

4S HIGHLIGHTS DECEMBER / JANUARY

F R O M T H E D E S K O F M R S . S T A F F O R D

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Dec 13 Christmas Concert 4S (1:00PM, 7:00 PM)
- Dec. 23 Last Day of classes before Christmas Break AND Class Christmas Party
- Jan. 9 First Day of classes after Christmas Break
- January 24, 26 and 28 first set of potential cross Country Skiing Dates
- Dec. 6, 13, 20 and Jan. 10, 17, 24 **Book Exchange Days**

It is astounding to me at how quickly the year is flying by! Here we are about to start a new calendar year! I think the time has passed so quickly because of how much fun our class has had learning and growing together

Before discussing what curricular topics and themes we will be investigating, there are a few points that I would like to bring to your attention:

1. We are on the web! I have taken a few afternoons away from my students to build a wiki space. On this space, you will find educational websites, newsletters and samples of student's work. Our grade four web page can be found at:

aurorograde4.wikispaces.com

Or go to our school's web page and click on my name.

1. I am looking for any parents who are available on Tuesdays from Jan 31-Feb 28 from 10:45-11:56 to assist with skiing. Being able to cross country ski is not necessary but desirable. Please be advised

TIME FLIES!

that the school must have your criminal record check on file in order for you to volunteer. Contact me at: tammie.stafford@wrsd.ca or call 780-542-9355

mitts.

2. On the dates that I plan to take your child cross country skiing, please ensure that he/she is wearing snow pants, a toque and **water proof** mitts. It is best if your child's upper body is dressed in layers so clothes can be stripped off. You would be quite surprised at how sweaty you can get from skiing. As you may well know, sweaty bodies can quickly turn into chilled and downright cold bodies. The school has ski boots for the children. All socks should come to the mid calf. The best socks to wear skiing are wool or a specially designed cold weather sport sock. **Cotton tends to lend itself to cold feet! On the ski days please send with your child an extra pair of clean, dry socks and**



4S Is in Need of Parent Help so Mrs. S can teach cross country skiing!

Merry Christmas!

I hope all 4S families are busy decking the halls with all types of Christmas cheer!

On December 23, 4S will be having a celebration of Christmas. **In order to cut down on garbage, we are asking our students to bring their own plates and glasses for the party as they will not be provided.** The following students are asked to bring festive food for 30 students:

Dylan G. (sweet treat)

Keenan (sweet treat)

Alexis (assortment of crackers)

Tegan (veggies and dip)

Emma (cheese, sausage)

Myles (fruit)

Kaia (chips)



SO WHAT ARE WE LEARNING?

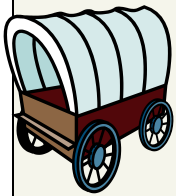
LANGUAGE ARTS

I am finding the new SMART strategies that the grade four team has been implementing to be very exciting, and to have a very high pay off value!

The six word work groups have progressed very well. Prior to the Christmas Break, the children will be reassessed and groups may be realigned.

The students have enjoyed having an opportunity to choose their own reading material from an assortment of books at their level. So far they have looked at making images, sending images and synthesizing information. The January skill that we will be working on is to look for what's important and ask questions while reading and summarizing.

Writing skills are developed by looking at excellent literature, and writing from that sample. We have been working on organizing ideas into strong expository pieces. We will be working on using strong vocabulary, and various sentence starters.



SOCIAL STUDIES

The students will be well into working on a Powerpoint project that presents a geographical region of Alberta. The students are divided into groups. Each person in the group is responsible to research and present some aspect of their assigned region to the class. We will be covering many technology outcomes with this project.

SCIENCE

Light and Shadows: Students will learn about light by studying the effects of light on things within their environment. They will learn about light sources, about materials that light can pass through and about what happens when a material blocks or changes the path of light. By observing shadows and their motions relative to a light source, students discover that light and shadows fall along a predictable path. They discover that mirrors, prisms and a variety of other materials can affect that path by reflecting and refracting light and by splitting light into colours.

MATH

Lucky 4S! We were able to take advantage of the skills of Mr. Trevor Calkins as he modelled some fantastic strategies for making math meaningful to our students. I am very excited to try some of his ideas! At this point, the students should be very comfortable with the multiplication and associated division facts for 2 and 5. We have also introduced the facts of ten. Please practice these as much as you can at home! Besides learning our facts, we have been solving problems that require us to use various operations. The students are learning that solving problems is less problematic if we write down what we know and choose a strategy such as make a table, draw a picture, look for patterns or guess and check.

