



September 8th, 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you had a relaxing and lively summer. I can see the students are excited to begin the new school year and so am I. This year will be particularly exciting as students are now starting their intermediate school years with new roles, responsibilities, challenges and achievements. For the first time students will receive letter grades on their report cards; do their work in handwriting; lead our Advent assembly; participate in our Science Fair; have kindergarten buddies; go snowshoeing; and much more.

GRADE 4 CURRICULUM:

- **RELIGION:** focuses on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. Students will lead a school Advent assembly and a school Mass. They will be expected to demonstrate their Christ-like qualities as role models.
- **LANGUAGE ARTS:** students will continue to improve their grammar, spelling and handwriting skills. They will read different kinds of literature, from poems to novels. They will also participate in the Homeward Bound reading program. They will strive to become more creative writers and to produce thoughtful, well-developed written assignments.
- **MATHEMATICS:** focuses on thinking and problem solving. Topics include: number patterns; whole numbers to 10 000; addition and subtraction; data analysis; multiplication and division; geometry; fractions and decimals; and measurement.
- **SOCIAL STUDIES:** covers mapping skills; Aboriginal cultures; European exploration; and interaction between the Europeans and Aboriginal People.
- **SCIENCE:** includes weather; light and sound; and habitats and communities. We will learn about these topics through reading, projects and experiments.
- **FRENCH:** covers basic vocabulary, conjugating verbs and simple sentences.
- **ART:** includes studying the elements of art; completing Aboriginal art projects; and doing crafts related to the seasons and holidays.

Before our school year begins to get busy, I would like to go over a few points so that our classroom routines run smoothly and efficiently throughout the year.

School Bags

Please ensure that your child has a good-sized school bag. They will need to take textbooks, duo tongs, library books and their planners home for homework, as well as their lunches and gym strip. They must have their books in their bags when they leave the school. This will help decrease the number of lost items, ruined books, duo tongs and projects.

Gym Strip

The students need to have a full gym strip (including white socks) in order to go to P.E. PLEASE LABEL your child's uniform and gym strip. The students must have a gym bag to hold their uniforms, when they are not in use. ***The students will be attending P.E. on TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS and FRIDAYS. The students are to wear their P.E. strip to school on TUESDAYS as they have P.E. first thing in the morning. Please remind them to bring their school uniform to change into after P.E. class.

Homework Planners

The students will be writing their homework in their planners everyday. The planner is imperative in helping your child keep organized and inform you of what he or she must complete for homework. The students will be assigned homework almost everyday and will be taking any work that s/he should have completed during class time. This will ensure that your child keeps up with the class and not fall behind.

If your child is having difficulty completing their homework, it is extremely important that you write me a note or give me a call. Most homework assignments will be a continuation or review of an activity or concept covered in class. If your child continually gets frustrated over a certain assignment, it is important that I know so that I can give them the extra support they need to understand the concept. All homework planners MUST be initialed daily by a parent or guardian.

If you have any concerns or questions about the information above or anything else, please feel free to contact me before or after school or via email at: crances@spev.ca

We have a busy and exciting year ahead of us!
Thank you!!!

Miss Rances