**This Week in Grade 4 Tuesday, February 20 –Friday, February 23,2018**

 Important Dates/ Reminders:

 Wednesday, February 21 - Mental Wellness PL for parents (6-7)

Hot Lunch Orders due Thursday, February 22

 Friday, February 23 - Time Capsule Opening

 Monday, February 26 ~ Skating! Please ensure your child brings their skates in a bag and dresses accordingly. Please feel free to join us for skating and to assist with skates

Math

On Friday, we said good-bye to Ms. Black. We will miss all of her “Brain Strainers”. We are moving onto Money and Multiplication. One or two of our Math Centers will involve mastering our Math Facts. There will be a center on Fractions and Decimals as well as a center focusing on Money. Money is closely related to fractions and decimals so I thought it would be a natural progression to move onto Money next. It is also imperative that students continue to work on mastering their Multiplication facts to 10.

**Literacy**

We are beginning Guided Reading Groups this week. Students will be working with Mrs. Green, Ms. Abbott, Mrs. Wilson or myself. Students who are not involved in a Guided Reading Group will be working in Centers until it is their turn to go to Guided Reading. It is important to note that students will not take part in a Guided Reading Group every day of the week. Most will be seen 2 – 3 times a week.

Home Reading

I have switched up the Home Reading Books. Home Reading Books are now from level M – U. Please remember that it is not imperative that a student have Home Reading Books at the level that they are presently reading at. It is ok if the text is easy or a little difficult. I have a bin of Home Reading Books and students select their own Home Reading Books. Often they select books based on their interests not level. There are a couple of short novels in the bin. It is acceptable if it takes all week or a little longer than a week to complete the novel. If a student selects a novel he / she should only select one Home Reading Books.

Be sure to refer to the Comprehension information sheet that I sent home to use with Home Reading. It doesn’t matter if a student can read any level book with fluency if he / she cannot answer Comprehension questions about what they read then they will not be able to move up a reading level.

Please remember that Home Reading is on the Honor System. Those who want to improve in their reading, develop fluency and answer comprehension questions will certainly take part in Home Reading and ensure they read 20 minutes every night. I am counting on parents to monitor this and ensure it is done.

**Biography Projects**

Due – Friday, March 02, 2018

I am attaching information regarding expectations / outline / examples / rubric for Biography Projects. We have discussed what is expected and students ahev been shown examples of what they could do for their project. Please see a separate post regarding this

Testing

I have started Reading Records with my students. I am hopeful that they have all made gains in their reading / comprehension skills.

**Writing**

We have started our Realistic Fiction / Mystery unit in writing. We launched this unit by watching traditional Scooby Doo Mysteries. Scooby Doo never grows old. We will be analyzing the components of a Mystery based on the Scooby Doo video we watched. Students are very excited about our new unit.

I am still in the process of marking Demand Writing pieces. It sure takes a great deal longer than Kindergarten Demand Writing pieces!

**Science**

Ms Hirst will be with us this week assisting us in preparing for our Grade 4 Provincial Science Assessment. We will continue learning how to write questions related to an experiment and then we will con 02, 2018duct the experiment.

**Guidance**

On Friday, Ms. Hoyt visited our class and taught a lesson reminding us about WITS. It was important that students had the opportunity to meet and interact with Ms. Hoyt. We look forward to her next visit

**Mental Health Seminar for Parents Tuesday, February 20 from 6:00 -7:00I**

I strongly encourage parents to attend this learning opportunity. You child may not be suffering from anxiety or Mental Health issues at the present time but it is best to be prepared if this ever happens. The information you will receive is valuable to have. There will be several sessions. You are encouraged to attend those that of interest you. As a parent of three, I can honestly say that is valuable to have this knowledge and strategies /understanding in your tool belt. One never knows! Don’t forget for get free babysitting will be provided.

**March Beak**

It is hard to believe that March Break starts next Friday, March 02.

I will be taking pre – retirement time from March 12 – 30. I will return the beginning of April. As I approach retirement ( 3 -4 years) I am entitled to take pre –retirement time. I am leaving my “babies” in good hands. Ms. Brittany Everett will replace me. I feel very confident leaving Brittany at the Helm. Brittany did her student teaching at Barkers Point with Mrs. Lloyd. I have known Brittany for a long time. She was a student at Park Street when I taught there. I will provide contact information for Brittany next week. Please do not hesitate to contact her if you have questions / concerns. I have every confidence in her ability.

I am really going to miss my class. They have come such a long way. I am so very proud of each and every one of them! I will be checking my emails daily. Please feel free to contact me or cc me on any emails you send Brittany. I will be in contact with Brittany several times a week.

Have a wonderful week! Don’t forget / hesitate to stay in touch! I welcome your communication.

Thank you to all the parents who assisted with skating and thank you to those who provided snacks for our small Valentine’s Day Party!