



Mrs. Wilson

October

Here is the news...

It is hard to believe that the first month of school is already over and that we are headed into the busy and exciting month of October. I have enjoyed getting to know your child and I am excited about the learning that has already taken place in our classroom. We have been working on the Learning Skill – Responsibility. Each student has made a goal for themselves to either improve or maintain their personal responsibility. Please ask your child about their personal goal and help them to achieve it.

Curriculum

In reading and oral communications, we have been listening to the novel *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis. The students have been working hard on a Reader Response Scrapbook demonstrating their understanding of the story. A classroom goal for this assignment is for the students to begin to put forth an effort to extend their writing and drawings by adding evidence from the story to support their work. Begin to use quotes and events from the story to prove your understanding and further support your thinking. Continue to work hard Grade 4 and Grade 5 students.

In Writing, we are just beginning to learn about the Writing Process.

The Writing Process:	
Questions to Consider	
1. Prewriting Time to Think	What do I want to say? How do I want to say it? Who will read my writing? What else do I need to know to begin? Who can I talk to about my ideas?
2. Drafting Time to Write It Down	Are my thoughts organized? Which ideas do I want to develop? In what order do I want to say them? Who can read this and offer suggestions?
3. Revising Time to Improve My Writing	Have I read what I have written? Are my details clear? Should I add or take out parts? Have I used the best ideas and words? Is my writing in a sensible order? What suggestions have others made?
4. Editing Time to Make Things Correct	Have I used complete sentences? Are my spelling, capitalisation, and punctuation correct? Have I marked corrections that I need? Has someone checked my work? Do I have a correct and neat copy?
5. Publishing Time to Share My Writing	Should I illustrate it and display it? Should I bind it in a book? Should I read it out loud? Can I place it in a classroom library? Will I act it out?

We are learning about the 4 types of sentences (statement, question, command and exclamatory) and how to write a sentence with juicy vocabulary. We will be moving into writing paragraphs, focusing on writing a good topic sentence, supporting details and a closing sentence. Finally, writing multiple paragraphs.

In Math, we are continuing to work through place value, addition and subtraction. Please keep an eye on the agenda for quiz/test dates and results. If your child is having difficulty with any of the new concepts, I am

always available for extra help before school at 8:40am or during nutrition breaks.

In grade 4 Social Studies we have been making our way across Canada. We are learning about the people, environment and regions of Canada. In grade 5 Social Studies, we have been learning about Canadian Government. We will be learning all about the levels of government and how government in Canada is run.

In Gym, we are playing soccer. We have been participating in several games, skills and drills. Thank you to all the students who have brought a ball in to use during our gym time!

We have been talking about what it means to have good sportsmanship. Here is the list the grade 4/5 came up with:

- Being kind
- Being humble with your abilities
- Accepting a loss
- Being humble with a win
- Helping others to learn the game
- Playing by rules and playing fair

We are all striving to live by and follow these ideas of sportsmanship.

Agendas

We use the agenda on a daily basis. The students are expected to have their agenda here at school every day and signed. We use the agenda to record any homework and upcoming events. Please look at your child's agenda each night, check over their homework (if there is any) and initial the agenda.

Field Trips

We have our first field trip of the year planned for this month. On October 5th we are heading to The Norfolk Fair and Horse Show. While at the fair, students will listen to a presentation given by local farmers about the different commodities farmers produce. We will have the opportunity to explore the fair and all the different exhibits, food and treats it has to offer. Thank you very much to all our parent volunteers who will be joining us on our trip to the fair. Please be sure to check the weather and dress appropriately for the day as we will be outside all day. Students also need to pack a lunch with plenty to drink. The Midway food booths will be open while we are there, however, we will not be playing any games or going on the rides.

Differentiated Instruction in a Split Grade classroom

I would like to take this opportunity to explain how I run two curriculums in a single classroom. Most of the curriculum lends itself nicely to complete one lesson. Two different tasks are given or one is assessed based on grade expectations. For example: Math can be taught in one lesson with an extension for the grade 5s and two different tasks given (e.g., addition of 5 digit numbers for grade 5 vs addition of 4 digit numbers grade 4). Language is taught much the same way.

Different lessons are provided for subjects such as social studies or science where two different concepts are being taught. In this case, I like to teach the lesson to one grade while the other grade completes independent tasks at their desk or in small groups and then switch.

If you would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Important Dates to Remember

Norfolk Fair – Oct. 5

Character Ed Assembly – Oct. 6

Thanksgiving Weekend – Oct. 7 -9

Cross Country – Oct. 11

Picture Retake Day – Oct. 27

Halloween – Oct. 31