and preparing the rest of the food. Servers can be at school around 11 to 11:30am, to help package the meal & snacks, and deliver them to classrooms at 12pm. Clean up usually happens as we go but there are always a few things left to be washed after the meals have been sent to the classrooms. If you have younger kids at home, they're welcome to come along too. We've all brought our younger kids in over the years. We could also use help with grocery shopping. A list of items and quantities would be provided, and you would be reimbursed. Please reach out to Laurell at [dds.hotlunch@gmail.com](mailto:dds.hotlunch@gmail.com) to keep this program running.



# **We had a wonderful Spring Book Fair!**

**Thank you to everyone who supported our Fair**



**Candy Draw Winners: Paige & Oakley**

**Book Winners: Claire, Enrique, Kellan, Esme,  
Maddyn & Kasia**

**We are so excited for all the new books we were  
able to purchase for the Library.**



Thank you to Mrs. Anita Bowden for the  
donation of books to the Library.

