

SEPTEMBER 7, 2010

Newsletter

GRADE 4 - MR HANCOCK AND MRS. GOOSEN

HIGHROAD ACADEMY, CHILLIWACK, B.C

Welcome to Gr. 4 at Highroad Academy!

Welcome to another year at Highroad Academy! I am pleased to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to welcome your child to Grade 4. A good learning experience is built on a cooperative effort among parents, child and teacher. I look forward to the work and growth we will all accomplish this year.

My expectations for conduct and academic standards are high. With your participation both in and out of the classroom, we can look forward to a productive, creative and enjoyable year.

This year will be different in many ways not only for you but also for myself.

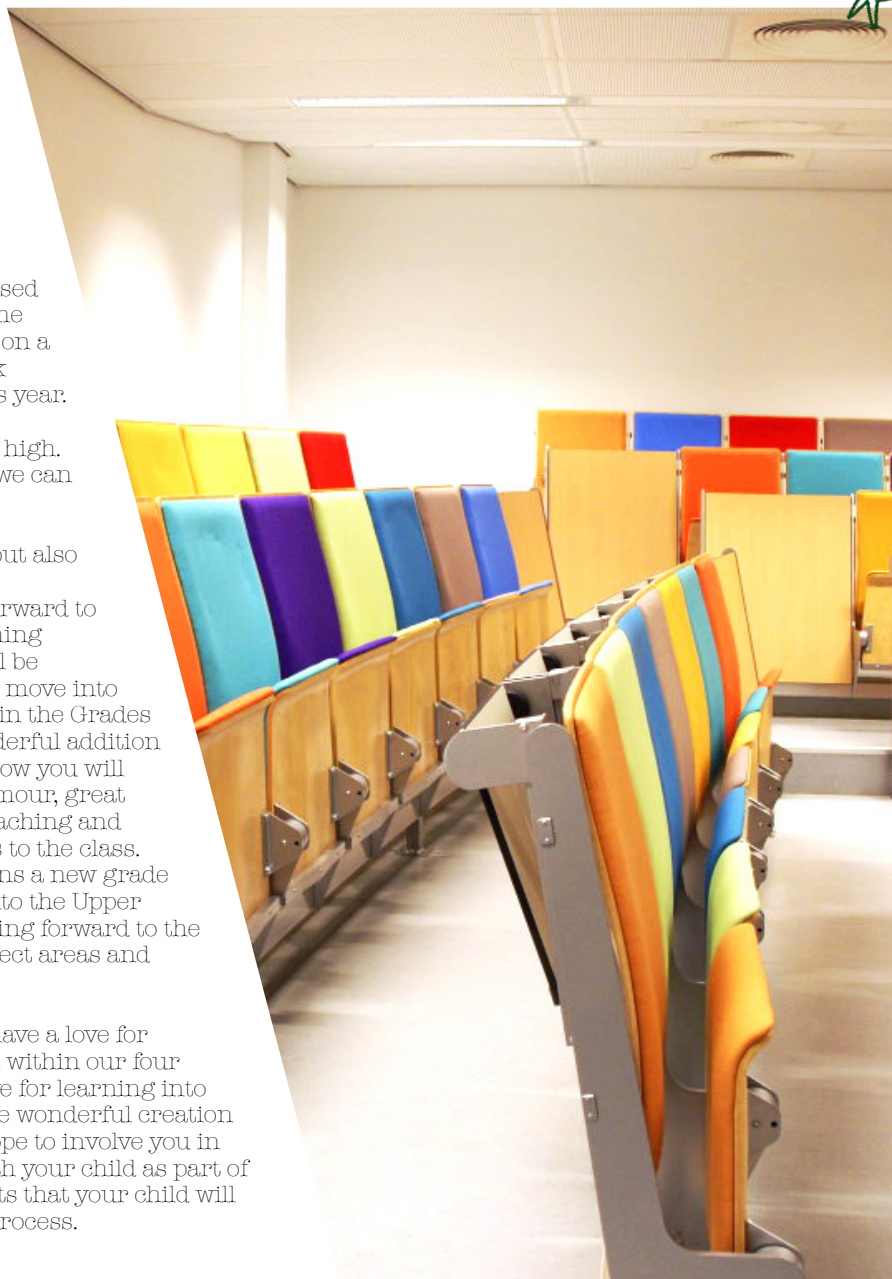
**This year
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many ways!**

First of all, I am looking forward to working with a new teaching partner. Mrs. Goosen will be teaching Thursdays as I move into an administrative role in the Grades 4-6 area. She is a wonderful addition to our school and I know you will enjoy the energy, humour, great ideas and love for teaching and learning she brings to the class. This year also means a new grade for me as I move into the Upper

Elementary area. I am looking forward to the challenge and the opportunity to try my hand at new subject areas and projects.

Mrs. Goosen and I believe firmly that all children should have a love for learning and that learning does not just happen in school within our four walls. Our goal this year is to help your child build that love for learning into everything they do and to develop a sense of wonder at the wonderful creation God has made in His love for us. As part of this, we also hope to involve you in this goal; whether it is through our class blog, reading with your child as part of our Home Reading program or through the family projects that your child will bring home, we want you to be an important part of this process.

Welcome to Grade 4. Let the learning begin!



IMPORTANT!!!

Our blog is an important part of our class and an extremely important tool in helping you be an active, knowledgeable

part of what is going on in our class. Instead of one newsletter at the end of the month, our blog will be constantly updated with resources, links, news items, spelling, calendars and

other vital pieces of information. Please check the blog often for information and ways to help your child continue their journey in learning outside the class! At the end of this

newsletter, there will be a form you can cut out and put on the fridge to help you get to our blog!

**THIS WILL BE
THE ONLY
PAPER
NEWSLETTER
YOU WILL
RECEIVE THIS
YEAR!**

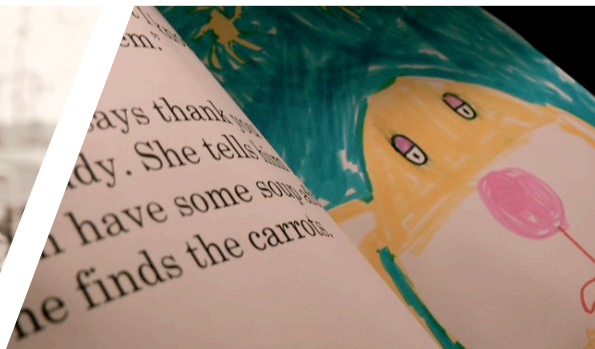
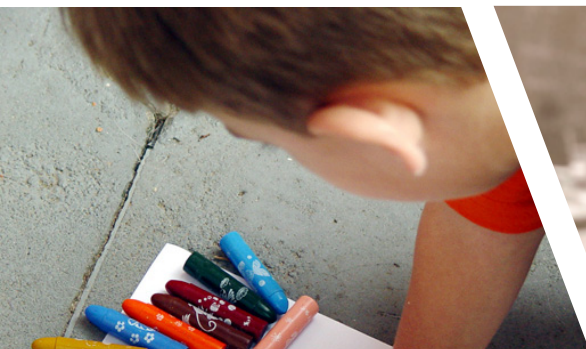


Introducing...

My name is **Pamela Goosen** and I am very excited to be teaching grade four along with Mr. Hancock this year. I thought I'd tell you a bit about myself. I am married and have three beautiful boys. Quinn is four, Colby is three and Riley is 15 months old. My husband Patrick and I have been living here in Chilliwack for the last year and a half. We are both from B.C. but spent eleven years living in the beautiful prairie provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. It was there that I had the privilege of teaching at two great Christian schools. We currently attend Central Community Church here in Chilliwack and love it! In the little spare time I have I enjoy cooking and baking and I also love to run. Patrick and I are currently training to run a half marathon this October...hope all goes well! I look forward to meeting you and working with your child this year!

Mrs. Goosen will be teaching Thursdays as I work on Administrative duties. Highroad Academy is extremely lucky to have her and I am looking forward to teaching with her this year! Please welcome her when you see her!

Looking Ahead At Our Year In Grade 4!



CORE SUBJECTS

Grade Four is a busy year! With Provincial Achievement test scheduled for Mid-Year, students have a lot of work and curriculum to cover. However, Mrs. Goosen and I have a number of fun, interactive, collaborative, exciting and challenging projects planned.

For our Language Arts reading program, we will be focusing on Novel Studies. We will be starting as a class and, as the year moves on, transitioning to more student led reading discussions through the use of Literature Circles. Poetry and spelling will also be major parts of our reading program. For writing, we will be using a mix of the Six Traits program with the Blended Style and Structure model. Both systems are great ways to help students both aspects of writing: style and content. Our Math program continues with the Math-U-See method with this year's focus being Division. As a part of that program, we

will be reviewing multiplication and looking at fractions. Daily Math Problems will also be an important part of Math as problem solving is always a challenging part of learning Math. Science will focus on Weather, Sound and Light and Habitats and Communities.

★ Collaborative
Dynamic
Interactive
Challenging

Mrs. Goosen will be teaching our Grade 4 Social Studies curriculum with several fascinating topics to look forward to. Grade 4 Social Studies topics include: Geography of Canada, Living in Canada, Life in Canada's North and Explorers. Using tools like GPS, Google Earth and maps, students will also have fun learning more about current world

views and the various cultures that make our global society the fascinating and dynamic world it is today.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology will play an important part in our Grade 4 year. However, it is important that it is not the focus of learning. Rather, technology is one of the many tools we use to make sense of our world and as a resource to gather information from. Our focus will be to provide technology can complement our curriculum in a dynamic and interactive way that provides students with a multi-dimensional sense of a topic. Several tools will be used and students will be going to the computer lab at least once a week.



MrHClass Blog - Your Gr. 4 Connection!

As you may or may not be aware, one of the areas of focus in the Elementary and Primary department has been communicating through the use of Blogs. Our class blog will be an important part of our parent/teacher communication. The blog contains lots of interesting articles, links, videos and resources to help bring curriculum alive and into the home where you can share what your child is learning. The blog will provide you with the ability to be connected to your child's day-to-day learning. **It is vital that you have the ability to access our blog on a daily basis! You can visit our blog at:**

<<http://mrhclassblog.edublogs.org/>

Spelling and Weekly Bible Verses

Throughout the year, students will be involved in practicing spelling words and memorizing Bible Verses. Students will be given their spelling words and Bible Verses on Mondays and tested on those words and verses on Fridays.

To help you organize and help your child, spelling words and Bible verses will be placed for the year ahead on the Blog calendar which you can access by going to the class blog and clicking on the "Calendar" link located on the top left. All spelling lists and bible verses will be put on the calendar so you know what to practice with your child. Our class also uses a website called "Spelling City" which allows students to practice spelling words, play games and prepare for their spelling tests. More information on both of these will be given on the blog. **Weekly Spelling Practice will not start until the beginning of October as we review phonograms and handwriting skills.**

Other Important Items

There are so many exciting things happening this year, it is hard to fit them all in this newsletter!

- ☆ **Home Reading Program** - This year, we will be starting a new Home Reading Program which will be based online. This exciting program is brand new but I think the students will absolutely love it! Students will be able to share the books they are reading, get points for reading books and taking quizzes, see what their friends are reading and more!
- ☆ **Parent Help** - Throughout the year, we will be making call outs for help. Typically, we ask for parent assistance on field trips, other types of outings as well as to help prepare/collect things or class projects or other events. If you would like to help in any way, please let myself or Mrs. Goosen know.
- ☆ **Think! Projects** - As part of the Science program in our class, students will be bringing home projects designed to force students to think outside the box and be creative. Creativity is an important part of learning and we want to help students stretch their creative muscles. Collaboration will be key and parents and other family members are encouraged to help. These projects are mandatory and will be part of their Science mark.

Finally . . .

Again, welcome! Please feel free to contact Mrs. Goosen or myself about any questions or concerns you may have. Our classroom door is always open, and messages can be left for us with our school secretary, to which we will respond as soon as possible. **Please take a moment to fill in the question sheet and send it back with your child. This will allow us to get to know your child a bit better.**

Mr. H and Mrs. Goosen



Let's Get Acquainted!

Please fill in the form as completely as possible!

Child's Name _____ Birthdate _____

Parents' Names _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Email: _____

Name of other family members (including pets):

List several of your child's "favorites", such as a favorite food, TV show, book or hobby:

Your child's strengths:

Areas needing improvement:

Educational needs of your child from your perspective:



Does your child like to read? Never Rarely Sometimes Always

How often does your child read independently?

- _____ 0-2 times per week
- _____ 2-4 times per week
- _____ 4-7 times per week
- _____ 7 plus times per week

As we plan projects this year, we are hoping to gather some information to see what tools may be available for your child to use. Please check all that apply:

Computer High-speed Internet GPS Device digital camera

Any other information you would like to provide (please use the back if needed):