A Look at Learning in Grade 4

Among grade level transitions in the elementary school, the jump from Third to Fourth Grade may be the most challenging and exciting. The level of independence and organization is much greater than students experienced in the lower elementary grades. Additionally, Fourth Grade students can begin to see and wrap their minds around big issues, and are often being able to plan big world-changing ideas. However they do not yet quite know how to deal with the pressures of smaller, everyday worries. Fourth Grade is a year in which the children take great strides in recognizing the world around them, and begin defining the part they play on the world stage. It's an exciting year of learning, change, and growth!

The learning experiences in the Fourth Grade include the following areas of focus:

Social Studies

Our social studies is integrated into language arts and science. We study three major areas:

--- Values of ourselves and our classroom community
--- Economics
--- The effect of human activity on Nepal's natural resources

BY THE END OF FOURTH GRADE STUDENTS:

- Make informed and reasoned decisions by seeking and assessing information, asking questions, and evaluating alternate solutions.
- Develop strategies to reach consensus and resolve conflict.
- Evaluate what makes a good rule or law.
- Select a local issue and develop a group action plan to inform school and/or community members about the issue.
- Identify actions that are unfair or discriminatory and propose solutions to address such actions.
- Make effective decisions as consumers, producers, savers, investors, and citizens, and accurately balance a bankbook.
- Explain the relationship between consumption and the availability of natural resources.
- Describe how the interaction of all buyers and sellers influences prices.
- Identify the risks and potential returns to entrepreneurship, as well as the skills necessary to engage in it.

Reading

Fourth Grade Language Arts is Literature based. That is, all reading, writing, speaking and listening activities are based on grade-level appropriate Fourth Grade literature. Through independent reading, interactive reading, shared reading, writing about their reading, and reading discussions, students will practice higher level processing of a text such as inference, interpreting symbolism, and making connections.