

Grade 4 Classroom Newsletter

November 1st, 2019

Dear Parents,

 It is hard to believe that it is November already and report card and conference time has come again. I am looking forward to getting a chance to connect with each family for 3-way conferences. It is a great time to celebrate your child’s achievements, reacquaint with their personal growth, and make future plans for further development of their goals. Students are excited to show their family what they have been working on and have their time to shine. The PTI (Parent-Teacher interview schedule) should be open in the second week of November for families to sign up online (the parent portal). Please sign up online for a 3-way conference time. Progress reports come home on Monday, November 25th and conferences are Thursday evening November 28th and Friday morning November 29th. If you are unable to attend, then please contact me for an additional time for a conference.

 Just a reminder again, that many student work packages and tests will be coming home soon to be perused and signed by parents. Please go through your child’s work packages and make inquiries about what your child is learning. Please have your child send back their work signed by you. This shows that you have seen their work and are aware of their current completion of assignments (pages that are not clipped means that there is corrections or work is not complete). I then add these packages into their work folder for conferences. If you are not seeing tests or packages, please let me know by sending an email. I consider grade 4 a challenging year for transition. Students are developing more independence in organizing their work, have more responsibility in completing homework, and are developing stronger work habits. I look at grade 4 as a pivotal year of transition from primary grades to preparing for the senior grades. It takes a bit of adjustment at the beginning of the year for developing more independent work habits.

 Scholastic book orders arrive every month for purchasing. Because it can be a bit much to purchase every month, what I like to do is send November and December orders in together. Please use the online purchasing and order for a timelier turn around, sending cheques in the mail can be time consuming and delays the whole order. Some students like to order and send cash. Scholastic will not accept cash. What I have done in the past is order these purchases on my own personal credit card. If your child would like to order Scholastic books, please use the online app (most preferable) or with a cheque. Cash orders will be turned away.

 As we progress further into the school year and the weather is expected to get cold, please make sure your child is prepared by dressing appropriately for the weather. They need to have appropriate indoor shoes for gym. Our gym days are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

 For some families, winter is a great time to take advantage of a getaway and travel. Although it was covered in school newsletters and in the school planner, I have reminded students about having a homework buddy for absences from the classroom. I anticipate that there may be requests for work packages in advance. What I usually do is add handouts to the student’s doutang and continue to update the class blog daily with assessment or assignment reminders. Students who are absent miss the valuable class instruction, group collaboration activities, and hands on opportunities. I would hope students will enjoy their trip and try to catch up the best they can when they get back.

 ** Important Dates for November:**

 **Friday, November 8th - no school for students PD day**

 **Monday, November 11th - Remembrance Day holiday no school**

 **Tuesday, November 12th - PTI opens for signing up for conferences**

 **Monday, November 25th -progress reports go home**

 **Thursday, November 28th -evening 3-way conferences (3:45-7:45)**

 **Friday, November 29th -a.m. conferences, no school for students**



**Thank you for all the support you give. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns at** cumingc@spsd.sk.ca **(I do not check SeeSaw for messages so please email me for communication)**

 **Ms. Cuming**

 

Curricular Themes for

 November

Language Arts:

-dictionary and thesaurus skills: using reference materials to locate definitions, parts of speech, pronunciation keys, syllabication, and locating synonyms and antonyms

-using context clues and knowledge to identify unknown vocabulary

-developing vocabulary: explicit instruction and activities

-reading logs: monitoring and clarifying instruction, activities and reading logs

-journal writing: reflection on opinions, thoughts, and feelings on assigned topics and writing 3-5 paragraphs with an illustration to support ideas

\*assessments: daily work completed thoroughly and corrected, weekly journal writing, reading log entries and summative end of unit test

**Math:**

**Time**: conclusion

-reading minutes on an analog clock, 24 hour clocks, number lines and t-charts, and measuring time in am and pm

-naming time using fraction words: half past, quarter to in numerically and in words

**Place Value**:

-rounding numbers, comparing numbers using place value and expressing place value by looking at number form, word form, and expanded form

\*assessments: daily work completed thoroughly and corrected, math journal textbook work, hands on group activities, and summative end of unit test

**Science**: ongoing

**Habitats**-hands on experiments with mealworms, documenting the life cycle and metamorphosis of mealworms

-class assignments on habitats, populations, adaptations, niche and conservation

\*assessments: daily work completed thoroughly and corrected, scientific process of documenting, outlining and organizing data in mealworm journal, and summative open book test

**Social Studies**:

**Power & Authority** conclusion

-looking at the 3 types of governments in Canada

-studying Metis and First Nations of Saskatchewan governing structures

\*assessments: daily work completed thoroughly and corrected, mapping assignments neatly completed, and summative open book test

**Dynamic Relationships**: introduction

-geographical features, political boundaries, and symbols of Saskatchewan and Canada

**Health**: **Self Esteem** conclusion

-media influences on self-esteem and advertising strategies

**Wellness**: introduction:

-what is stress and management techniques

\*assessment: group and partner work, class assignments and projects

**Dance:** ongoing

**Pow Wow inquiry unit**

-researching using a web organizer: regalia, steps of dance, significance, and other important information (Grass, Jingle, Traditional etc) and presenting a visual presentation (assessed by checklist)

-Just Dance participation in daily body breaks