Tuesday, September 6th, 2016

Welcome to Grade Four!

I am sure we will have a great year together learning exciting things in grade four. We have many interesting topics and activities planned.

I hope you were able to find the new web page for our school. I found it by searching Montgomery Street School. <http://web1.nbed.nb.ca/sites/ASD-W/MontgomeryStreet/Pages/default.aspx> On our school website I am posting the web sites for Razz Kids <https://www.raz-kids.com/> and for Sumdog <https://www.sumdog.com/user/sign_in?to=%2Fadult%23%2F> for the students to have for logging in. I will be using these two websites a great deal in my class. I hope that the school website is a tool that is used by many of the parents in the class.

Here is some information to get the year off with some good communication around my expectations.

**Homework**: Students in grade 4 are expected to spend up to 40 minutes each school day doing homework. Each child in every class has different interests, needs and skills. The homework that is given is usually differentiated and there is always room to do more, if the family wishes. I expect that each school night my students will complete 20 minutes of reading and up to 20 minutes of math. The homework is due back each Friday, unless otherwise specified.

**Math**-If the math that has been assigned is too hard, I expect best guesses as answers. It is my intention that all the math homework that is assigned has already been taught and the homework is a review to reinforce the classwork. If you find that you are reteaching the math to your child, please tell me by writing on the homework page so I will know. If there is still time once the week’s regular math review worksheets have been completed, it is advisable to spend some time on Sumdog because I get the performance feedback sent to me. I will also send home games to play for practice.

**Reading**-In grade four, it is increasingly the responsibility of the student to be finding their own reading material at home that is at their independent level. At times, I will assign instructional materials to be read at home. There is an abundant supply of reading materials in our class that can be brought home. Please write a note to me if materials are needed for your child. Once the reading levels are reestablished, I will send that home to help guide their reading. There is a daily reading log to record the books read and the parent’s signature to help monitor the books read. If books are read on Raz Kids, please still log the titles for record keeping. Students may read on Raz Kids or a physical book, it is their choice, unless I specify a specific reading assignment.

**Curriculum Outcomes Being Covered**- On a monthly basis, I will write about the outcomes being covered on the homework page. Parents typically have the most questions about the math. I am always very happy, (perhaps a little too happy?), to go over the concepts being taught in math. I give students pre-tests so I know what concepts are understood before units are started, as well as tests along the way. These tests make their way home in the yellow test duo-tang. To keep families up to date in all subjects, I will be sending home work done on a regular basis to be signed, but not corrected unless I specify.

If there are questions, please call the school or email me at janet.hunter@nbed.nb.ca. If the questions are about behaviours or more complicated, I will do my best to call after school. I never mind calls at home. The goal is to do the best we can for the students!

Mrs. Hunter