



November 1, 2011

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian:

Thank you for your continued support of the learning in the grade 4/5 classroom. Whether you drive to a sporting event, send in treats, donate to fundraisers or help your child follow up on tasks in their agenda, all efforts are certainly appreciated.

The Grade 4 students are nearing the end of an exciting Rocks and Mineral Unit. **Science** continues with the study of sound energy. The classroom will be noisy as we explore the production of sound and complete the unit by designing and constructing homemade musical instruments. The Grade 5's will be ready to move to their next unit, energy conservation soon.

During **math** your child will be adding and subtracting multi-digit numbers that require regrouping. This will include working with money amounts. This will be a quick review only for the fives, as they need to be practicing the basic multiplication facts they learned in grade 4. Immediate recall of each fact is the goal, so that your child may apply them proficiently to multi-digit multiplication and division. Basic facts can be practiced in the car on the way to hockey, dancing or other evening activities. I remember my dad drilling the multiplication table with me as we did the dishes together. (Before dishwashers were standard equipment in all kitchens!) We will follow with 2-D geometry.

In **language**, we have been focusing on 'fix-up' and visualization strategies when reading to improve comprehension. Your child needs to notice when understanding of what he/she has read is lost. Then he/she will do certain things to repair comprehension. These include stop, reread to clarify thinking, read ahead to look for explanations, read the words aloud and go slowly, talk about what is confusing with another person. These strategies can be practiced at home as you read aloud together with your child. Visualization is also a focus. Your child is bombarded with visual images on TV or video game. As a result, he/she often views reading as a passive activity, when in fact we want our students to be active readers. Visualization helps your child to think as he/she reads, constructing meaning and improving understanding.

This week, your child will be creating art work that can be placed on a set of cards that you may purchase. Please watch for this to arrive home, along with the necessary ordering information.

Working together to educate your child,

C. Mojeski

