

Grade 4/5

Class Newsletter

January 7, 2019

Dear Parents,

 Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed the winter break and benefited from quality family time. We hope that the students are well rested and ready to get back into the working routine.

 One of our New Year’s resolution is to increase student and home communication with the use of our class communication books. Students are given time daily to write items (homework, reminders, and events) in their student planner. Students are asked to write down all items applicable to them, even if they are done assignments, they put a check mark beside the item. The incentive of weekly draws help in building more consistency for the use of the planners for students who are consistently losing, forgetting, or choosing not to use their student planners. Each day that a student has written in their planner and had a parent initial, they then can enter their name for a draw. At the end of the week, students can pick from an assortment of small prizes for their accomplishment of the week. Please inquire daily with your child about seeing and signing the dayplanner. This helps to increase daily communication, good routine and structure for the students, and to help students achieve personal accountability for their own school participation. Please feel free to check and bookmark the classroom blog: <http://www.cuming-klassenclassroom.com/> which will have agenda items posted each day.

 January is a good time for setting goals, both personal and academic, for 2019. We will be starting new units in Social Studies, Language Arts and Health. We will continue with building on addition and subtraction strategies (decimals for grade 5) in math. Earlier in the year many students brought fidget items from home to assist with concentration. This helped in reducing doodling on class work, playing with glue or pulling apart school supplies. The fidgets were a way to enable students to listen to instructions without distracting others. Many students brought slime, malleable fidgets, etc from home. These items have caused new issues of a mess in the sink, on the floor and on school work. I would like to ask students to leave the messy fidgets at home, thank you for your assistance with this.

 We can anticipate frigid cold temperatures for January and February. We will strive to get outside and experience fresh air when the weather permits. Please make sure that your child is prepared for outdoor activity by wearing winter gear (toques, mittens, boots, ski pants, warm jackets, possibly layers of sweaters, and scarves). When the temperature is below 27 degrees we usually have indoor recesses and lunch. It is great to see many students bring their favourite activities from home to entertain themselves, but they also need to keep in mind that items can get lost, stolen or broken.

 **Calendar events for January 2018:**

 **Monday January 7 -school resumes**

 **Wednesday, Jan 16th -Subway hot lunch**

 **Thursday, Jan 24th -Quesada hot lunch**

 **Monday, January 28th -PD day, no school for students**

 

 Curriculum Themes for January

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Language Arts:**-explicit instruction on making connections reading comprehension strand and connections reading logs-figurative language introduction: reading, writing and exploring various types of figurative language (alliteration, hyperbole, onomatopoeia, irony, metaphors and similes)**Math:**-grade 4: addition and subtraction-grade 5: addition and subtraction of decimals**Science: Properties and Changes of Materials** -identifying the properties of physical and chemical changes of materials (reversible and non-reversible) -exploring the scientific method, performing experiments and documenting conclusions, observations and results in lab reports**Social Studies: Dynamic Relationships**-the fur trade, the history and culture of Metis peoples in Saskatchewan and Canada pre-Confederation**Health: Abuse in Relationships and Bullying**-looking at forms of abuse, identifying violence in media and bullying**Art Education: Elements of Dance**-small group work: developing themes, routines and movement collaboratively using the elements of dance for expressing themes (shape, dynamics, form, space, pathways/ locomotor) -participation: performing routines for others and being a respectful audience memberIf you need to contact me, please email me at cumingc@spsd.sk.ca Check out the blog at <http://www.cuming-klassenclassroom.com/> Best regards, Coralee Cuming |  |