Thank You’s! - The first few weeks of school have flown by so quickly! The Paradise Meadows hike was a great chance for us to get to know each other and it was such a beautiful day up there! Thanks so much to those parents who were able to safely get us to and from the mountain and help supervise! Also, we are grateful for the contributions donated for our Tour de Rock campaign as well as the Terry Fox Run.

Planners - Excellent work with the planners, students and parents©! Most students have their planners back each day and are efficiently using it as an organizational tool to remember homework assignments and other important events. We are using the planner to write our spelling words in each Monday (Tues. as an alternate). We will also use the planner to record Home Reading. I have asked students to write down the name of the book they were reading, number of pages or chapters read using the calendar pages and have a parent initial. For each day of Home Reading, students get a ticket and their name into a monthly prize draw.

Language Arts - Our Language Arts program at present is focused on short creative writing pieces, i.e. lists, literature responses, our ‘Mushy Mountain Poem’ and short essays. We are also reading a variety of non-fiction selections that accompany our ‘Animal Habitat’ science theme.

Math - We are in the middle of our first unit, Numeration and Place Value (includes addition, subtraction, number facts, reading and understanding larger numbers). Having a good grasp of number facts is crucial in being successful in many other areas of Math. A couple times per week we will participate in fact drills as well as a variety of other number fact games. You can support your son/daughter by providing activities at home that encourage him/her to become more familiar with addition and multiplication facts.

Socials - We will soon be working on a unit on early European settlers and their reasons for settling in BC communities and we’ll be examining the first families that chose the Comox Valley as their home. Students will also participate in a variety of mapping projects.

Science – ‘Healthy Habitats’, a unit on Earth’s biomes and ecosystems is our first Science unit. The boys and girls made biome models on Friday and we will be looking at a variety of difference eco-systems from freshwater to ocean to alpine to temperate rainforest.

Courtenay Library/Courtenay Museum trip - Tuesday, October 2nd, we will take the bus to the Courtenay Library to meet with wolf advocate, Gary Allan from Sointula whom will have his wolf, Tundra, along with him. This visit is in conjunction with our science unit on animal habitats and Mr. Allan will be speaking about the role of wolves in our ecosystems. Following our library stop we will head to the Courtenay Museum where the boys and girls will have lunch and tour the museum via scavenger hunt. The students need to bring an ‘easy’ nutritious lunch and water for this trip and dress in layered clothing and comfy shoes. We will leave in the morning at 9:20 am and depart for our return to school at 1:30 from the bus stop on Cliffe and 4th and be back to
school at 2:00 pm. Mrs. Biollo and Mrs. Collins will both be along. **Students need $3.00 for bus fare** (two loonies and four quarters, please.)

**Puntledge Hatchery trip** - We will be studying Pacific Salmon throughout the school year as well as raising salmon in our room (Coho . . the eggs come in January). We will take a trip to the Puntledge Hatchery on Wednesday, October 10th to kick off a year of learning about salmon. Our tour is at 9:30 and we will depart at 9:00 am and return for 11:30 am. The consent form is attached; please sign and return a.s.a.p. and if you are able to drive please indicate on the reverse. It is likely to be cool outside so please ensure your son/daughter is dressed warm with rain gear, boots and a hat. Also, please remember that students are dismissed early on this day at 11:45 am.

**Student Teacher** - We have a student teacher coming to our class from Vancouver Island University. Mr. Nick Breault from Nanaimo is in his fourth year and will start his observations next Monday. He will be here for various weeks in the school year, working to be teaching almost full time by the middle of May.

**Head Checks** - As it does every year, lice is showing up in the school. Please take the time to occasionally check your child’s head for nits and/or lice.

**P.E. Running Shoes** - Quite a few students are wearing footwear that does not work for P.E. classes. Students need to have non-marking running shoes at school for P.E. classes. They don’t have to be new, just clean and with a proper fit.

**Art Portfolios** – I still have a few students who haven’t sent $3.00 for a Hilroy scrapbook (already purchased) to be used for our Art Portfolio this year. If you have done so, disregard this message thank you. If you haven’t, I have starred beside this note and please send it as soon as possible, thank you.

A few dates to remember are:
- October 4th - Individual Photo Day
- October 8th - Thanksgiving Day (no school)
- October 10th - Trip to Puntledge Hatchery
- October 10th - Early Dismissal Day, 11:45 am
- October 19th - Professional Development Day - no school for students
- October 31st - “Black and Orange Day” (info about Halloween activities will come out later)

Thanks very much for all the support this fall! Please email or stop in if you have any questions etc. pam.twin@sd71.bc.ca  

**Please note that for the remainder of the year, class newsletters will be emailed home and be available on the blog ourforest.edublogs.org.**

Pam Twin, Division 5- Grade 3/4 Teacher