

Welcome Back!

Our names are Kim Hill and Bryan Masson and we are very pleased to be teaching your child throughout their Grade 4 year!

Mrs. Hill will be covering Language Arts, Science, Art, and Music while Mr. Masson will be teaching Math, Social Studies, PE, and Health. We look forward to getting to know every student in our class and anticipate an excellent year. We appreciate your taking the time to review this letter as it contains some important information about our class.

Agendas

Every day, students will write messages and possibly bring home important forms or notices in their agendas. This is a very important tool that will connect home and the school, as well as build responsibility within the students. Please ensure you check and initial your child's agenda each night.

Homework

Typically, the only work that will be sent home as homework will be unfinished work that was not completed in the class time allotted. Research shows that young children benefit more from down time with family, extra-curricular activities and free play, rather than extra school work. However, it is also very important to practice habits such as daily reading at home and basic math facts.

Home Reading

In the back of your child's agenda you will find some important information on the benefits of daily reading. There is a record keeping chart in which you can record how many minutes your child reads each day. You may see books coming home that are part of various reading assignments; parents are encouraged to read with their child and ask about what they are reading.

Volunteers

Throughout the school year, there are a number of field trips, events and classroom activities at the school that require some extra help from parents. It is wonderful to have parents in the building and their extra time and effort are truly appreciated by the staff and students at the school. If you are interested in volunteering throughout the year, please fill out the small slip at the end of this letter and I will put you on an email list to contact when we have special things going on. We are also looking for a classroom parent volunteer representative who would be willing to attend Parent Council meetings and relay any important information. Meetings occur once a month at the school in the evenings.

**Parents need to complete or have an updated vulnerable sector check, which can be done at the local RCMP's office. It is recommended to do this as early as possible, as it can take time for the check to be processed. Please call the office if you are unsure if your vulnerable sector check is up to date as they do have an expiry date.*

Lunch Hour

Jr. Leaders (Gr. 5/6) assist with supervising our classroom during the lunch hour. Our Grade 4's will have the responsibility of being "Milk Movers" and delivering milk across the elementary grades on a rotating schedule. Please do your best to provide your child with a nutritious snacks and a lunch that will provide them with the energy needed to maintain their focus throughout the entire school day. There is significant research on how impactful nutrition can be in helping a student achieve success in their learning.

Headphones

As we will be using various forms of technology throughout the year, please provide a pair of headphones that your child can keep at school in order to help keep our environment noise-friendly. Over-ear headphones tend to work best with cancelling outside noise.

Portfolios

This year, students will be creating online portfolios via MyBlueprint.com. This is an exciting new initiative designed to be student-centred, and will keep track of student progress throughout the year. Students will be able to set goals, complete reflections and journal entries, and add work samples that demonstrate their learning. More information will be coming as to how to access these portfolios as the year progresses.

Please contact us!

If ever you have a question about anything concerning your child at school, your prompt communication is greatly appreciated. Email and phone are the best and most efficient ways to contact us. We try to respond to all emails and phone calls within a 24-hour basis.

Email: kimhill@rockyview.ab.ca

Email: bmasson@rockyview.ab.ca

School Phone: 403-947-3883

It's going to be an amazing year! We look forward to seeing and meeting many of you at the Back to School Barbeque on Sept. 13, 2018!

Best Regards,

Mrs. Hill and Mr. Masson

English Language Arts Grade 4

Goal of English Language Arts

The overall goal of English Language Arts is to provide opportunities for students to develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge that will enable them to explore thoughts and ideas, comprehend and respond to literature presented to them through a variety of media. Students will collaborate to strengthen and enhance the clarity of communication and further develop the skills needed to manage ideas and information to make personal connections to literature. Through examination of fiction and nonfiction reading and writing, grade 4 students will strengthen analytical skills and work to add imagery and fluency to their own written pieces.

Learning Through Competencies

English Language Arts learning opportunities will be designed to help students learn through competencies by:

- placing a greater emphasis on experiential learning both in and outside of the classroom
- considering the interests, talents, passions and natural curiosities of the learner
- making information and skills relevant to real-life situations by incorporating digital technologies purposefully as students design, create and share knowledge
- providing diverse approaches to assess learner competencies

The following are the standards that will be used in PowerSchool to assess student progress in English Language Arts:

- ELA 4.1 - Explores thoughts, ideas, feelings, and experiences
- ELA 4.2 - Comprehends and responds to various types of texts/media
- ELA 4.3 - Manages ideas and information
- ELA 4.4 - Organizes, presents and revises thoughts and opinions to communicate ideas

Overview of English Language Arts 4

Unit	Timeline
Writer's Workshop: UNIT 1 OPINION <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Students learn the value of organization and form as they gather evidence to support and express an opinion on topics they know well	September

<p>Writer's Workshop: UNIT 2 INFORMATIVE WRITING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students tackle research in which they collect evidence and use details to vividly describe a topic. The topic may relate to content from the Grade 4 social studies and/or science curriculum Elements of news articles to accompany unit 	October - November
<p>Poetry and Figurative Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating a poetry environment: Poem of the day, favourite anthologies, presenting chosen poems (choral reading), making interesting words visible (creating a poetry word bank) Practice using literary devices Teach various styles of poetry (Haiku, Cinquain, Acrostic, etc.) 	December
<p>Writer's Workshop: UNIT 3 NARRATIVES (Writing Realistic Fiction)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students learn that the lenses they bring to reading fiction can also be brought to writing fiction, as they develop believable characters with struggles and motivations and rich stories to tell. 	January - March
<p>News Articles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students learn to apply the format of who, what, when, where and why to create news articles using information collected from real-life events 	April - May
<p>Readers' Theatre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will explore and participate in a variety of readings and activities that will build skills in oral reading, public speaking, and collaboration. 	June
<p>Spelling, Vocabulary & Grammar Lessons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words Their Way differentiated spelling program Weekly grammar lessons 	Ongoing (Spelling Bee in Spring)
<p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Novel Studies (approximately 3) Classroom book clubs and short stories 	Ongoing

- Home Reading Program to accompany some of the books being read in class

Math Grade 4
Mr. Masson 2018-19 - Semester 1

Unit	Date	Outcomes
Number Sense: Place Value	September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Represent and describe whole numbers to 10 000, pictorially and symbolically. • Compare and order numbers to 10 000. • Skip counting from a known fact.
Number Sense: Addition/Subtraction	September/ October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate an understanding of addition of numbers with answers to 10 000 and their corresponding subtractions (limited to 3- and 4-digit numerals). • Using doubling or halving and adding or subtracting one more group.
Measurement: Length	October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the difference between centimetres, millimetres, and metres.
Geometry: Polygons	October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe and construct right rectangular and right triangular prisms. • Demonstrate an understanding of congruency, concretely and pictorially.
Patterns and Algebra: Patterns	October/ November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and describe patterns found in tables and charts. • Represent, describe and extend patterns and relationships, using charts and tables, to solve problems.
Number Sense: Multiplication	November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply the properties of 0 and 1 for multiplication and the property of 1 for division. • Describe and apply mental mathematics strategies to determine basic multiplication facts to 9×9 and related division facts. • Demonstrate an understanding of multiplication (2- or 3-digit by 1-digit) to solve problems.
Number Sense: Division	December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply the properties of 0 and 1 for multiplication and the property of 1 for division.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe and apply mental mathematics strategies to determine basic multiplication facts to 9×9 and related division facts. Demonstrate an understanding of division (1-digit divisor and up to 2-digit dividend) to solve problems.
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Social Studies Grade 4
Mr. Masson 2018-19 - Semester 1

Unit	Date	Overview
Alberta: A Sense of the Land	September/ October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will gain general knowledge about where Alberta is located within Canada. Students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how elements of physical geography, climate, geology and paleontology are integral to the landscapes and environment of Alberta.
The Stories, Histories and Peoples of Alberta	November/ December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the role of stories, history and culture in strengthening communities and contributing to identity and a sense of belonging.

Course Outline - Grade 4 Science

Unit	Date	Overview
Waste and Our World	September and October	Students learn about wastes produced through natural processes and human technology. In studying natural systems, students learn that all plants, animals and other living things are made up of materials that are recycled through the environment again and again. In studying human consumption and wastes, students identify wastes produced within their community and learn the methods used for disposal. They learn that some waste materials are biodegradable, that some are reusable, and that others are toxic. They learn that personal action in reducing, reusing and recycling materials can help decrease the waste we accumulate.

Light and Shadows	November and December	Students learn about light by studying the effects of light on things within their environment. They 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.
Wheels and Levers	January and February	Students learn about basic components of simple machines: how they are assembled, how they operate, how they are used. Students explore different techniques that can be used to transfer motion from one component to another, using simple connectors and various levers, gears, pulleys and band driven systems. As they work with these components, they learn the functions that each can perform, including sample applications and ways that they can be used in a larger system. As part of their studies, they examine how these simple machines are used to change the speed or force of movement.
Building Devices and Vehicles that Move	March and April	Students apply simple techniques and tools in building devices and vehicles that move. In constructing these objects, students apply previous learnings about structures and explore new applications for wheels, rollers, gears, pulleys and a variety of levers and connectors. They learn that different forms of energy can be used to propel their model devices: in some cases, a direct push; in other cases, the stored energy from a compressed spring or falling weight. On completing their projects, students learn to evaluate their work, by describing the effectiveness of the device and the appropriateness of materials used.
Plant Growth and Changes	April, May and June	Students learn about the structure and growth of plants by raising plants in the classroom and by observing plant growth within the community. They learn to recognize and describe different forms of leaves, stems, roots and flowers and learn their functions in supporting the growth and reproduction of

		the plant. They learn various ways of starting new plants and the plants' requirements for growth. Through hands-on activities, students learn that different plants have different needs, and they gain skills and attitudes for their care.
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For more information please refer to the Alberta Education website at:

http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildsllearning/grade4_science.html

Math/LA/Science/Social Studies Assessment Structure

Projects and Classwork	80%
Tests and Quizzes	20%
Total	100 %

Volunteer Email List Sign-Up

Student name

Parent name(s)

Parent emails(s)
