



## Grade 4 Class Newsletter January 4<sup>th</sup> , 2021

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.

While it is a relief to have vaccinations for Covid 19 in the near distant future, we still must be very diligent in taking safety precautions every day. Students have been reminded about appropriate lunch behaviour: staying in their desk, washing, and sanitizing before and after eating, not conversating or moving around the room when their mask is removed, and not gathering in the washroom. Our class has been fortunate thus far by not being isolated due to a Covid 19 exposure. It is still best to be prepared in the event this may still happen. I have two SeeSaw accounts: parent account Ms. Cuming's Grade 4 Classroom 2020 and the At Home Learning student SeeSaw account (password and sign up was sent in November when we had the snowstorm) Ms. Cuming's Grade 4 Class. When you child is absent, I will send a picture of assignments we worked on for the day. Students can do the work on paper or print/upload. The activities cannot be done directly on the parent SeeSaw account. The "Home Learning" student account is the same as the supplemental learning where activities are posted, and assignments can be done directly in SeeSaw. The Home Learning SeeSaw is only updated or utilized when we are doing online learning at home-if our class is sent home for isolation or when in school learning is not taking place. The classroom blog has most of the resources saved as a file: student textbooks, answer keys, videos, rubrics/assessments, assignment outlines, and original templates. These can be downloaded, referred to or even printed. SeeSaw will only allow for one page to be uploaded at a time which is why I have units saved on the blog.

With our class composition changing, January is a good time to change seating plans and revamp the student colour cohort groups. I have sent an updated seating plan with colour cohorts to notifications on your SeeSaw parent account. The class schedule has also been updated as well.

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 even if they are done

assignments, they put a check mark beside the item. The incentive of weekly draws helps 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 day planner. 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.

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 10TH** 12/10/2020 0 Comments

- Telling time to the hour, both pages due tomorrow
- place value re-test tomorrow
- Social Studies: Provincial Ad (collage) due on Monday

**WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 9TH** 12/10/2020 0 Comments

- take home math test, get signed and bring back
- math re-test in Friday

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 8TH** 12/8/2020 0 Comments

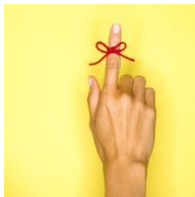
- math packages coming home, please browse, sign and send back
- science packages coming home (if already signed keep or recycle)
- Social Studies: Provincial Flier/Advertisement due on Friday
- Language Arts: edited paragraph on own writing "Summer Solstice" is due Friday

**MONDAY DECEMBER 7TH** 12/7/2020 0 Comments

Annotations: 'agenda' (left arrow), 'videos' (right arrow), 'units' (right arrow), 'student text' (right arrow pointing to 'sound\_textbook.pdf' which is circled).

January is a good time for setting goals, both personal and academic, for 2021. We started new units in Science, Math and Health in December. Our new Math unit will be Addition and Subtraction. In January, when we complete our measurement unit, telling time, we will be doing cumulative review tests on the math concepts already covered this year: patterns, time, and place value. This test is to see what students retain from previous units. This exam will not be posted for studying.

We can anticipate frigid cold temperatures for January and February. We will strive to get outside and experience fresh air every day, hopefully twice a day. Please make sure that your child is prepared for outdoor activity by wearing winter gear (toques, mittens, boots, ski pants, neck warmers, warm jackets, possibly layers of sweaters, and scarves). When the temperature is below 27 degrees the school calls for indoor recesses and lunch. Because we are exclusively in our classroom all day and we do not have any outdoor windows in the classroom, it is important to get out of the classroom and get outside, even on “indoor recess” days. My plan is to get outside even on the really cold days, so students will need to be prepared with all the appropriate outdoor attire and layers every day. If you would not like your child outside on the -27 or cooler days, please send me an email and I will try to find an alternate indoor space when I take the class outside for recess breaks.

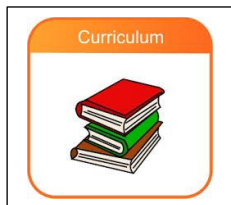


### Calendar events for January 2021:

Monday January 4	-school resumes
Tuesday January 12 <sup>th</sup>	-Telling Time math test
Friday, January 15 <sup>th</sup>	-Math re-test

If you need to contact me, please email me at [cumingc@spsd.sk.ca](mailto:cumingc@spsd.sk.ca)  
 Check out the blog at <http://www.cuming-klassenclassroom.com/>

Best regards,  
 Coralee Cuming



## Curriculum Themes For January



### Language Arts: Dictionary Skills and Editing Skills (ongoing)

- dictionary vocabulary and features: guide words, entry words, parts of speech, pronunciation keys and syllabication
- locating entry words, definitions, part of speech in a dictionary and creating vocabulary properly in sentences
- grammar: looking at the different parts of speech and using a diversity of examples for each: verb, noun, preposition, pronoun, interjections, and adverbs
- looking at syllabication and breaking vocabulary words into syllables, root words and alternate endings: prefixes and suffixes
- pronunciation keys: word families, phonemes, and vocabulary rules
- writing process: self and peer editing and revising rough drafts for richer words choices, semantics, and mechanical errors
- editing errors and using a key for punctuation, capitalization, spelling and grammatical errors in reading activities (ex Pizza Tuesdays, Summer Solstice)

- paragraph writing: narrative, expository and persuasive writing and using editing keys, dictionaries, and thesauruses to revise and edit own and peer writing
- creating own pre-writing outlines and graphic organizers: concept maps, outlines, and jot notes
- creating formal writing product and self-assessment procedures: final writing project expository writing on a related Social Studies theme (Animal of Saskatchewan or A community Pamphlet on a town in Saskatchewan)
- term 2 journal writing-new criteria for assessment
- \*assessments: daily work completed thoroughly and corrected, weekly writing drafts

### **Math: Addition and Subtraction (new)**

- addition of whole numbers with answers to 10 000 and their corresponding subtractions (limited to 3 and 4-digit numerals)
- estimating sums of 3-digit numbers to solve problems using mental math strategies, number lines, tables and base ten blocks
- estimate sums in a variety of ways, rounding then adding sums to show validity of sums
- uses a variety of addition strategies: right to left addition, left to right addition, and with the use of pictographs or number lines
- use a variety of strategies to estimate and calculate differences: renaming, left to right, mental math, counting backwards on number lines and with the use of base ten blocks
- weekly Mathletics assignments

### **Science: Sound: ongoing**

- exploring the characteristics and physical properties of sound in the environment and how those sounds are detected by humans and animals
- classifying sounds in local environment: artificial (manmade) and natural (from nature)
- drawing conclusions about the characteristics and physical properties of sound, including pitch and loudness, based on observations through hands on experiments and documenting observations in lab reports
- creating own hand made musical instruments and exploring how vibration is used to create music
- exploring the scientific method, performing experiments and documenting conclusions, observations, and results in lab reports

### **Social Studies: Dynamic Relationships (new)**

- identifying Saskatchewan on a map of Canada, North America, and the world
- locating significant landmarks, cities, and water bodies of Saskatchewan on a map
- identify the characteristics of the unique geographic regions in Saskatchewan
- mapping assignments: Ecoregions of Saskatchewan, Political boundaries of Saskatchewan, Resources of Saskatchewan, Aboriginal Linguistic groups and Treaty map of Saskatchewan

### **Health: Nutrition (new)**

- exploring the foods groups, recommended serving sizes, nutrients in certain foods, and how nutrition is important in maintaining a healthy growing body
- creating own menu project

### **Art Education: Drama**

- conclusion of expressing drama through dance: choreography cards, movement, gestures, and props to dramatically develop themes and communicate to others
- exploring vocalization and expression using reader's theatre scripts
- participation: completing daily reflection drama activity logs

