This Week in Grade 4 McConaghy – Monday September 24 – Friday, September 28, 2018

Happy Fall!

It is hard to believe we are entering our last week of school for the month of September! It seems like just yesterday, that I was welcoming my students to Grade 4. I must compliment my students, they have settled in nicely to our routines and procedures for life in Grade 4. I am so very proud of them! I must also send a congratulations to my Grade 4 parents – you have done a fantastic job getting into the groove of parent life in Grade 4 McConaghy! I could not be more pleased! Congratulations to all! We are all members of one BIG Grade 4 family!

You know your child better than anyone else and you should never apologize for asking questions regarding your child’s whole school experience as well as academic experience. You must be an advocate for your child. I am more than open to suggestions regarding how you interact with your child and what works best. We are a Team! You are a very important partner in your child’s education! I am a mother of 3 grown children. One was diagnosed early in her education with dyslexia and auditory processing issues. I totally get it! I also have one who was always a high achiever. I have experienced both ends as well as the middle. I always ask myself “ if this was my child how would I want him / her treated and what would I want to be done in order to assist him/her in becoming the best he /she can be. Every student is an individual strengths and weaknesses.

For the past couple of weeks students have been learning about Growth Mindset and setting personal as well as educational goals. Mindset is something that will be a benefit to every student from now until …….. When there is something a child finds difficult or cannot do they are practicing including the word yet. “I can’t do division YET!”

The next step is to learn about and how to demonstrate GRIT. Be sure to ask your child what GRIT is and if he/she uses GRIT.

On Friday, I spoke to my students briefly about personal hygiene. Many are at an age when they perspire which impacts them not smelling good. I have already had students indicate that they do not want to sit next to particular students because the student does not smell good. This is something that can be avoided. I spoke to my students about being clean, wearing clean clothing and wearing deodorant (for those who need it). I also suggested that it might be an idea to bring shorts to wear during Phys ed and a different shirt to change into before and after Phys ed. My talk also included having clean hands, fingernails and keeping fingernails short. On Friday, student nurses from UNB will be visiting all classes at Barkers Point. This is part of their Community Nursing Course. The focus of Friday’s lesson will be clean hands, hand washing, clean fingernails and the length of our fingernails. They will be visiting for several weeks and each week their focus will be on personal hygiene – how to keep ourselves clean and being healthy and exercise, sleep.

On Friday, September. 29 the whole school will be participating in Orange Shirt Day. Students and staff are asked to wear an orange shirt. It can have something printed on it. All this week we will be focusing on KINDNESS and about RESTITUTION for those who lived in Residential Schools. The plight of our First Nations People and how they were treated. I have several books that I will read to the class which will lead to discussion and hopefully EMPATHY for those involved. All information will be tastefully presented. You may be asked some questions at home or over dinner.

In Art this week we will learn about, study and create Totem Poles as a sign of respect for those of First Nations Heritage.

In Math, we will continue to learn about and create patterns. Students will be practicing finding the pattern in a given chart and how to extend the pattern based on the information given in the chart. By doing these activities students will be activating their higher level thinking. They will really have to work to find the pattern and extend it. Students will need to demonstrate GRIT. We will also be visiting/reviewing addition and subtraction, 92 digit plus/subtract 2 digit with no regrouping, two digit plus/subtract 2 digit with regrouping and three digit plus/subtract three digit without regrouping and three digit plus/subtract three digit with regrouping.

In Literacy, we will continue with our Grammar morning work to review the concepts we have been taught regrading punctuation, Proper Nouns, common nouns and spelling.

I am reading The City of Ember to the class.Students are provided with time on a daily basis to read a novel which they have selected. Students will be assigned a choice of activities to complete when they have finished their novel. Students are encouraged to ensure they have selected a novel that is not too difficult and is not too easy. This assigned activity will be completed during class time.

In Grammar we are reviewing parts of speech – nouns, proper nouns, verbs, tense of verbs. This week we will learn about pronouns and adjectives.

Students are very enthused about writing their own novels. Last week we were visited by Fredericton Written Paul McAllister. Paul write Herman Monster Books. He has presently produced two books. We learned a great deal from Paul about creating our own books. Students are very enthused. On Friday, several took clipboards outside during Recess to work on their books. Students will continue to work on their books while learning about how to plan a piece of writing, how to include a beginning, middle and end. Monday’s students write about their weekend.

In Science we are building on prior knowledge regarding Habitats and hope to go on a fieldtrip to Ducks Unlimited to learn more. We are also learning about STEAM. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Music. We will be conducting activities based on STEAM.

I n Health we will be learning about Personal Hygiene and GRIT>

In Social Studies we will be learning about the plight of those who were removed from their home and put in Residential Schools. I assure you this be tastefully presented.

This all adds up to a very busy week. There is not much down time from learning. I am concerned that several students are presenting as being very tired. Perhaps an earlier bedtime, less gaming, more time being active will help with this.

If you have any concerns, questions, suggestions please let me know. Remember we are partners.

If your child is going to be absent from school please notify the office.

Cafeteria orders are due on October 26.

For those who have not paid students fees, please contact me. I would prefer that you touch base with me rather than me having to send and letter and contact you by email and phone. I am very reasonable and flexible. Please touch base and let me now where you are in regards to student fees. Every child has been provided with the same materials. It is now time to pay for those materials. For those of who have paid or have contacted me Thank You very much! Hounding parents for money is my least favorite part of teaching!

A student asked me about cupcakes for birthdays. Unfortunately students are not permitted to bring in cakes, cupcakes, treats as a result of the new Nutrition Policy. Students are permitted to bring fruit and veggie trays.

If you would like to meet with me please send me an email or call me. I prefer not to have discussions with parents out on the sidewalk. I like for it to be more private and where I can give you my total attention. I often have meetings directly following dismissal. I want to ensure I can provide you with the time you require and not have to cut you off.

Please remember that you are NOT permitted upstairs. If you have something to drop off for your child please check with the office. They will deliver your message or item. If your child forgot something and you are bringing it please leave it at the office. This is for the safety of all our students. Please follow this procedure otherwise it can be embarrassing for you and me when I have to turn you away.

Have a wonderful week! Stay in touch. Don’t forget Friday is Orange Shirt Day!

Mary Ann McConaghy

[Mary.Mcconaghy@nbed.nb.ca](mailto:Mary.Mcconaghy@nbed.nb.ca)

453 -5402 school phone numberwww.bps.nbed.ca---where my webpage can be found.