

# Welcome to Room 4

Mr. Alexander, Grade 1/2

This year Room 4 will begin with a focus on pride. As Lord Roberts Lions, we divide pride into three categories: **Pride in Self**, **Pride in School**, and **Pride in Community**. Exploring these categories deeply, we will develop a set of classroom expectations and responsibilities to guide interactions and activities throughout the year. My hope is that through highly interactive study and exploration (including large group, small group, guided, and independent learning) these expectations might help students to find their way and engage with their work in effective and meaningful ways. I am so excited to dive into this year with this group of students!

While at school, students are expected to always **be learners, be respectful, be safe, and listen to an adult the very first time**. Students should strive to **always do their best and celebrate mistakes**. We emphasize growth and joy in our learning, and work to develop a positive learner's attitude and growth mindset. If at any time you would like to discuss your child's school experience, you may message me directly on Seesaw or call the school at (204) 453-6639. Please check Seesaw regularly as I will be sending updates through this platform.

We will be working towards several learning outcomes as the year progresses. Below, please find a brief summary of our classroom subjects:

**Language Arts:** Students will develop various skills pertaining to gathering and sharing information (such as reading, writing, speaking, and listening) through:

- stories, poems, and songs
- sharing ideas and perspectives
- engaging in discussions and brainstorming
- group, paired, choral, and independent reading
- themed and open writing
- word and sound study
- targeted phonics workshops

**Mathematics:** Students will engage in problem solving and critical thinking to expand their understanding of numeracy and arithmetical operations, patterns and relations, and shape and space. Formats explored will include hands-on learning, abstract representation, mental strategies, written work, and pictorial representation. Students will regularly be presented with large concept problems featuring several points of entry, and will be challenged to work through them independently, in pairs, and in small groups before sharing ideas and findings with the class. Vertical, non-permanent surfaces will be featured in several small group, problem solving lessons as we develop skills and understandings to support ongoing Thinking Classrooms work.

**Science:** Our science learning will combine hands-on exploration, theoretical understanding of concepts, and observations. We will cover several subjects including living things (needs and characteristics), objects and materials, the senses, and seasons. Students will have the

opportunity to understand the world around them by exploring how and why things are as they are.

**Social Studies:** Students will explore their identities through several lenses, including:

- as individuals
- as members of a community
- as members of a city/province/country
- as members of the world

Assessment will be ongoing, and will include both formal and informal methods. Observations of students engaged in their work will help shape the different ways information is presented and moments where students incorporate their new learning into their conversations and play will be noted. Homework will not be given regularly, though occasionally an activity or piece of a project may be assigned (communication of these special situations will come through Seesaw). Students are encouraged to read and/or be read to daily as an important element of their literacy development..

I am very much looking forward to everything that this year will bring!