

# Greetings From Grade Four!

January 17, 2012

Happy New Year Everyone! It is hard to believe that January is almost over. We are heading into a very busy time. It is great to see the students making progress. This is evident in the increased amount of effort students are putting into their daily work.

As February rolls around we will be into the annual Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA's). We are fortunate this year that we will be given the month to write them. This will allow me spread them out more than in the past. I have provided you with an outline of these dates below. Please let me know if you have planned a trip etc. on any of these dates so we may schedule your child in the make-up sessions at the end of February.

The students will be assessed in the areas of Writing, Reading, and Numeracy. Two sections of this test are done Online allowing us to get the results back to you faster than ever before. To prepare for this, the students have completed a practice test online in Numeracy and Reading. The other sections of the test include reading comprehension, story and narrative writing.

The goal of these practice sessions was to make the children familiar with the format and procedures of the tests. It would be helpful if each student had a reliable pencil sharpener, pencils, and erasers for the testing. Please note that the cheaper pencils are very difficult for the students to sharpen and they frequently break. These are not good purchases.

We are finishing up our study of Weather. If all goes as planned the students will begin to work on a research project in class. As the project wraps up, pieces of it may be sent home for homework.

In Social Studies, we are looking at the Copper Inuit people. We are creating a "BIG REPORT" on this topic. When we are finished, the students will be completing a similar project on one of the other Aboriginal Groups featured in our text book.

In Religion, we will be looking at what life was like when Jesus was a boy. Our unit will wrap up before Spring Break with a Jewish Lunch where we will sample foods Jesus would have eaten.

In Math, we are continuing with our study of multiplication and division. Everyone should continue to review the basic multiplication and division facts.

Students will be tested on their recall of these facts WITHOUT using their multiplication chart on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Keep practicing!!!!

We have just finished our unit *Get the Message*, in Literacy in Action. Thank you for your help at home listening to the students share the message on their postcard about what we have been doing in class and for your help ensuring they had a postcard to share with the class. Our next unit, *Survivors!* looks at plants and animals in different habitats and will fit nicely in our next science unit too!

Congratulations to Ryan and Will for making it across Canada. Their cars are now heading back to Prince George. Everyone should be encouraged to keep reading at home!!!

#### Upcoming Tests and Projects:

- \* FSA - Reading Comprehension Online - January 31st
- \* FSA - Reading Writing Connections - February 7<sup>th</sup>
- \* FSA - Writing - February 15<sup>th</sup>
- \* FSA - Numeracy Online - February 20<sup>th</sup>
- \* FSA - Numeracy written - February 21<sup>st</sup>
- \* FSA - Make up sessions - February 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>
- \* Multiplication & Division Basic Facts Test - February 1<sup>st</sup>

#### Upcoming Special Events:

- \* Catholic Schools Week - The week of February 5-11<sup>th</sup>.
- \* Bowling - February 9<sup>th</sup> - More information to follow.
- \* Red, White, and Pink Day - February 14<sup>th</sup>.
- \* Floor Hockey Play Day - February 27<sup>th</sup> - More information to follow.

#### Be sure to ask your child about:

- \* The Copper Inuit people
- \* The story of when Jesus was presented at the Temple.
- \* Using Vivid Verbs
- \* Erosion