

## **Grade 4/5 Introductory Newsletter**

Our grade 4's will be known as 42 and our grade 5's will be known as 53. I am looking forward to a great year full of excitement and growth.

### **Communication**

I will be communicating with you throughout the year in many different forms. The most common form will be through your child's agenda book. I will be checking your child's agenda every morning. I would greatly appreciate if you could check and initial your child's homework book every night. Please feel free to write me any messages or concerns as I will be looking for them when I check the agendas in the morning. The last day of every week, I will email a classroom newsletter that will inform you of what we are currently covering in class and any upcoming events. Another form of communication that I will be using is the telephone. If you have any major concerns, please contact me at the school (780-895-2269). My e-mail is joanne.calder@eips.ca. Please be advised that I have limited time to check my e-mail and may not get to all messages promptly, so if it is urgent, please call the school.

I also will be updating my classroom website, <http://mrscalder.schoolsites.ca>. You can also access my website from the Lamont Elementary School site if you scroll to the bottom and look for my name under the "Sites" drop down menu. I will post important dates/documents, and some information about what we've been doing in class. This will be updated regularly.

We also have a class Twitter and Instagram account. You can follow us at @calder\_lme. Here I will post reminders of important dates/events and pictures of some of the things happening in our classroom.

We will continue to use the online learning platform "Brightspace". Sometimes we will be using this platform in class. If your child is away, please check for any assignments that they could do at home.

It is my hope that this will help strengthen the home-school connection. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

## **Homework**

Each student is to choose a book or two of their liking and read 10-15 minutes every night. Please have your child fill in the reading log, at the front of their homework duotang. Home Reading books will be coming home near the end of September, once reading levels are confirmed. I will also be sending home "Problems of the Week." There will be a math word problem for each day of the week for students to show their work and find the answer to. This page will be due on the last day of every week. This will begin next week (Sept 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>).

## **"ROAR" TICKETS**

If your child is spotted being a good leader, they may get a "ROAR" ticket. They will take it down to the office and our administration will come to recognize them and take a picture of them for our "ROAR" wall. There will be a draw from all students, in the school, who received a ROAR ticket at the end of the month and a couple of students will be chosen to have a FREE pizza lunch.

## **"HOGWARTS HOUSE POINTS"**

Each student will be put into one of the 4 "houses" or groups (Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw & Slytherin). At the beginning of each month, each group will start with 100 points. Points will be given for positive behavior and points will be taken away for inappropriate behavior (these will be discussed in the first week of school). The group with the most points on the last day of the month, will get to choose a prize from my treasure box.

## **Leader of the Week**

Every week I will choose a student to be our classroom "Leader of the Week." This student will get to be our line leader and have other various tasks to help in the classroom. We will display this student's picture that was taken on the first day of school within the classroom.

## **Mystery Student**

At the beginning of each day, I will secretly choose a student to watch for good behavior. At the end of the day, if this child has had a good day, they will receive a treat. If the child chosen, didn't have a good day, then it will not be revealed who it was, but they will have another chance to get a treat on another day.

## Core Subjects

In Language Arts we will be focusing on reading/writing strategies, weekly word work/spelling, and handwriting. ***One of our weekly writing assignments will be to write a letter to our parents on the last day of the week, to share with you what we've done during the week. Please read and, if you have time, respond to your child's writing, and return booklet on the first day of the following week.***

The current grade four math curriculum covers numbers to 10,000, addition and subtraction of 3 and 4-digit numbers, Multiplication and Division facts to  $7 \times 7$  & 2 or 3-digit by 1-digit multiplication, long division, Fractions & Decimals, Patterns & Equations, Measurement, Geometry, and Statistics & Probability.

The current grade five math curriculum covers numbers up to 1 million, Multiplication and Division facts to  $9 \times 9$ , 2-digit by 2-digit multiplication, long division, Fractions & Decimals, Patterns, Variables & Equations, Measurement, Geometry and Statistics & Probability.

In Science the grade 4's will be starting the year with Plant Growth & Changes, while the grade 5's will be starting with Electricity & Magnetism. Other units for grade 4 include Light & Shadows, Wheels & Levers, Building Devices & Vehicles that move and Waste in Our World. The other units for grade 5 are Classroom Chemistry, Weather Watch, and Wetland Ecosystems. Through a variety of hands-on activities students will learn to investigate and appreciate the science objectives covered. During some of these units we will be asking students to bring **their own** materials from home to use for their projects in class. Please keep an eye out for notes coming home requesting these materials throughout the year.

In Social Studies, the grade 4's will be learning about Alberta and the grade 5's will be learning about Canada. Both grades will learn about the physical layout of the land, The stories, history & people, challenges and celebrations and what shapes Alberta and Canada's identity.

## **Important Dates/Information**

During the rest of September there are some important school and community events listed below.

**Monday September 5<sup>th</sup>: No School (Labor Day)**

**Wednesday September 7<sup>th</sup>: Early Dismissal (Students out 1 hour early)**

**Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup>: Meet the Staff 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

**Thursday September 29<sup>th</sup>: Orange Shirt Day**

**Friday September 30<sup>th</sup>: No School (Day of Truth & Reconciliation)**

**Wednesday October 5<sup>th</sup>: Early Dismissal (Students out 1 hour early)**

I look forward to working together with you and your child so that we can all have a safe and successful year.

Sincerely,

*Joanne Calder*

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