

ESL G2 Newsletter  
Dinosaur Class Parent's Letter  
December, 2015

**Reading Section**

Dear Parents,

Time has been fleeting and more than four months have accrued since I began teaching Dinosaur class, time which has been well spent and fruitful. As we march onwards through December and into January science remains the thematic crux of our endeavours, although we will move from animals and biology onto physics, looking at how the earth works and our planet's relationship with the rest of the universe. I will also pose some philosophical questions to the students, as they are at that age now where deeper and more profound thought can be developed in response to the reality of our existential situation.

Throughout all of this enjoyable material our effort will of course be centred on the students learning English: as always, new words will be introduced in the texts, not just scientific vocabulary, but the verbs, adverbs and adjectives which describe help us understand scientific and concepts; often, these verbs, adverbs and adjectives can be used in a non-scientific manner. In terms of grammar, I will be extra vigilant, because as I listen to students answers questions and construct sentences I will correct them when and where they make mistakes.

So, for me and the Dinosaurs I envisage a dynamic, educational and most entertaining December, and, of course, success in yet another new year.

Many Thanks,  
Robert Quinn

November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 4<sup>th</sup>: Animals in Poems

Set text: 'Cats and Kittens'

Essential Question: What do we love about animals?

Concepts: Students will learn important points about reading verse, namely, on how to maintain rhythm. Additionally, a lot of new vocabulary will be learnt.

Grammar: Students will see how grammar can be 'twisted' when it comes to reading poetry, and word order changed.

December 7<sup>th</sup> – December 11<sup>th</sup>: The Earth's Forces

Set text: 'Magnets Work!'

Essential question: How do the earth's forces affect us?

Concepts: Vital scientific information will be taught on how the earth exists as it is, and I will make sure each student can say, spell and use each key words in sentences.

Grammar: I will lay emphasis on correcting students grammatically when they use new words they have learned in sentences.

December 14<sup>th</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup>: Look at the Sky

Set Text: 'Starry Night'

Essential Question: What can we see in the sky?

Concepts: I will introduce the concept of constellations and some history as to how the constellations were formed. This could be quite a good sessions, as it might get philosophical i.e. do you think there could be other planetary life in the universe?

To conclude, this is the general outline of what we will cover. I hope it appears thorough enough. I also want to say that children who learn the kind of advanced vocabulary we learn in our classes will be most impressive English speakers later on.

December 21<sup>st</sup> – December 25<sup>th</sup>: Prepare for Speech Contest

December 28<sup>th</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>: Prepare for Speech Contest.

## Phonics Section

Dear parents,

In November, everybody improved quite a lot compared with last months. They are getting used to dictations, which mean that they are better at spelling what they heard. This month, we continue on the same scheme as the past months. We are going to see the difference between the small and long "o" and they usually have no difficulties doing the exercises.

Also, they are still enjoying the presentation week very much. They can explain their topics with more details and they know how to look for the information they need. The topics are getting a little harder but nonetheless, they are doing very well.

November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 4<sup>th</sup>: Unit 2, Week 1, (Small o vs long o)

December 7<sup>th</sup> – December 11<sup>th</sup>: Unit 2, Week 1, (Small o vs long o)

December 14<sup>th</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup>: Presentation week (Animal Discoveries)

December 21<sup>st</sup> – December 25<sup>th</sup>: Prepare for Speech Contest

December 28<sup>th</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>: Prepare for Speech Contest.

Enjoy your Christmas time!

Teacher Joannie

## Grammar Section

December's focus will be on nouns, which is quite a simple subject. I don't think the class will find the work too hard so hopefully we can also spend some time on other things like use of adjectives with nouns and sentence making.

November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 4<sup>th</sup>: Nouns

December 7<sup>th</sup> – December 11<sup>th</sup>: Nouns

December 14<sup>th</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup>: Using commas in a series

December 21<sup>st</sup> – December 25<sup>th</sup>: Nouns

December 28<sup>th</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>: Prepare for Speech Contest.

## Writing Section

Dear parents,

I have been encouraging the students to not just rewrite the corrections that I have made for them, but to analyze the grammar that they are using to write. Sure, the students can mindlessly rewrite and copy down the corrections, but I want them to also understand how we can learn from our mistakes when we write our rough draft.

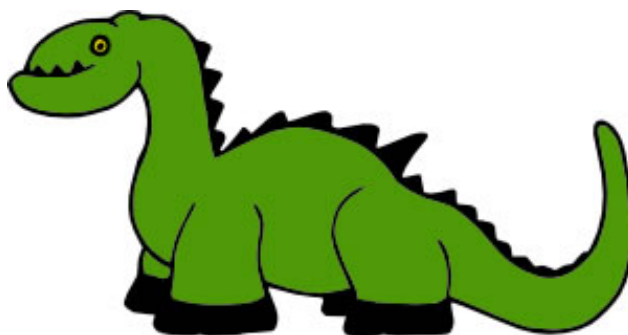
November 30<sup>th</sup> – December 4<sup>th</sup>: We will learn about how writers share their ideas.

December 7<sup>th</sup> – December 11<sup>th</sup>: We will practice identifying descriptive details.

December 14<sup>th</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup>: We will learn how writers explain their ideas.

December 21<sup>st</sup> – December 25<sup>th</sup>: We will learn how to focus on the most important details.

December 28<sup>th</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup>: Prepare for speech contest



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**Reading Section**

親愛的家長：您好！

時光飛逝！自從開始教恐龍班也已經有四個多月了，這段時間孩子們的學習非常充實且豐富。當我們繼續往十二月及一月邁進，自然科學依舊是我們努力的重點，主題的內容由動物、生物繼而物理，學習地球運行的知識以及星球和宇宙間的關係。隨著孩子們的年紀增增長，我也會問他們一些哲學性的問題，來啟發他們深度的思考並與週遭的現實環境做連結。

在所有的學習教材中，我們當然還是要把重心放在學習英文上。依照慣例，我們會介紹文章中出現的新字彙，不僅僅是科學性的單字，還有幫助我們學習自然科學概念的動詞、副詞以及形容詞等字彙；這些字彙也可應用在非科學性的文章。文法方面，我也特別謹慎留意聽孩子們回答問題、建構句子；當發現有文法上的錯誤，我會適時地糾正錯誤。

因此，對於恐龍班和我而言，我期望十二月及一月將是有活力、富有教育意義及充滿歡樂的；當然，期望明年又會是成功順利的一年。

真摯的祝福！

Robert Quinn

**11/30-12/04 詩中的動物**

主題閱讀：貓和貓咪

主要提問：我們喜歡動物什麼？

主題觀念：孩子們將學習朗讀詩，也就是要唸出它的押韻。此外，他們要學習很多新的字彙。

文法：文法在詩詞中會被“扭轉”，單字的順序會改變。

**12/07-12/11 地球的力量**

主題閱讀：磁的運作

主要提問：地球的力量如何影響我們的生活？

主題觀念：孩子們將學習關於地球存在的重要科學知識。我會確保孩子們可以口語上能說、能拼寫並應用重點單字在句子中。

文法：當孩子們在使用新的單字時，我會持續留意他們的文法是否正確。

**12/14-12/18 望向天際**

主題閱讀：充滿星星的夜晚

主要提問：在天空中我們看見了什麼？

主題觀念：藉著這堂課我會向孩子們介紹星座及關於星座形成的歷史。這將可能是一堂不錯的課，我會問孩子們一些哲學的問題，例如你認為在宇宙中的其他行星中有生命存在嗎？

**12/21-12/25 準備演講比賽**

**12/28-12/31 準備演講比賽**

以上是我們的學習大綱，希望上述的內容夠詳盡。我要說班上學習進階單字的這群孩子們，將來他們的英文一定會令人印象深刻。

## Phonics Section

親愛的家長：您好！

十一月份，每個孩子在學習上都比前幾個月進步。他們漸漸習慣聽寫的模式，在聽到內容後能夠把字拼寫出來。這個月，我們會和以往一樣按照進度學習。自然發音方面，我們將學習短母音 o 和長母音 o，孩子們要能夠分辨兩者的差異。在做練習時，他們通常都能順利完成。

另外，孩子們非常喜歡第三週的口語報告課程。他們能夠更清楚仔細地解釋主題並且知道如何蒐尋以獲得他們所需要的資訊。報告的主題有漸漸變難；儘管如此，他們還是做得很棒！

最後，祝您有個美好的聖誕佳節！

Teacher Joannie

11/30-12/04 第二單元第一週 / 短母音 o vs 長母音 o

12/07-12/11 第二單元第一週 / 短母音 o vs 長母音 o

12/14-12/18 口語報告週 / 主題：發現動物

12/21-12/25 準備演講比賽

12/28-12/31 準備演講比賽

## Grammar Section

十二月文法課程的重心是名詞，也就是簡單的主詞。我認為孩子們對於這個部份很快就能駕輕就熟，因此，我可以利用一些時間教孩子們形容詞與名詞結合時的用法及造句。

11/30-12/04 名詞

12/07-12/11 名詞

12/14-12/18 在一連串的名詞中使用逗號

12/21-12/25 單複數名詞

12/28-12/31 準備演講比賽

## Writing Section

親愛的家長：您好！

我在課堂上持續鼓勵孩子們，在訂正寫作錯誤時不要機械式地一味抄些，而是要去分析了解文法上的錯誤後再騰寫。當然，孩子們可以不用思考便訂正錯誤，但是我仍然希望孩子們能夠從錯誤中學習。這對於我們之後在寫初稿時會有幫助。

11/30 – 12/04 學習作者如何分享表達他的想法。

12/07 – 12/11 練習找出故事中描述的細節。

12/14 – 12/18 學習作者如何解釋他們的想法。

12/21 – 12/25 學習把焦點放在最重要的細節上。

12/28 – 12/31 準備演講比賽