

Grade 4 Classroom

Newsletter

October 1, 2019

It is hard to believe that the first month of school has passed so quickly. All the students have settled well into their daily routines and made the grade 4 classroom their own. It was great to meet many of you out at the Meet the Staff barbeque on September 18th. I am hoping for many more positive exchanges with you soon.

Most of the month of September we have been setting out class routines and collecting formative data on Math and Language Arts. These tests give a bigger picture of where student’s strengths and weaknesses are and for plans to implement classroom programming and instruction on needs.

Thank you for your support in checking and signing your child’s student planner daily. Some information may be redundant, but I do ask that students get accustomed to documenting events, homework, or reminders each day to being more responsible for their own work. All this same information will be outlined (with files and videos attached as well) on our classroom blog. Please check out our class blog daily if you haven’t done so yet: <http://www.cuming-klassenclassroom.com/> .

Please watch for homework packages coming home. Whenever we are finished a unit of study I have the students bring home all the class work for parents to peruse, discuss and sign. I ask that students bring it back to school with a signature as a communication that parents have seen how much work is completed and of course, celebrated too. Pages that are not clipped in the corner by a teacher indicate that work is incomplete or needs to be corrected. With the upcoming math test, science and social studies quizzes fast approaching, you can expect these packages to come home shortly after the test (I don’t send them before because students need to use materials to prepare for tests).

For math tests, I would post the actual test on the blog or email for parents to look at and study (I do not supply on answer key for the test). I usually let students look at the test a day before to relieve any test anxiety and to better prepare them. After three units of study in math I give a “blind” midterm exam on the concepts already tested on. This is to ensure that students maintain concepts as opposed to preparing for tests only. When I return the completed tests, I go through and get students to correct their errors in pen. For those who are unhappy with their mark I give them the opportunity to study from their corrected test and have a re-test. This option is available for anyone who scores under 80%.

For Social Studies and Science, we have open book pop quizzes. Students refer back to their work as a guide. This way students can review, complete and study from materials over a reasonable amount of time. It is important to have class assignments corrected, completed and up to date for these tests.

With Halloween fast approaching, some students may ask about events on Halloween day. As the month progresses there will be more information about costumes or dress in orange and black theme. I will post details on the blog and email when more details come in. The afternoon may be a games afternoon where students would bring treats if they wanted. Our good behaviour incentive the class marble jar is almost full. It would be a perfect time for a party. If you wanted to supply the class with cupcakes or an easily distributable nut free snack, please feel free to do so on this afternoon.

**** Dates for October:

Oct 8 & 9th - Pictures at Willowgrove

Tuesday, Oct. 8th -Patterns math test

Friday, Oct. 11th -PD day no school for students

Monday, Oct. 14th - No school Thanksgiving holiday

Tuesday, Oct 15th -Student Vote for Federal Election

Thursday, Oct 31 -Halloween class party in the afternoon



Please email me if you have any questions or concerns [cumingc@spsd.sk.ca](mailto:cumingc@spsd.sk.ca) and

thank you for all your support,

Ms. Coralee Cuming

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Units for October

**Language Arts:**

-establishing a purpose for reading, I Pick strategy for selecting materials, genres of literature

-visualizing reading comprehension strand

-writing: 6+1 ideas and organizing with graphic organizers

-personal reflective writing (journals)

-purpose writing project (inform, persuade, entertain)

**Math:**

Patterns (closure)

-addition tables, t-charts, models to describe increasing or decreasing patterns

-identifying pattern rules

-creating and solving expressions with a missing variable

Time

-telling time on analog and 24-hour clocks

-using fractional names: quarter after, half past

-telling time to minute intervals

**Science**:

Habitats: niche, behavioral adaptations, life in school habitats, food chains and roles of producers, consumers and decomposers

-mealworm journal: collecting data on mealworms and hands on experiments

**Social Studies:**

Power & Authority

-participating in the student federal election voting

-study of Indigenous, municipal, provincial and federal governments

-role of government, rights and responsibilities

**Health**: Self Concept & Identity

-assesses personality, qualities, and positive traits

**Dance**: Pow Wow inquiry unit