



August 16, 2019

Dear Fourth Grade Families,

I am so excited to welcome your child to the fourth grade classroom this year. For many children, this is an exciting new year filled with many new expectations of experiences to come. The location of the classroom is downstairs this year for the first time. The children will now have recess in the back yard with the fifth through eighth grade students. The fifth grade is the neighboring classroom in our wing of the building, and many of the children in these two classes will become closer as we will have Eurythmy and Games classes together twice a week this year.

Besides the physical location change of the classroom, the change in the children, moving from age nine to ten, is strikingly observable as we enter the fourth grade. The curriculum is built to meet the child as they further separate from the world around them. Their inner separation will be met by the stories of the Norse Myths. These stories are filled with incredible characters, and themes of truthfulness, trickery, selfishness, and freedom will prevail. To balance their outer separation from the world around them, the study of animals and local geography brings forth a reverence to nature in their immediate surroundings.

New expectations in responsibility will increase this year with weekly homework assignments. Most fourth grade students look forward to the responsibility of homework, and assignments will be given on Monday and due Thursday each week.

The first full week of school, September 9-13, is the Farm Trip at Hawthorne Valley School. This trip provides an opportunity for students to engage with the earth and each other in a new way. Daily farm chores bring a rhythm to their lives that is more close to nature than most modern families' rhythms. The social interactions at the farm are also a new way for the children to engage and appreciate each other. We will have a few new students joining the class, so they will have the opportunity to get to know each other well. During the day, all activities and meals are lead by amazing teachers that are part of the Farm Program. In the evening, Jeremy Stoepker, Peter's father, and I will lead evening activities on the farm campus and then supervise bedtime rituals. Please reach out if you have any questions after looking through the enclosed Farm Packet.

Please put the following dates on your calendar:

- Saturday, September 7, at 5:30pm, Fourth Grade Class Picnic. All parents, children, and siblings are invited to share a dish and mingle at location tbd. This is a great opportunity to reconnect after a long summer and meet new families.
- Thursday, September 19, at 6:30pm, Back-to-School Night. After hearing from new director, Sue Das, parents will all go to their child's classroom for the first Class Night of the school year.

I wish everyone an enjoyable end-of-summer!

Looking forward to seeing you soon,  
Ms. Ludvigsen