

Semester 2 Overview  
Grade 4

## LANGUAGE ARTS

## Reading and Vocabulary

Reading work will be differentiated according to reading levels. Skill level novels will be shared in reading circles where content, meaning, personal responses and the connection of the material to real life experiences will be discussed. Reading for meaning will be emphasized with work on inferring, predicting, and the grasping of the main idea. This will be provided through exercises and activities dealing with main ideas and supporting details, cause and effect, comparing and contrasting, figuring out the meaning of words from context, fact or opinion and theme.

Students will learn to scan, question and summarize research material using headings, pictures, the table of contents, the glossary and index as clues.

Vocabulary work will be a main feature of the program with strategies presented on how to decode the meaning of words. Students will work weekly on vocabulary related to specific topics.

## Spelling

Spelling, this semester, will be differentiated along three different lines. Depending on the skill level of the students, students spelling work will be based on: basic spelling patterns and phonetics, complex spelling patterns and words commonly spelled wrong, and root words and their derivatives.

## Writing

This term we are looking at the writing process in the form of short stories. Students will write a story of their choice. We will take a specific approach to this process. Students will first fill out a story map naming characters, setting and plot. Once the stage is set the student's will write a rough draft followed by a peer conference in which suggestions will be offered. The students will then revise and edit their story, finally making it into a small book to share with others. Sentence construction work and punctuating dialogue will be a part of the revision process. This will be our main project this term but other writing activities will also be included. Some form of writing activity will take place daily.

## Grammar

The parts of speech and their relationship to other words in the sentence will be emphasized along with more complex punctuation of sentences and phrases and clauses.

## MATH

Most Grade 4 students are confident with their math facts and have speedy recall of the times tables to 12. Therefore the focus for Grade 4 is on the introduction of new concepts in the form of specific units of study. This term we begin with a more in-depth look at fractions. This includes finding the common denominator, comparison, addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and reduction to its smallest form. Next we will look at decimals: identifying value, addition through division, comparison and relating it to its fraction form. We will then move on to measurement, working with conversion within the metric system and introduce briefly the English units. From there the students will move on to work with perimeter, area and volume dealing with plane figures and 3- dimensional figures. We will finish up with a unit on geometry and negative numbers. Students will also be required to keep up with practice work reviewing procedures covered last semester and working with story problems. Students in Grade 4 also work with the Mental Arithmetic Workbook aimed at improving problem solving skills and developing mathematical language.

## SCIENCE

Our first term this semester will be devoted to Earth Science. In this unit we will cover processes that change the earth. This will include changes to the Earth's surface, renewable and non-renewable resources, weather and climate, oceans and the solar system. Our last term will be devoted to different forms of energy and a look at the composition of matter and chemical reactions.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

We will meet weekly to look at cycles in nature and the interaction of living things through specific ecosystems. Focus will be on ways we can protect and preserve these ecosystems.

#### GEOGRAPHY

Geography will tie in with our Earth Science Unit in terms of land formations. Students will become more familiar with countries and lifestyles through a round the world trip they are planning. They will create a scrapbook in which they include details of the places they would like to visit. They will research places of interest, language and culture, and general information of the places they have chosen to visit.

#### HISTORY

We will begin with an historical look at the rise of the major religions from both the East and West. We will look at the times and the basic messages and practices of each religion. We will study the stories of the founders of the major religions and be able to compare and contrast each religion with special emphasis on their commonalities.

#### PSHE

We will continue to explore living values such as respect, tolerance, kindness and compassion. We will also spend time on problems that arise with friendships and feelings of being left out. For our final term we will focus on health and hygiene and the things we can do to promote a healthy life style.