

4SL HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY / MARCH

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:

- Friday, Feb. 4 Skiing Rotary Trails 12:45-1:45 PM
- Feb. 10, 11 No School Teachers' Convention
- Monday, Feb. 14 Skiing at Rotary Trails 12:45-1:45
- Feb. 18 No school for students
- Feb. 21 Family Day No school
- Feb. 25 Ski Wind Up Pembina Nordic Trails 8:45-12:30
- March 4, 11 PD Day No school for students
- Spring Break March 25- April 3
- **Book Exchange Every Wednesday!**

W O N D E R F U L W I N T E R !

Winter is here and we definitely have the snow and cold that comes with it! Fortunately the temperatures have been fluctuating so we are also getting some incredibly warm temperatures along with the freezing ones.

Special Activities

Ski Sessions

I am excited about the fresh snow we have been receiving. We are going to take advantage of it during 3 sessions of Cross-country skiing. If you are a parent who can volunteer on the dates listed please let me know. I need parents who can ski as well as others who can help with distributing equipment. Please be advised that the school must have your criminal record check on file in order for you to volunteer. We must have the minimum number of adults to be able to run these sessions.

Ski Wind Up

The Grade 4 classes would like to do a Ski Wind up at the

Pembina Nordic Trails. We need parents who will help with cooking wieners and maintaining the fire in the fire pit and chalet. A note was sent home asking for volunteers. If you are able to help in any way please let us know.

An important reminder ...

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. Dress in layers so clothes can be stripped off. Before children become overheated and sweaty, they can remove a layer of clothing to stay dry and comfortable. Make sure your child has a long-sleeved shirt or sweater on underneath their jacket. 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 mitts.**

Aurora Grade 4 Wiki

If you haven't checked out my website and Wiki recently, have a look. It has been updated. Our grade four address is:

aurorograde4.wikispaces.com

Or go to the Wild Rose Homepage, Aurora School, staff, Mrs. Stafford



4S Is in Need of Parent Help with cross country ski sessions.



Happy Valentines Day! Happy St Patrick's Day!

That sweet time of year is fast approaching!

On Feb. 14, 4SL will be celebrating valentines day with a ski, exchange of cards and hopefully a sweet treat and punch!

I encourage the students to write a valentine for all of their classmates at this age. Hopefully, your child could spend time on this during the Teacher's Convention weekend. Please see the accompanying class list of student names.

St Patrick's Day will be recognized as well. The students will be encouraged to wear, and eat as many green things as possible!

When I was doing my party planning, I failed to include these two holidays in my snack rotation. If you are interested in supplying a theme treat or drink for either day, please send a note in your child's agenda.



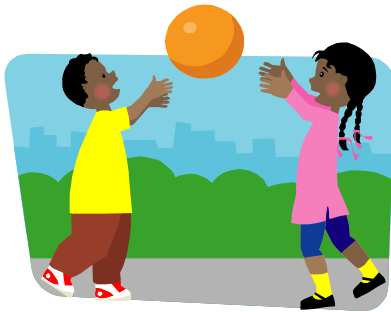
PLAY DATE REGISTRY

We did not get an overwhelming response to our play date registry, but we have a start. Please find it attached to this letter. If you notice that your information is not added, and you would like it to be please fill in this form and send it in by February ninth. We will update this list and send it to you before our next newsletter.

Child's Name: _____

Parent #1 Name, Phone Number and e-mail address:

Parent #2 Name, Phone Number and e-mail address:



Please cut off, sign and return this portion of the newsletter so that your child could put his/her name in for a class draw prize.

Child's Name:

Parent Signature:

LANGUAGE ARTS

Using the SMART learning Independent reading format, I am giving the children the opportunity to choose a book on their own from a large selection of books that are at an appropriate reading level. While the students have choice over what they read, approaching, responding and reflecting on their reading is highly structured. Prior to reading the students must make predictions, ask questions and make connections to their text. They also must establish a reading goal. At this point I have pretty much given the students their goal as I am busy teaching them the strategies that good readers use. The student reading is then divided into three chunks. During each chunk, they do some written reflection. Following each chunk, they discuss the book they are reading with their learning group. This has been an invaluable time as the students start getting excited to read books that their classmates are reading! After three chunks have been read, the students do a quick write based on our reading goal. When we worked on images, the students wrote a descriptive piece of text from the point of view of a character. The students have just completed writing letters to me which summarize what they have read. Our next goal is to have the students create a quiz for their text as we discuss the strategy of asking and answering questions using the QAR model. I have used this QAR model for all of the grades I have taught, and I have found it to be so helpful that I have attached a brief description of it for you to look at!

We write everyday, but most of our writing has been fairly spontaneous. We are working on story writing at the moment. I am a firm believer that good writers must have a plan in order to show us their best writing. We are discussing how good stories have a great grabber, a conflict, rising action, a climax, an ending and a take away. We examine well written stories for these elements, and we will look at lots of writing prompts to practice planning. Don't worry! We actually will get around to writing stories before too long!! Just to give you a heads up, the next writing challenge for your children will be to write a great speech. They will write about something that they are interested in or better yet passionate about. If you could start discussing possible topics with your child this could help make more efficient use of our time.

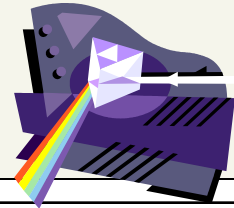


SOCIAL STUDIES

I must say that I have learned so much about Alberta this year! We have travelled through time learning about the First Nations and explorers. We are currently looking at some of Alberta's first European settlers. We are looking at the challenges these settlers faced, and how they shaped the character of our province. We also discuss how the arrival of these settlers affected the First Nations and Metis people.

SCIENCE

Just like real scientists students are making hypotheses and conducting experiments to find answers to their questions in our Light and Shadows unit. They are learning about light sources, reflection, refraction and shadows. We will be starting a unit on plants in March.



FROM THE DESK OF MRS. LYNCH

MATH

In Math, we working on the multiplication and division unit. The children are developing strategies for multiplying and dividing with whole numbers. They will identify patterns on multiplication charts, use mental math, and pose and solve problems. They will also represent division and multiplication by using counters and drawing arrays. We will also be learning about symmetry and congruent shapes. Writing calendar dates in different formats and learning digital and analogue time are also areas of study for February and March.

