

Dear Parents and Guardians,

There has been a ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE! We are excited to tell you about the learning we are doing as we learn the Geography strand of the Social Studies curriculum. The Grade 5 teachers have designed a rigorous and engaging geography curriculum simulation set after the Zombie Apocalypse! All of the Grade 5 classes are working on this project, though it looks a little different in each classroom. This might not be what you would expect to hear from the teacher, so I want to take this moment to share a bit about the curriculum, and encourage you to discuss the learning experiences with your student.

This Zombie Geography simulation combines geographic knowledge of Canada with deep concepts of geographical thinking that are based in the discipline of Geography. We began with a cross curricular LA/Math task as students analyzed the emergence of the zombie virus at a fair just outside of Vancouver. They listened to a number of interviews given to police the day after the fair, and created a table to track the data, and identified the source of the outbreak. Shortly after, we listened to a nation-wide broadcast by someone who claimed to be Justin Trudeau, and students were assigned to be geologists who would be leading six regional teams to save the survivors in their regions, rebuild the settlements and eventually the nation. Teams immediately opened their top secret packages and began to work on their maps of Canada! The unit will continue in the next few weeks as students will create a variety of projects to show how they will survive the zombie outbreak and rebuild society. This Zombie Geography will happen each Tuesday and Thursday during Humanities time. Students will be assessed on their work and performance in teamwork, knowledge of the regions of Canada, individual tasks and group projects. Apocalypse is one of our spelling words, too!