

Tuesday September 6, 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year. I enjoyed meeting many of you at the open house on Friday. I look forward to getting to know your child and spending a great grade one year together.

During the first few weeks of school, we will be "reading" a lot of rhymes, songs, poems and stories about colours and numbers. Your child will be bringing home many of their own little books. The purpose of making the books is to encourage the children to behave like "readers". They become aware of what it is like to be an author and engage in many of the skills that a new reader would. These skills include:

- Turning the pages
- Reading from left to right
- Tracking individual words by pointing to them
- Using picture clues to help guess what a word might say
- Using contextual clues (the meaning on the page)
- Recognize familiar words
- Relating the story to previous experiences

While it is true that your child may be reciting the story from memory, he/she is, at the same time, engaged in many valuable learning processes. If possible, please try to set aside a special place for your child's books and a special time to share their enthusiasm when they show off their reading to you.

Grade One Routines

There are many new things that your child is adjusting to and becoming familiar with in this new learning environment. An important skill that I stress is independence and giving the children the strategies to learn to do tasks on their own and, when they are unsure, to ask questions. Tasks such as bringing their mail to the teacher, getting their mail at the end of the day, taking responsibility for their agendas, getting their backpacks and outdoor clothing organized are all very important skills for the child in Grade One.

Snack

We will have some time set aside in the morning for a snack. Please send only one item for snack time, and let your child know what you wish him/her to eat for snack and what should be for lunch.

Agendas

Your child will be bringing home an agenda each day. Please read and sign this daily. I will check the agendas each morning. Feel free to jot notes in the agenda at any time. I will be doing the same.

Physical Education

We have scheduled physical activity time every day. It is important for your child to be dressed appropriately for these classes. Running shoes with no-scuff soles and pants or shorts are the best for Phys. Ed. Classes.

Library

Our Library block is on **Wednesday**. Children are not able to choose new books until the previous ones are returned. Please set aside some time each week to read these books with your

child. A library book bag has been provided ON LOAN to your child. Please ensure that books are carried back and forth in this bag.

Scholastic Book Club

Each month, Scholastic Book Club forms will be sent home with the children. If you are interested in ordering books for your child, please return the form with a cheque payable to Scholastic by the date on the form.

Book Buddies

In a few weeks, we will be starting the Sight Word and Home Reading Programs. The children will be allowed to borrow a book to read each night toward a goal of 100 books. A letter will accompany this duo-tang containing more information at the time. A home reading book bag will be provided ON LOAN to your child. Please ensure that books are carried back and forth in this bag.

Personal Items

Please make sure all of your child's belongings are clearly and permanently marked. This prevents many unhappy situations and clears up problems easier. Another common problem in Grade One is a large number of colds. We would appreciate every child bringing one box of Kleenex and a package of wet wipes, if possible. I have provided the first of these.

In addition, please note that you are not required to purchase any classroom supplies for your child as they are provided by the school (the school fee covers the cost of supplies).

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time. This is going to be such an exciting year in *Grade One!*

Yours truly,

Miss Trish Brown ☺
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