***What’s Up in Grade 4/5?*** 

March is upon us!

With winter in full swing, and the class racing through a busy January, I felt it important to reconnect via the newsletter and give everyone an update as to what has happened and will be happening in Room 7.

In Mathematics, we have begun completing a variety of practical, hands-on tasks that require the students to utilize skills that bridge several strands. Mot recently, they completed an actual material and labour estimate that was provided to them based on a carpentry job I recently began. Using a detailed drawing of a living room, dining room and entry hallway, the students did area and perimeter measurements to find the square footage of flooring and linear measurements of baseboard required to complete a hardwood flooring installation job. They then multiplied these measurements by actual hardwood and baseboard prices, and combined their material costs with real-world labour estimates. I love doing REAL tasks with this class of students.

As promised, we are making the best of being “Cooped Up” in this nasty winter weather, and the Chicken Coop Design and Build competition is in full swing. Groups have selected a design, and completed the collection of material pricing data. Next steps are completing detailed floor and elevation drawings, and, after estimating material needs for the job, each group will be creating a scaled version of their chosen design, using cardboard, popsicle sticks, tape, and glue.

Our literacy focus is making a return to creative writing, as towards the end of February we began a deep analysis of Imagined Narratives, or fictional writing. Please ask your child what they have chosen to write about, and remain as engaged as possible in the creative process. Your assistance at home, even if it is simply to proof-read your student’s work, is greatly appreciated.

In Social Studies, we have recently embarked on an exploration of Early Societies (Gr. 4) and First Nations Peoples Before and After European Contact (Gr. 5). As an Anthropology major with a focus on historical and ongoing Canadian Indigenous experiences, these topics resonate strongly with me. If your child comes home eager to discuss what they are learning in class about Canadian and world history, please try to take the time to speak with them and discuss your own perspective and the opinions and viewpoints of peoples from around the world. The passion I am recognizing in our room for equality, understanding, and acceptance makes me extremely proud, and I am encouraged by the next generation of citizens that are represented in our classroom.

As always, please feel free to email me if you have any questions about what is happening in Room 7!

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable March Break!

Mr. Bentham

*Important Dates*

Hoops for Heart – ongoing, during Nutrition and Activity Breaks

Bell Homestead – March 1 (Grade 4s)

Skating trips – March 8

March Break – March 11-15

Apps Mill trip – rescheduled for June 24