

Dear parents/guardians,

As student teachers from Vancouver Island University, we have the pleasure of teaching a week unit called Family Celebrations and Traditions with Mrs. Graatan's Grade 2/3 class.

An important part of our learning is appreciating our own uniqueness, while acknowledging the similarities between the diverse and wonderful cultures that exist right here in our classroom. This unit will allow students to learn more about their classmates and the traditions they cherish.

Throughout the week, students will write about a tradition that his/her family celebrates.

To assist students in doing so, we encourage you to discuss the importance of celebration with your children. Discuss a favourite family tradition in relation to a holiday such as Christmas, New Year's or other celebrations such as birthdays that hold special meaning. You may also wish to touch upon other traditions such as foods that are eaten, games that are played, or songs and dances that relate to the celebration.

All of this information will provide students with an abundance of material to write about in class. In addition, we support students who wish to add photos of themselves participating in their celebration of choice. These photos could be added to their written work.

On Wednesday, students will begin to write about their favourite celebration. They will continue with their writing until the final draft is completed. All the stories will be gathered and made into a class celebration book for all to read.

Thank you for your help and support.

Ms. Perri & Mr. Armstrong