



September 8, 2011

Dear Grade 4 Parents,

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL! I hope your summer has left you relaxed, rejuvenated and ready for another exceptional school year! My name is Carolyn Wakeham and I will be your daughters' teacher this year. I am thrilled to be back in Ottawa and to be teaching Grade 4 once again at Elmwood School.



New Students

We are pleased to welcome five new students to our Grade 4 community! Please join me in welcoming Caitlin, Kira, Ayah, Isabel and Patricia.

Uniform

Please refer to the uniform requirements outlined in the school handbook. All clothing and personal items should be clearly labeled and gym uniform should be kept in a small cloth/vinyl gym bag to avoid lost items. Gym classes are held on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. Students should come to school on Monday morning with a set of fresh gym clothes. We request that all gym clothes be taken home every Friday to be laundered.

Grade 4 Supply List:

Although the supply list was sent to you in June, I am including it again for your convenience.

3-5 HB pencils (please purchase 1 box of pencils for the school year)

2-3 blue pens (please purchase 1 box of pens for the school year)

1 pencil sharpener

coloured pencils (1 box)

set of markers (1 box)

3 white erasers

3 glue sticks

3 different coloured highlighters

1 pack of small sticky notes

1 large pencil case (labeled with name)

A red one-inch binder with dividers

3-hole index dividers

1 package loose leaf, 3-hole punched lined paper

Students should also bring in a paint smock that can be left at school for art activities.



Note: Please do not purchase a calculator. Our Everyday Math program requires a specific calculator with specialist functions, which is ordered by the school. Your account will be billed at a later date.

Homework

The students will be asked to spend time each day reading. Math, spelling, writing and activities connected to our Units of Inquiry may also be assigned. Students in Grade 4 should spend approximately 40 minutes on homework each day.



Birthdays

We will acknowledge each birthday in our class as it occurs throughout the year. If you wish, you may send small treats to school on that day, but please remember **nut and sesame seed products are not permitted at school.** I would like to encourage healthy treats such as vegetables & dip, cut fruit or any other tasty treat that nourishes our minds and bodies.

Communication

I use the student agenda as the primary means of written communication between classroom and home. The agendas are checked each day as part of our morning routine allowing me to see if there are any messages from you and to provide you with a prompt response. Please develop a routine at home to check your daughter's agenda on the current date as well as the front pocket. You may also reach me by email at cwakeham@elmwood.ca. In addition, please do not hesitate to speak to me in the classroom if there is anything you wish to discuss. At the onset of each Unit of Inquiry, I will send home a letter outlining our subject focus activities, and any potential trips or visitors. At the onset of each Math unit, I will send home a letter outlining our Mathematical focus as well as homework connections and support.

Library

Students may borrow two library books each week. Books are returned to the book cubby in the classroom. Our class has library on Wednesday.

Special Events to watch for next week:

- September 13- Junior School Curriculum Evening
- September 15 and 16- Grade 4 overnight trip to Long Bay Arts Camp (please see the info package that went home last week)

Several important events such as the Terry Fox Run and School Photos are scheduled for the month of September. Please refer to the Junior School Scanner (sent electronically on Thursday) for more information.

I am looking forward to working with you to provide your daughters an enriching and exciting Grade 4 year!

Sincerely,

Carolyn Wakeham
Grade 4 Homeroom Teacher
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