

September 9, 2010



Dear Parents,

I'd like to welcome you and your child to Grade Three! The students have shown a great deal of enthusiasm for this school year. I am looking forward to working along side your child! This year students will work towards becoming more responsible and self sufficient in their studies. This will help to build on a strong academic foundation and will help them to pursue a love of learning. Our classroom goal is to create a learning environment where all students feel safe and eager to learn and share their knowledge.

This is a brief overview of what students will be studying throughout this school year. Each month a newsletter will be sent that will highlight the accomplishments, thematic work upcoming events of our grade three classroom.

Religion:

The students will be working on the theme, "Be the Good News", continuing to learn the parts of the mass as well as the program, "I am a Gift from God".

Writing:

The Grade 3 students will be working to develop sentence structure and paragraph writing skills which will help them to progress into story writing. Students will also be learning about different forms of poetry. There will be continuous work on spelling and grammar which will help to strengthen their overall writing ability.

Reading:

Reading is a very big part of grade 3. Students are always encouraged to read more at home and at school in order to improve their comprehension and fluency. A formal Home Reading program will begin shortly, although students should continue to read nightly in order to get into a routine. Students should be doing home reading seven nights a week. Each child will be asked to take home and read a book or two every night, depending on the length. They are asked to record the book title they read along with any new or challenging words. The books students select are leveled and your child will begin at a level that is appropriate for them. If books are too challenging or too easy, please let me know.

Spelling:

Students will be receiving spelling words to study each week. They will be given a weekly spelling test based on these words. It is recommended that students review their spelling words each night.

Math:

Students will be working on place value and recalling addition and subtraction facts from 1-18. They will be learning two digit and three digit addition and subtraction with and without regrouping. In the new year, students will be introduced to the multiplication facts 0-8 as well as the concept of division. Throughout the year we will be developing word problem solving strategies.

Art:

Students will be learning about a variety of materials, techniques and processes used in art making. They will work to develop their personal artistic skills and focus on the overall presentation of their work.

Socials:

Students will be learning about the history of British Columbia. They will study the different provinces, territories and communities that make up Canada, as well as, compare and contrast different cultures.

Science:

Students will start the year off learning about space, they will focus on learning about the planets and progress on to the constellations. We will move on to physical science in which they will discover how structures are built and the kinds of materials used. We will also be completing a life science unit on plants and seeds.

French:

The grade 3 French curriculum is focused on learning greetings, numbers and seasonal themes.

*A couple reminders...***Planners**

Students are responsible for recording their homework in their planners at school. I will be initialing their planners before they go home. Please sign your child's planner **every night** after they have completed their work. Also, feel free to write any notes or comments in their agenda as I will be reviewing them daily.

Supplies

It is extremely important that your child has all the necessary supplies. If you purchased supplies for your children please make sure they have a sufficient supply of notebooks and appropriate colours for their duo tangs. This makes it easier to keep track of students work. I would greatly appreciate their supplies to be by Monday September 13th, at the very latest. I will store each child's extra supplies in the labeled Ziplock bag that you provide, this way your child will have access to more pencils, erasers, etc. when necessary.

Money

I will be collecting money from the students for various events throughout the year. The students are asked to bring money only in envelopes with their name, grade and event written on the front. This will really help minimize the time it takes to collect notices and money.

Scholastic Book Orders: When ordering books from Scholastic please send the correct amount under the **B.C. prices** column. Please make cheques payable to **Scholastic Canada Ltd.**

Gym Strip

All students need to have a full gym strip, including white socks. They are to make sure all of their belonging are labeled. In the event items are misplaced it is much easier to return them to the child they belong to.

Behaviour

The grade 3 students have created a classroom contract in which they have established rules and guidelines they believe to be important. Your child is expected to be respectful and responsible in school, if any behaviour issues occur I will communicate them to you personally through a note or phone call. Please sign any messages that I send home.

Lunches

Please make sure that your child brings a healthy lunch to school. So much of their energy level is impacted by what they eat. Your child is also encouraged to bring a water bottle to school everyday, they can leave this on their desk. They are encouraged to **only** drink water, milk and juice at school. We do have several children with severe allergies, please do not send to school any food products that may contain nuts.

Rainy Day Fun

If you have any old games, jigsaws or puzzles that you would like to donate to our Grade 3 Rainy Day Box, would be greatly appreciated. We are also very happy to accept any old books or cushions to help build our reading corner.

Thank you in advance for all your support. I truly look forward to working with your child and having the opportunity to get to know all of you. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me before or after school. I am looking forward to a fun and successful year with your children.

Respectfully,

Miss Nikki Van den Bos

