

# GRADE 4 NEWS

October 2022

Ms. O'Brien

Dear Parents

Welcome to October! It was so great to meet many of you at the Open House. This month we are continuing to get students familiar with some technology, specifically, *Prodigy*, *Typing.com* and *Google Classroom*. Also this month, students in Grade 4 and 7 will be doing the provincial Foundation Skills Assessment (FSAs). At this time, because we do not have a digital platform to show student progress, I will ask students to bring home key assessment tasks to be signed and returned (**OR**, you sign the planner so I know you have seen the quiz/assignment).

**PRODIGY** – I have set students up with a math and literacy gaming account called *Prodigy*. Previous students have enjoyed it and I like that I can align questions to whatever we are doing in class (number sense, fractions, geometry, compound sentences etc.). We will use it in class for all students at times, but usually, it is used as an option for students during ‘catch-up’ blocks for students who are all caught up on assignments. They **can** access it at home and you can have a **parent account** if you choose. For students who enjoy the game it may give them some benefits and encourage them to do math or literacy in their leisure time.

**GOOGLE CLASSROOM** – I have also set up a Grade 4 Google Classroom. We will use Google Classroom **in class** to complete certain tasks. It is mainly for students, and our goal is that they can use it to complete tasks at school (e.g. watch a video, answer questions, create documents, etc.). The goal is that they can access it and maneuver it **independently**.

**KEYBOARDING** – In computer class, students have been set up with Typing.com accounts. We will also be practicing keyboarding skills in class regularly for the first two terms. Like anything, consistent practice will help students learn this practical skill. This can also be something students can practice at home, especially when they have no other homework tasks to complete.

**FSAs** – We will be writing the provincial Foundation Skills Assessment tests in October. These tests do not count for report card grades, but they do take a significant amount of class time to administer. They test reading comprehension, writing and numeracy. Students will complete a handwritten and online component. Please be aware that parents will be mailed results and that this can often cause stress to students. In class, we do practice tests so they are familiar with the process and can maneuver the online portion comfortably.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Email: [kobrien@cispg.ca](mailto:kobrien@cispg.ca)

Sincerely,

Kate O'Brien