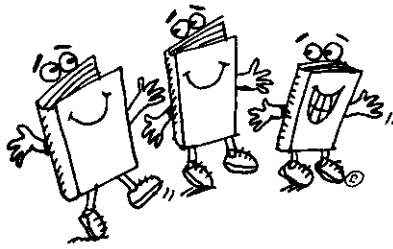


September 2012



To the Parents/Guardians of Division 7,

During the past couple of weeks of school, we have been enjoying working with your children and getting to know them better. The students are also learning more about each other as they settle into the classroom and the daily routines. They are a cooperative and interesting group of individuals, and we are looking forward to our educational journey with them this year.

As you already know, your child will have two homeroom teachers this year. Mrs. Mann teaches the class on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday while Mrs. Bennett teaches on Thursday in addition to her music classes. In order for the year to run smoothly, please review the following information. While we have discussed these expectations in class, it is helpful if you go through them again with your child.

The School Day

The school day begins at 8:55 am and ends at 3:00 pm. Please ensure that your child arrives promptly at school so that he/she does not miss any pertinent announcements or beginning activities. Students, who do arrive late, must go to the office and 'sign in', letting the office staff know that they are present. Students enter and leave the classroom through the back door leading to the field and may not use the hallway door without permission. Should your child be absent from school, please telephone the school secretary at 604-664-8645. **For the health and safety of all of the children in our class, please do not send your child to school if he/she is feeling ill.**

Homework

In the coming weeks, students will be receiving approximately 40-50 minutes of homework per night. Twenty minutes of that time should be dedicated to reading either alone or with someone. The remainder of the time should be spent on assigned tasks. From time to time, the amount of homework will vary depending on projects and test preparation as well as the rate at which your child works. Having a designated and quiet area where he/she will feel comfortable and can concentrate on his/her assignments is advisable. In class, we will discuss the importance of scheduling and planning a time for homework completion during the week so that students know and expect the daily routine.

We will be checking student planners at the end of each day to ensure that students have written out their homework assignments and will initial the page. (Homework assignments will also be posted on our class website once it is up and running.) At home, when your child has completed his/her homework, please initial the page as well. We will be keeping track of assignments turned in and will notify you should your child have difficulty completing homework on a regular basis.

Daily Physical Activity

Students will continue participating in Daily Physical Activity in addition to their regular P.E. periods. Our formal P.E. periods take place on Tuesday and Friday and are taught by Mr. Heighton. Please ensure that your child brings his/her P.E. strip to school when needed. Gym strip consists of a pair of shorts, t-shirt and running shoes, all labeled please. We will remind the students to take their strip home every week to have it washed.

Physical Health

In addition to daily physical activity, we feel it is extremely important for students to be well rested and ready for the school day. Students learn best when they go to sleep at a reasonable hour and have a nutritious breakfast before coming to school.

Lunch

Our classroom is not equipped with a microwave, and therefore, students are not able to heat their lunch. If you wish your child to have a warm lunch, please pack it in a thermos. We recommend that healthy snacks and lunches be brought to school and that water be the choice of drink. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle which is easily accessible in the classroom. Soda pop and sugary drinks are not advised. **Also, please be aware that there are students with severe life-threatening allergies to peanuts and nuts in our school and classroom. Please avoid sending snacks and lunches that contain any peanut or nut products.** We have also advised the children against sharing their lunches and snacks to prevent any allergic reactions. Thank you for your support in keeping our school safe for all students.

Library

Our weekly library book exchange will begin this Tuesday. Students are permitted to borrow two books each week provided that they return previous selections. Please remind your child to pack their library books every Tuesday, although books can be returned on any other school day as well.

Scholastic Book Orders

Each month, Scholastic book orders will go home for your perusal. While there is absolutely no obligation to purchase books, Scholastic does offer some good deals on popular titles. Should you decide to place an order, please return the form with a **cheque only** made payable to **Scholastic Canada**. Books generally arrive three weeks after the due date.

Communication

Through the student planner or telephone, we will contact you should we have any concerns about your child. Likewise, the student planner can also be used to inform us of any other relevant information such as early pick-up for your child. (We do check the planners each morning to ensure homework completion and for notes from parents.) If you prefer, you may also send separate notes or leave a message for us at the office or via email.

In addition, we will be introducing a class website on which parents/guardians and students will be able to access information about what is going on in our classroom. This website will hopefully provide a bridge between school and home and promote discussion with your child about his/her learning at school. A couple of the pages on our site are password protected and require an email address. During parent/teacher interviews next week, we will be collecting email address from students who have them or from their parents/guardians.

Craft Supplies

We have planned several exciting art and craft projects this year including holiday crafts and Mother/Father's Day gifts. All of these projects will be taken home by the students as we complete them. To support these activities, we are requesting \$10.00 from each student towards the purchase of various materials. Please send this amount in a labeled envelope or sealed plastic bag as soon as possible. Thank you!

Parent Volunteers

Through the year, there may be opportunities for you to help out in the classroom and on field trips. Please look for future notices requesting parent volunteers from us and the school. We greatly appreciate any time and help that you can offer us!

Once again, we are looking forward to sharing this year with your child and partnering with you to make this a successful and memorable year for your son/daughter. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, consideration and support in your child's education.

Sincerely,

L. Bennett and M. Mann