

SEPTEMBER



Welcome to Grade 4!

I am looking forward to a new school year and working with your child and you. Some of you may remember me from grade 3 as Ms. Foster. I'm very excited to be back!

Our character trait for the month is **TEAMWORK**. In room 210 we are going to learn all about and exercise teamwork as we collaborate and share ideas with everything we do.

****NEW THIS SCHOOL YEAR**** Only students are permitted on the blacktop before and during school, in order to maintain a safe and orderly playing, entry and exit space for our students. Parents/guardians are welcome to be on the blacktop at the end of the day in order to pick up your child from school. Thank you for considering the safety of all our students!

Communication and School Expectations

At the beginning of each school year students are given a personal agenda that will be used to keep your child organized throughout the year. The agenda will also be used as a means of parent-teacher communication. It is important that you read your child's agenda daily and check for important information and/or forms that have been sent home. Also, please initial your child's agenda every evening. If you would like to contact me by phone please call the school at (905) 665-2001 and leave me a voicemail. I will be sure to return your call as soon as I possibly can. There are several pages at the front of the agenda outlining school expectations, code of conduct, and safe use of technology. Parents and students are asked to look this over and sign the last page in the section.

School Materials

Please send a pair of indoor shoes to school with your child. These shoes should be clean running shoes that are suitable to wear when they participate in Physical Education. Students will also need to bring appropriate attire for Physical Education this year, which should include a pair of shorts and a t-shirt. Mrs. Loach-Perry will be teaching Physical Education. For classroom materials I strongly suggest that your child has their own personal calculator that can remain in their desk. A simple calculator from the dollar store is all that is needed. Basic school supplies (pencil crayons, pencils, erasers, rulers, scissors, notebooks, etc) are available in the classroom. If your child prefers to have their own school supplies please have them label them to ensure that they do not become mixed up with classroom supplies.

Snacks and Lunch

Here at CMV we are very eco-friendly and take pride in doing everything that we can. We encourage you to send a litterless lunch to school. Students will be expected to take everything that they bring to school with them home again, known as a boomerang lunch. We also encourage healthy snacks and ask that no nut products or snacks containing nut products be sent to school. We have students at the school with life-threatening nut allergies. Students who eat lunch at school are expected to bring signed permission to school each time they plan to leave school property during the lunch hour.

Lates and Absences

It is extremely important that your child is on time for school each and every day. We want minimal disruptions during precious learning time for our students. Please ensure that your child attends school every day. It is understandable that your child will become sick from time to time or have to attend appointments, but to ensure the best possible education for your child their attendance in class is imperative for their success. In the event that your child will be late for school or absent, please notify the school by phone (905-665-2001). If you will be picking your child up early for an appointment, please communicate this in the agenda and go to the office when you arrive. Your child will be paged and will meet you at the office.

Newsletters/School Website

This year all school and class newsletters will be available online. (Hardcopies will not be available unless requested in writing in the student agenda.) The school website is <http://vandanbos.ddsbschools.ca/> (look forward your teacher's name to access the correct web page). Please check on the school website for important information and to see what we have been up to here at CMV!

Parent Volunteers

Anyone interested in volunteering in the school and for class trips this year needs to have a current criminal reference clearance filed in the office. Applications are processed at Durham Police Stations. The police will require a letter from the principal, which you may request from the school office.

September learning

Language

In September we will begin our Daily 5 program. Students will be learning about this program and understand what is expected of them at each center. Each day students select from five authentic reading and writing choices (read to self, read to someone, work on writing, listen to reading, word work) and work toward personalized goals, while the teacher meets individual needs through whole-group and small-group instruction. I will also be conferencing with individual students. Students are actively engaged in the daily 5 program as it allows personal choice. They choose their books, they choose different ways to study and write words and they

often have choice of what they would like to write about. They will learn how to choose good-fit books and build stamina while reading and writing, as well as be self-reflective of their progress. We will review and focus on a variety of reading comprehension strategies and how to use them appropriately before, during, and after reading to understand texts. I will begin using the Benchmark Assessment System in September to assess and assign a reading level to your child based on their comprehension and fluency of the text they read.

How can you help? Encourage your child to participate in reading every night for a minimum of 20 minutes. Your child should read something they are interested in and that is at their level of reading. There are plenty of online resources for e-books that your child can read as well as listen to reading. You may also want to read with your child and ask questions as they/you read. Asking questions helps to check for understanding and helps your child to think about what they are reading.

Math – In September we will be refreshing our memories of what we learned in math last year by playing a few games to get started. These games will be introductory to engage students. I will begin by focusing on number sense and numeration. Students will be reading, representing and comparing, and ordering whole numbers to 10 000. They will also be introduced to decimal numbers to tenths. We will use a number of different manipulatives, technology and strategies during math. The grade 5 students (Sallie) will follow the same guidelines but focus on ordering whole numbers to 100 000 and decimal numbers to hundredths. Assessment will be ongoing and I will be incorporating many performance-based tasks to check for understanding.

How can you help? Build positive attitudes about math, as children who feel positively engaged are more likely to stick with an activity. Encourage your child to take part in every day activities that involve mathematics (making purchases, measuring ingredients, counting, measuring and calculating the area of a room). Encourage your child to talk about math. When you and your child are trying to solve a problem, have your child share his or her thinking aloud and talk about the strategies that he or she used to reach a solution. Play math games at home with your child.

Science and Social Studies

Mr. Sallie will be covering science and social studies. Students will go to his room (213).

Teacher Learning Leadership Program

This year I am a part of a team of teachers that received funding from the Ministry of Education to do some action research. Our project topic is **Asking Good Questions and Caring About the Answers to Build Global Citizens**. I am very excited to bring this project into the classroom. With support from the Durham District School Board and the Ministry of education we were able to purchase Lenovo YOGA Tablets. In our classroom we will have 8 tablets. I am looking forward to sharing my professional development with the students, my colleagues and you throughout the school year.

Monthly VandenBos Excellence Assemblies

Each month, VandenBos staff and student leaders will hold Excellence assemblies, acknowledging and celebrating school and student successes. VandenBos students will work towards specific Snowbird Targets that are developed to encourage positive citizenship, leadership and achievement.

- **Student Success:** Students who put forth outstanding effort in their schoolwork

- **School Leadership:** Students who participate in co-curricular activities and /or demonstrate positive leadership skills in all that they do

- **Snowbird Citizenship:** Students who display valued character traits every day (teamwork, responsibility, respect, perseverance, optimism, kindness, integrity, honesty, empathy, courage)

Leadership Role

The grade 4 students will have the school leadership role of being door monitors during recess.

Important Information

A reminder to send all forms back to school ASAP

- Registration Form

- Student Medical Form (for allergies etcetera, if applicable)

- teacher emergency contact form

Important dates:

Sept. 4 - Meet the Teacher (6-7:30pm) / BBQ 5 – 6 pm

Sept. 5 - Whole School Assembly/Terry Fox, 12:30pm

Sept 15-19 - Safety Week

Sept 19 - Terry Fox Run (pm only)

Sept. 23 - SCC QSP Kickoff Assembly, 8:30am

Sept. 24 - SCC Pizza Lunch

Sept. 30 - Excellence Assembly TEAMWORK by grade 6's, 12:30pm

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me!

J. Appleton

**"Unity is strength...
when there is
teamwork and collaboration,
wonderful things
can be achieved."**

- Mattie J.T. Stepanek