The main goal of our program is to help newcomers feel comfortable with their peers and environment. We work on students' oral skills through games, role-playing, projects, and dramatization. Children also develop reading and writing skills, emphasizing correct pronunciation and intonation. We have both beginner and intermediate/advanced classes.

After much research, CNG has embraced Columbia University’s esteemed Teachers College Reading and Writing Project to provide a solid foundation in literacy for all our students.

In Reading, students are exposed to a variety of genres. Within the framework of balanced literacy, daily instruction builds each individual student’s literacy repertoire to develop stamina and fluency in engaging ways. Students are encouraged to read with volume and share their understandings through diverse means.

In Writing, instruction focuses on developing student independence and craft. Students write extensively on a daily basis experimenting with narrative, expository, and informative genres. Teacher-student conferences and small group instruction enhance students’ progress. Students are actively engaged in a systematic process which includes collecting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing their writing for multiple audiences.

Young Voices is our one-of-a-kind ES literary magazine, a unique forum that we have created for students to publish the work that they do in their classrooms. We want students to live and publish as real writers and illustrators! For our CNG community, it is the perfect ‘excuse’ to celebrate our children’s creativity and motivation to write. Stay tuned for two issues this year!

This pamphlet briefly highlights the key concepts, skills and themes that will be taught to students in fourth grade this year. We hope it will help you anticipate, support and celebrate your child’s learning experience.

SPANISH AS A NATIVE LANGUAGE

Durante este año se continuará en el desarrollo de las siguientes habilidades: leer, escribir, hablar y escuchar utilizando el programa de Lecto-escritura Balanceada y los contenidos de Sociales de Colombia. Los niños trabajarán diferentes clases de lectura como: oral, independiente, guiada y compartida, de textos informativos y de literatura universal. Al escribir se aplicarán las “seis estrategias” y el programa de escritura de Lucy Calkins, teniendo en cuenta la estructura del lenguaje y las normas de ortografía. De igual manera se desarrollarán las habilidades de expresión oral y la actitud para escuchar y seguir instrucciones. Todos estos procesos se integrarán a los contenidos del programa de Sociales de Colombia diseñado para la Escuela Elemental:

- Colombia y su relieve.
- Vertientes hidrográficas.
- Regiones naturales.
- Poblamiento de América, teorías y rutinas.

SPANISH AS A NEW LANGUAGE (SNL)

The main goal of our program is to help newcomers feel comfortable with their peers and environment. We work on students’ oral skills through games, role-playing, projects, and dramatization. Children also develop reading and writing skills, emphasizing correct pronunciation and intonation. We have both beginner and intermediate/advanced classes.

Students whose proficiency in English is lower than CNG’s expectations receive support inside the classroom or one-on-one depending on their individual needs. The ESL Specialist designs and executes teaching strategies that support second language development – with the ultimate goal of student’s success in the mainstream classroom.

Enrichment through Multi Media

This year ES will continue to offer an innovative program designed to enrich our students’ literacy development through multi-media projects and multi-sensory learning. We’ll be promoting individual, group, and teacher reflections on learning through video, audio, and textual documentation. Get ready for monthly video-casts!

Math

We are thrilled to be using the Math Expressions program, and have aligned the curriculum with Common Core State Standards. The key content areas in 4th grade Math include the following:

Operations and Algebraic Thinking
- Use the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems.

Numbers and Operations in Base Ten
- Generalize place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers.
- Use place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic.
Music
Fourth grade students learn a varied repertoire of songs and rhythms. They learn to improvise melodies, variations and accompaniments. Also, they also expand their sheet reading skills and dive into research projects about famous musicians.

Visual Arts
Teachers integrate the weekly art class where they are exposed to the world of art, artists, techniques and materials. Geometric and organic shapes, self portraits, sculpture, pop art, and painting are amongst media explored.

Physical Education
We explore basic and advanced movement forms, adventure learning, body awareness, rhythmic activities and motor skills throughout the year. Key units include gymnastics, volleyball, basketball, jump rope, floor hockey, climbing and team challenges.

Library
In addition to literacy-rich classroom learning, during weekly Library class, 4th graders are exposed to quality children’s literature from around the world and learn specific research and library skills. Students also self select books to read and enjoy at home each week and they are highly motivated by our AR program.

SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES
By the end of Elementary School, our Science and Social Studies programs endeavor to develop students who are curious, capable, critical, global, and proactive thinkers. We are especially excited about our new Foss Science Kits which provide wonderful hands-on units about Ideas and Inventions, Structures of Life, and Water Planet. In Social Studies our students will be immersed in studies and projects about the Ancient Civilizations of Egypt, Greece, and Rome.

‘SPECIALS’ IN FOURTH GRADE

Music
Fourth grade students learn a varied repertoire of songs and rhythms. They learn to improvise melodies, variations and accompaniments. Also, they also expand their sheet reading skills and dive into research projects about famous musicians.

Visual Arts
Teachers integrate the weekly art class where they are exposed to the world of art, artists, techniques and materials. Geometric and organic shapes, self portraits, sculpture, pop art, and painting are amongst media explored.

Physical Education
We explore basic and advanced movement forms, adventure learning, body awareness, rhythmic activities and motor skills throughout the year. Key units include gymnastics, volleyball, basketball, jump rope, floor hockey, climbing and team challenges.

Library
In addition to literacy-rich classroom learning, during weekly Library class, 4th graders are exposed to quality children’s literature from around the world and learn specific research and library skills. Students also self select books to read and enjoy at home each week and they are highly motivated by our AR program.

Numbers and Operations – Fractions
- Extend understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering.
- Build fractions from unit fractions by applying and extending previous understandings of operations on whole numbers.
- Understand decimal notation for fractions, and compare decimal fractions.

Computers
Technology is used as a tool for enhancing learning and teaching specific skills including problem solving, communication and decision making. 4th graders visit the ES Computer Lab once weekly where typing abilities, research skills, MS Word, PowerPoint, SharePoint and Brain Pop are explored. Students apply learning through projects.

4th graders journey to Cachipay and the beautiful coffee farm at Mesitas de Santa Inés. They develop outdoor skills and learn about coffee and banana farming, and fishing, along with a little about the history of the region. It’s a fabulous two-day, one night trip.

Homework
We believe in homework that fosters responsibility and inspires learning. In 4th grade, parents should assume the role of “coach.” Teachers will provide about 40 minutes of homework, Monday through Thursday. Including reading.

Character Education Life Skills
Our CNG Vision and Purpose is to educate the mind, strengthen the body and develop character for leadership and service in the world of today and tomorrow. Every day in multiple ways we work to instill in our students the values of integrity, respect, high expectations and community welfare, alongside initiative, optimism, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Teachers, counselors and principal are deliberate about modeling, reinforcing and honoring these dispositions. In addition, we teach and report on the following areas we call ‘Life Skills’:

- Use of Time / Shows Responsibility
- Cooperation / Contributes Positively
- Organization
- Self Control

Parent Involvement
You are our valued partners in educating your child. We welcome your involvement in our school. Please watch for opportunities to participate at school events and ways to support your child’s learning at home.

Welcome to the Elementary School!
We are a dynamic and caring community committed to inspiring and celebrating excellence. We work to engage our students through a well rounded curriculum, research-based and innovative teaching methods, a variety of media, and supportive relationships between teachers, students and parents.

Our program is advanced by a dedicated and highly qualified staff comprised of homeroom, specials, Spanish teachers, Math and Literacy Coaches, as well as professionals in the areas of ESL, Learning Support and Counseling.

We are delighted that you are a part of our Exceptional Elementary Family. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead and thank you in advance for all that you will do to support your child’s learning experience with us.

Enthusiastically yours,
Julie Hunt
PXB: 212.3511 Ext. 163
Tel: 359.9336
jhunt@cng.edu
Elementary School Principal

You are our valued partners in educating your child. We welcome your involvement in our school. Please watch for opportunities to participate at school events and ways to support your child’s learning at home.

Homework
We believe in homework that fosters responsibility and inspires and reinforces learning. In 4th grade, parents should assume the role of “coach.” Teachers will provide about 40 minutes of homework, Monday through Thursday. Including reading.

Character Education Life Skills
Our CNG Vision and Purpose is to educate the mind, strengthen the body and develop character for leadership and service in the world of today and tomorrow. Every day in multiple ways we work to instill in our students the values of integrity, respect, high expectations and community welfare, alongside initiative, optimism, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. Teachers, counselors and principal are deliberate about modeling, reinforcing and honoring these dispositions. In addition, we teach and report on the following areas we call ‘Life Skills’:

- Use of Time / Shows Responsibility
- Cooperation / Contributes Positively
- Organization
- Self Control

Parent Involvement
You are our valued partners in educating your child. We welcome your involvement in our school. Please watch for opportunities to participate at school events and ways to support your child’s learning at home.

Welcome to the Elementary School!
We are a dynamic and caring community committed to inspiring and celebrating excellence. We work to engage our students through a well rounded curriculum, research-based and innovative teaching methods, a variety of media, and supportive relationships between teachers, students and parents.

Our program is advanced by a dedicated and highly qualified staff comprised of homeroom, specials, Spanish teachers, Math and Literacy Coaches, as well as professionals in the areas of ESL, Learning Support and Counseling.

We are delighted that you are a part of our Exceptional Elementary Family. We look forward to a wonderful year ahead and thank you in advance for all that you will do to support your child’s learning experience with us.

Enthusiastically yours,
Julie Hunt
PXB: 212.3511 Ext. 163
Tel: 359.9336
jhunt@cng.edu
Elementary School Principal