

April Newsletter - 4 Embacher

Dear parents and guardians,

With spring (hopefully) around the corner, we are gearing up for some exciting and important learning opportunities in 4 Embacher. While students have enjoyed a nice chunk of time away during the March break and the Easter long weekend, it will be good to have a stretch of regular 5-day weeks so that we can get back into our routines in the classroom. We have a lot of important material cover through April and into May. As always, I thank you for the ongoing support and encouragement that you provide your child from home.

- Stefan Embacher

What Students will be Learning:

We are continuing to make our way 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 April:

Language:

As part of an integrated social studies unit, the students will be reading myths, legends, and creation stories from specific early societies (Ancient Egypt/Greece/China, etc.). They will explore how these tales can help us understand more about these cultures from the past. Students will also begin to read more non-fiction informational texts. In writing, we will begin looking at drafting and creating informational texts of our own. For Media Literacy, the students will be exploring the use of explicit and implicit messages in advertising. 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 finishing up our **Money** unit. Students are learning mental and written strategies for making change for transactions involving amounts up to \$100.00. Next, we will start out measurement unit on **Mass, Capacity, and Volume**. Students will be expected to estimate, measure, and record quantities using a range of standard metric units (g, kg, mL, L, cm³, m³). Towards the end of the month, we will move into our unit on **Time** (ie. using analog clocks, calculating elapsed time).

Social Studies:

As mentioned above, we are beginning our unit on **early societies** and **ancient civilizations**. Students will be examining the economic, social, and political structures of past societies (Egypt, Greece, China) and comparing the way people lived to their own daily lives.

Science:

We will begin our final science unit on **Habitats and Communities** in May.

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 or by phone during school hours: (519) 922-2341 (though email is generally best). I am also happy to schedule to meet in person during school hours.

School Supplies:

Please check with your child to ensure that s/he is topped up with some extra pencils, erasers, and other school consumables as we head into the final part of the year. I always try to supply these materials when I can, but the school supply room has been fairly picked over at this point.

Footwear:

With winter on its way out and spring approaching, please ensure that your child has footwear that can stand up to wet and muddy conditions on the playground. It is also essential that students have clean indoor shoes and sturdy shoes with good gripping treads to participate in gym class (these can be the same pair).

Donations to the Classroom

Thank you for the contributions of cardboard, wood, and other supplies for our pulleys and gears projects. We may call upon additional materials for future projects in Science. Also, 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 May 27th – PD Day (No school for students)

