

## January - February Newsletter - 4 Embacher

Dear parents and guardians,

Happy 2018! The students of 4 Embacher are already settling back into routine and getting down to a new year full of learning opportunities. We have set some collective goals in our classroom and the students will be working hard to raise the bar and strive for their personal bests as learners. There will be plenty of extracurricular learning happening as well with electives coming up during the second half of the month and into February. Please see the list of important dates on the back of this newsletter.

Thanks!

- Stefan Embacher

### **What Students will be Learning:**

We are continuing to press on through the grade 4 curriculum. Here is a quick glance of what we will be working on in the main subject areas during the month of November and into December:

#### **Language:**

The students will be learning to identify and describe **setting** and **character** when reading fictional texts. They will also continue to work on **summarizing** events in a text, both orally and in their writing. Students will soon begin generating ideas, organizing, and planning for their own **narratives** that will eventually write. The planning, writing, and revision process will be ongoing and will likely take us deep into February. Meanwhile, we will also continue on with our "Words of the Week" spelling and vocabulary program, as well as our small guided reading groups. Thank you for supporting your child at home with learning his/her words and for giving him/her additional opportunities to engage with various texts.

#### **Math:**

We are currently doing a short geometry unit on **2-dimensional shapes**. Students are learning to identify and describe the attributes of various **quadrilaterals** (square, rectangle, parallelogram, rhombus, trapezoid). We will then move on to our study of **3-dimensional shapes** which will include naming and describing the attributes of various types of pyramids and prisms. Students will get to do some hands-on math involving the creation of 'nets' which can be assembled into various 3-D shapes.

#### **Social Studies:**

The students are learning about the **physical geography of Canada** (ie. landforms/bodies of water, climate, wildlife/vegetation, and resources/industry/tourism across different provinces and territories).

#### **Science:**

We are wrapping up our unit on **rocks and minerals**. We will begin a new unit on simple machines (**pulleys and gears**) later in the month of February.

### **Planners and Communication:**

Thank you for checking your child's planner and making use of it to pass along messages, forms, and money when needed. In 4 Embacher, I try to make the students responsible for recording daily messages in their planners. Please ensure that your child's planner makes it to and from home and school each and every day so that we can keep up the habit. As before, I will only write in a student's planner when a specific message of special importance needs to go home.

Beyond the planner, I can be reached by email at [stefan\\_embacher@bwdsb.on.ca](mailto:stefan_embacher@bwdsb.on.ca) or by phone during school hours: (519) 922-2341. I am also happy to schedule to meet in person during school hours.

### **Personal Items:**

Students are discouraged from bringing personal items of value (jewelry, new toys) to school as they can sometimes become lost or broken. Also, certain play items (such as spinners, Beyblades etc.) can be a source of distraction (and occasional conflict) for some students. My personal policy is that toys are not permitted in the classroom during lessons or work periods. Minimizing the number of play items that come to school will help students adhere to these expectations.

### **Footwear:**

With winter in full swing, please ensure that your child has footwear that can stand up to the snow and cold. It is also essential that students have sturdy shoes with good gripping treads to participate in gym class.

### **Donations to the Classroom**

Thank you for the donations of books that have helped fill out our class bookshelf. If your family still has any books or board games for young people that are in reasonably decent condition and are no longer being used, please consider donating them to our classroom collection. Thanks! ☺

### **Important Dates:**

Friday January 19<sup>th</sup> – First day of electives  
Friday January 26<sup>th</sup> – Second day of electives  
Friday February 2<sup>nd</sup> – PD day (no school for students)  
Friday February 9<sup>th</sup> – Third day of electives  
Friday February 16<sup>th</sup> – Last day of electives  
Monday February 19<sup>th</sup> – Family Day (no school)

