



## Elmwood's Grade 4 News

February 3, 2011

Dear Grade 4 Parents,

In 2011 the Grade 4 class has hit the ground running! The girls have impressed me yet again with their enthusiasm and focus. Students wrapped up the 'You Light Up My Life' unit by filming their TV commercials. Their wonderful commercials reflect their knowledge of media tricks and their passion for becoming media-literate young adults. The Grade 4 girls recently enjoyed a week of winter fun by skating at the Governor General's on Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> and a day of skiing on Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

I am happy to announce our new unit, Medieval Times.

### Medieval Times

**Central Idea:** The distribution of work and power affects the organization of a community

**Organizing Theme:** How We Organize Ourselves

**Description:** An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment.



**Subject Focus:** This unit is linked with the Ontario Curriculum Science unit of 'Pulleys and Gears' as well as the Ontario Curriculum Social Studies unit of 'Medieval Times'.

#### Inquiry Into:

- Structural organization of medieval communities (i.e., towns, farms, recreation)
- Social organization of medieval communities (i.e., family, religion, government)
- Events and issues that influenced society's development (i.e., plague, crusades)

#### Suggestions for activities at home:

- Ask your daughter to share with you her knowledge of medieval organization, events, issues and contemporary connections.
- Discuss with your daughter what significant events have occurred in their lifetimes and talk about how these events have impacted themselves and their community.

- Identify how members of society maintain and utilize powerful positions responsibly. Contrast this with the 'power pyramid' of medieval times.
- Encourage your daughter to identify how pulleys and gears are incorporated within contemporary designs.

### Mark on Your Calendar

**February 8<sup>th</sup>** - The Grade 4 & 5 girls will present *Treasure Island* at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

**February 17<sup>th</sup>** - Reports are mailed home.

**February 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>** - School is closed for midterm break.

**February 25<sup>th</sup>** - We have an all-day stained glass workshop. The girls created medieval-themed stained glass designs, and then artist, Michel Martin incorporated the girls' work into two stained glass designs. They will collaborate with their classmates to select small glass pieces, arrange them and then adhere them with a special UV glue and light. Both stained glass pieces will be on permanent display on the windows of the Junior School staircase.

**March 10<sup>th</sup>** - The Grade 4 class will be hosting a **Medieval Feast!** It will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room on from 2 – 3 p.m. Your official invitation and more information will follow.

If you have knowledge or expertise relating to Medieval Times that you would like to share with the Grade 4 class, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

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