



October 11, 2011

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

I hope everyone was able to get outside and enjoy the wonderful weather with your families this past weekend. Now it's time to buckle down as the progress reports go home in November.

Here's a quick overview of what we will be doing in the classroom this month:

- *language* – self-monitoring strategies to check for comprehension; nonfiction traits (gr.4) and biography characteristics (gr.5); starting writer's workshop; spelling with long vowel letter combinations, root words and suffixes
- *math* – addition, subtraction and money (gr.4), multiplication and division facts review (gr.5)
- *science* – rocks and minerals (gr.4), changes in states of matter (gr.5) continued
- *social studies* – What makes a province/ territory a great place to live? (gr.4), how the government works, now that the election is over
- *P.E. and health* – volleyball skills and try-outs for the school team; healthy relationships
- *visual art* – design elements: line, shape and pattern
- *French* – oral language and the play, "Les Trois Petits Cochons"

As you have probably noticed, it is the expectation that junior learners will become more responsible for their learning. When class work is incomplete, it will be assigned as homework. Sometimes students forget to take their work home. As a class we have done some problem solving around this issue. Students can call a friend to get the questions or requirements. If it is math homework and a friend was not available, similar questions can be found on the Nelson website (www.mathK8.nelson.com). Simply go to the appropriate chapter and lesson. At home, some time and physical space should be set aside for your child to work quietly, without distractions. If there is no assigned homework, daily lessons can be reviewed, reading and research can be done to coincide with subject areas, and math or board games can be played. I have taught the students *Math Bandz* which can be used to practice addition and multiplication facts. The grade five students also know *Countdown* which is great for practicing basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division equations. I plan to teach the fours the game this week.

As an advance notice, a field trip has been planned for the junior students to witness 'Medieval Times' on February 23. The cost will be approximately \$45.00 per person. I hope that this provides enough time for you to save a loonie or two a week, or for your child to do some chores for family or friends to earn some extra money. More details will be available as the date approaches. The students are looking forward to this exciting trip!

If you have any questions about the above or other concerns, please jot a note in your child's agenda. I check them daily. Thank you to the families that have included reading and signing the agenda as part of your routine.

Working together to educate your child,

C. Mojeski