



Issue #1

Grade 4 News



Sept. 2/03

Welcome....

I'm Jim Strachan and I have the privilege to teach and to learn from the students of Grade 4. This is my first year at Victoria Village and my 15th year teaching in North York. For the past 3 years I have been an Instructional Leader helping students and teachers connect computers with the curriculum. Before entering teaching I worked for four years as a Case Worker for Big Brother's of Kingston and District.

As an educator I believe one of our primary goals is to prepare our students to face an increasingly complex world. The ability to think critically, relate effectively with others and adapt to the changes that will surely mark our future will be crucial to our students' success.

Technology has a huge role to play in developing these skills but it must be embedded into a classroom culture that respects divergent thinking and makes each student feel listened to and valued. By modelling caring, compassion, cooperation and humour I believe we can contribute to the success of all children. It is my daily challenge to live these beliefs.

Become A Part of Our Learning Community

Over the years I have seen first hand the positive impact on student achievement that parent volunteers are able to provide. I extend an open invitation to any parent who would like to share their time in order to enrich our classroom programming.

Possible activities would include:

- Reinforcing the teaching of reading strategies with individuals and small reading groups.
- Providing enrichment and extra help to individuals and small groups in Math.
- Helping students learn Information Technology skills.
- Sharing any specific skills/strengths you possess with small groups of students (eg. Visual Arts).

Please call me, or simply drop by our classroom if you would like more information. Thanks!!

Communicating

It is my goal to keep both students and parents fully informed of the expected learnings in each area of the curriculum and to communicate openly about each student's progress. Below are a few ways we can keep in touch.

•NEWSLETTERS•

This newsletter is the first of many that will come home this year. As part of our Language curriculum, monthly letters, written and edited by the students will be published and sent home. These letters will hopefully keep you informed of important class news and activities.

•DAILY PLANNER•

Every student will receive our school planner in which to record in writing all homework assigned and important classroom events. I encourage you check and sign your child's planner as part of our ongoing communication.

•E-MAIL•

If you have e-mail at work or home you (or your child) can write me at jim.strachan@tel.tdsb.on.ca I check my mail daily and am able to send you copies of review sheets, tests, assignments and evaluations.

•IN PERSON•

Our school Open House is scheduled for September 25th. I'm looking forward to meeting as many parents as possible on that evening. If you'd like to discuss anything of concern or interest prior to Open House please feel free to call me at 397-2930.

I truly believe that by working in partnership we can help all students achieve success.

All the best,

Jim Strachan