



Mrs. Wilson

September

I would like to welcome each and every student to our grade 4 class! I look forward to a school year filled with fun, learning and adventure.

Our Classroom Learning Environment

In the grade 4 classroom a balance between instruction and learning is maintained throughout the shared classroom experience. On a daily basis, students are exposed to three kinds of work within the classroom:

- a) Whole Group Lesson – where the entire class is working and listening together with the teacher on a certain learning concept
- b) Small Group Work – where students are teamed up to work on problem solving activities that relate to the learning concept being studied
- c) Independent Work – where individual students work to demonstrate personal skills and understanding

On an ongoing basis, I will make myself available before school (any time after 8:30am to 9:00am), and or during one or both nutritional breaks for the purpose of quiet study, work, or extra help. During this time, students can work one to one with me, independently or in small groups.

The production of work in the grade 4 class is closely monitored every day. Students are expected to perform to the best of their abilities on all assigned tasks and activities, whether these experiences are independent or collaborative. Students will receive meaningful feedback on both their independent and group work habits. Incomplete work is quickly addressed through the use of the agenda.

Agendas

An important component to our classroom learning environment is the proper use of the agenda. Students are to use the agenda on a daily basis recording daily homework, upcoming test, assignments and events. To start our day off, agendas are to be out and open on the desk with any homework. Each morning I will check the agenda and completed homework and record any incomplete homework. Those students with incomplete homework will stay in during nutrition break to complete the task. At the end of the day, we will collaboratively review any homework, assignments or events, as recorded on the homework board. Then, students will appropriately fill out the agenda. If your student has no homework, he/she will simply record "No homework". I will sign the agenda at the end of every day. As parents, your job is to check that the agenda is filled out and homework is complete, then sign and return the agenda to school for the following day.

Field Trips

A student's education is enriched by real life experiences outside the classroom. I already have a few ideas in mind for fields trips this year. We would love to have parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles come out and volunteer for our trips. I am legally required to have a predetermined supervisor to child ratio on each trip so I welcome anyone who would like to volunteer. It is necessary, for the safety of each child, that all volunteers have an up to date police reference check and accessibility training on file here at the school. It is a good idea to get this done as soon as possible if you plan to come on a trip or help out this year.

****Please keep your eye on the agenda as our first field trip will be in October. More details to come!!**

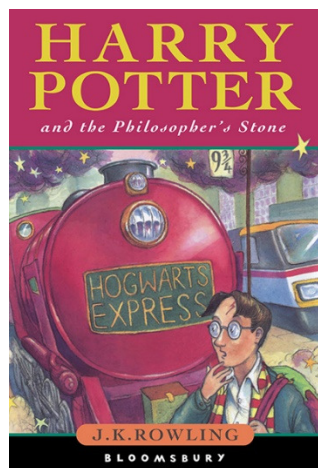


Curriculum

Reading

This month we will be listening to Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

We will be completing a Harry Potter scrapbook highlighting our listening skills through the use of reader response questions/activities. Students will be able to choose from a variety of reader response activities ranging from drawing to creative writing. Their choice of activity will draw upon their personal strengths and showcase their understanding of the novel.



Writing

In writing, we will begin the year by learning to write in complete sentences. We will begin work on our Writer's Notebook and move into learning how to write proper paragraphs.

Being able to write a paragraph with complete, well organized sentences is the foundation for all types of writing such as reports, narratives, articles etc..

Math

We will begin the year with a number sense unit, focusing on place value to 10 000. A clear understanding of place value is essential to all number work. We will begin the unit with a review of place value to hundreds, then move on to consider 4 digit numbers. The students will learn through a variety of activities including, worksheets, art, group/independent work, inquiry, problem solving and estimation.

Social Studies

To begin the year, we will start with a unit on Canada and its Provinces and Territories.

PE and Fitness

Our gym days are 3 and 5 with fitness/dance on day 1. Students are required to wear proper footwear and athletic clothing is encouraged. Gym clothes can be left at school on their coat hook. Please remind your child to bring home gym clothes to be washed regularly. Our fitness day will be shared with the Gr. 5/6 class. During fitness, we will focus on the foundations of movement, strength and endurance. We will also use this time to develop leadership skills, sportsmanship and cooperation.

Important Dates to Remember

School Assembly - Sept. 7

P.A. Day - Sept. 14

Meet the Teacher - Sept. 18

Picture Day - Sept. 19

Perseverance is worth it!

Kids today are used to instant gratification. But most school skills take time to develop. We will learn all about the work *perseverance*. Continued effort over time and trying different solutions is the best way for students to learn and overcome obstacles.

