INFORMATION ITEMS SPECIFIC TO GRADE 5

Grade five is a challenging year in many ways, as students consolidate the skills and develop the independence required to meet a demanding curriculum and prepare for the evaluations they will meet in grade six.

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUPPLIES:

* Homework binder with zipper close
* small pencil case
* pencils
* erasers
* pencil crayons
* highlighter markers
* glue sticks
* rulers (mm and cm)
* small calculator
* math set (protractor and compass)
* duotang folders
* report / project folder with pockets
* indoor shoes suitable for gym (to be left at school!!!) - non-marking soles
* gym clothes (shorts or sweat pants, t-shirt)
* re-sealable plastic water bottle

AGENDA EXPECTATIONS:

It is expected that all students will purchase and use our school agenda. The agenda has proven to be a valuable organizational aid for students, and it should travel between home and school every day. The agenda serves as a convenient location for notes and communication among students, parents, and teachers. Please take the time to read and initial the agenda on a daily basis. This will help keep you informed of the assignments and upcoming events in the classroom.

HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS:

In grade five, students are expected to do between 30 and 60 minutes of homework a night in addition to reading for 30 minutes. Children work at different paces, but if you find that your child is regularly exceeding this time, please contact your child’s teacher, as there is likely to be an organizational difficulty that needs to be resolved.

Please recognize the importance of creating a structured homework environment for your child at home. Homework should, routinely, be done at a specific time (ie. immediately after school, after dinner etc.) and in a specific location of the home. With this kind of structure in place, the chances of losing or forgetting homework will be minimized and your child will experience greater success. Students who complete their work early should spend the remainder of their homework time reading, reviewing notes, or practising spelling words or math facts.
LANGUAGE ARTS

Language arts topics through the year will sometimes coincide with science or social studies topics and sometimes not. Students will generally receive an outline and / or a rubric for a major assignment when it is given.

Regular routines include spelling work (assigned each cycle, work usually due Day 4 or 5, tested Day 6), and a “journal”. Each student’s journal is to be completed and handed in once every two weeks, and should include at least one full page of “response” to the books he or she is reading during that time. The majority of this response should be personal thoughts and predictions about the story they are reading rather than simple retelling of the story. The second page of each entry may be more of the same or whatever else the student wishes to write about.

SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Science and social studies topics during the year will be generally done one at a time in order to take best advantage of the blocks of time available in the cycle. In the term one “Matter” unit, we will explore the properties of solids, liquids and gases and the changes among them. In social studies, we will be examining the levels functions of Canadian government.

In the second term, we will be studying various aspects of weather and going on to work with structures and the forces acting on them. In this term, our social studies topic, “Ancient Civilizations”, will examine ancient cultures from many parts of the world. This topic will be carried right through the term in conjunction with the science topics.

Third term will include the culmination of our “Ancient Civilizations” topic and science units on “Conservation of Energy” and “Human Organ Systems.”

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In grade 5, it is expected that students will change their shoes and clothing for our physical education classes. Gym clothing should be brought home for washing regularly, but it is expected that there will be gym clothes here at all times. Topics for health discussions and study include healthy eating, dealing with peer pressure, prevention of substance abuse, and stages of puberty.