

# Grade 4 at Ellis School

## Home-School Connection

Grade 4 is an exciting year for your child! He or she has spent the last several years learning how to read. During this school year your child begins the transition of using reading to learn, and will discover a wide range of books dedicated to specific topics whether history or science or reading about current events.

Socially fourth graders are becoming more independent and more involved with friends. They are talkative and energetic. Teachers use these traits as an opportunity to have students work more collaboratively with larger groups of students (ex: groups of 3 or 4 as opposed to partners). Students should be further along in developing responsibility for individual success – more organized with school work, more independent in completing homework, etc. They are willing to try new things and learn that it is ok to get things wrong. They learn the meaning of practice!

Be sure to keep up those strategies you have developed over time to stay involved in your child's education. Ask your children about their work in different subject areas and talk about it with them rather than asking the more generic "What did you do in school today?" which frequently earns the response, "Nothing!" Your child's teachers are available to answer your questions by email, phone, or through scheduled appointments. Stay in touch!

### **Social Emotional Development**

- Independence – students should put their own homework in their bags
- Dealing with social media – be sure you know what they are doing and set time limits
- Problem solving social-emotional issues – remember that your child is not always right; try to help them develop their own solutions. Adults can't solve everything.
- Organization – they need to keep track of their belongings and know where they put their papers.

### **Language Arts**

By the end of the school year, your child can:

- Read with accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
- Respond to what they have read orally and in writing.
- Read and write in different genres such as stories, drama and poetry
- Write complete paragraphs in information, opinion and narrative pieces
- Conduct a short research project and present the information to an audience.
- Use appropriate grammar in speaking and in writing.

### **Suggestion for home activities in language arts**

- Read with your child. Create a family reading time where everyone reads and shares information. Continue to read aloud together.
- Urge your child to use logical arguments to defend an opinion encouraging research to present facts on the subject.
- Make certain your child sees you reading a variety of media – magazines, newspapers, digital materials.
- Visit the library or bookstores and share your love of books.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be sure to speak clearly and listen carefully to one another as a family without interrupting.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mathematics</b></p> <p>Your child <b>MUST</b> have fluency in their multiplication and division facts in order to be successful in 4<sup>th</sup> grade!</p> <p>By the end of the school year, your child can:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make sense of word problems</li> <li>2. Understand place value</li> <li>3. Understand fractions and decimals</li> <li>4. Add and Subtraction multi-digit numbers</li> <li>5. Solve long division problems</li> <li>6. Use the metric system in measurement</li> <li>7. Measure angles and lines in geometry</li> </ol>	<p><b>Suggestions for home activities in mathematics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask math questions during shopping trips</li> <li>• Play math games with your child. By this grade level, students should be fluent with all of their facts. Flash cards are wonderful tools!</li> <li>• Ask your child to compare numbers using phrases like “times as much.” For example, if your cat weighs 8 pounds and your dog weighs 56 pounds, how many times as much does the dog weigh?</li> <li>• Help your child use fractions when working with a cookie recipe. For example, if you double the recipe which calls for <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> C oil, what is the fractional amount you will need to use? Problems such as this can apply to building projects as well!</li> </ul>
<p><b>Science Topics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How plants and animals relate in a biome</li> <li>• Flow of energy in a biome</li> <li>• Different forms of energy (heat, light, electrical)</li> <li>• Scientific method</li> <li>• Erosion, soil and water</li> </ul>	<p><b>Suggestions for home activities in science</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask questions and discuss how things work</li> <li>• Collect things, classify and sort</li> <li>• Talk about where energy is used in your home.</li> <li>• Visit area centers such as Odiorne Point, Great Bay Estuary, the Lamprey River, the SEE Center and/or Pawtuckaway State Park. Observe water patterns and waves and how water changes the land.</li> <li>• Take a science walk and have children record their observations using all of their senses and using precise language.</li> <li>• Investigate topics of scientific interest on the internet.</li> <li>• Weigh and measure various items around your home.</li> </ul>

## **Social Studies Topics**

- History of NH
- State symbols
- State Government
- Map skills
- Economics of NH

## **Suggestions for home activities in social studies**

- Talk about city, state, county, countries
- Discuss new cities, towns, points of interest, etc. when you are traveling.
- Use google maps to learn about directions, and encourage an interest in geograph
- Select a current event or an article in the newspaper or on the internet and discuss it together.
- Take a “field trip” to some of the historical markers as you drive to different spots in NH.