

SEPTEMBER 2018



Welcome to *Grade One*! I would like to take this opportunity to let you know how pleased I am to have your child in my class this year. Our primary goal this year is to promote growth and development in the spiritual, intellectual, physical, artistic and social/emotional areas. It is my hope that each student will try their best in all aspects of school life and that each family will be of support in this goal. I look forward to working with you and your child!

For the months of September and October, we will be having a guest Teacher Candidate from UBC in our classroom. Her name is Ms. Valerie Sin and she is very excited to be joining our St. Pats community for a couple of months. She will send home a letter to you to introduce herself and give you a few more details. Stay tuned! If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Anna Lancaster
annakclarke@gmail.com

Routines

A major focus for September is establishing new routines. Please ensure that your child is responsible for his/her belongings and actively participates in packing and unpacking their school bag at home. This will help them develop a bit of independence! In Grade One, the students are expected to line up outside (by the playground) in the morning and wait for the teacher to come and pick them up (unless it is raining, in which case, they will go to the music room.) At the end of the day, parents are asked to wait outside by the playground. It is important that the students learn to pack up on their own at the end of the day. They will come outside shortly after the 3:00 bell rings!

Healthy Eating & Allergies

I encourage all students to bring nutritious lunches to school! A balanced meal that includes fruits and vegetables helps small kids grow big and strong. Please do not include nuts or any kind of nut butter in your child's lunch because we have children in the school that are severely allergic.

Water Bottles

Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school, which can be left on their desk throughout the day. Research suggests that frequent intakes of water help children's attention spans, concentration and behaviour.

Physical Education

Grade 1 will have P.E on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The children are asked to **WEAR THEIR P.E STRIP TO SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAYS ONLY**. Their P.E time on Tuesdays and Thursdays will be after lunch, so they will be able to change into their P.E strip at school. Any changes to this schedule will be written in their homework planner.

P.E. Strip

The students need to have a full P.E. strip, including white socks, in order to take part in P.E. Please make sure **all items are labeled** including socks. This really reduces the amount of lost and found items within the class. The students are required to have a proper P.E. bag to hold their uniform. This should also be labeled. Please have your child practice changing out of their uniform by themselves so that they are able to do it independently at school. This is a big help!

Lost and Found

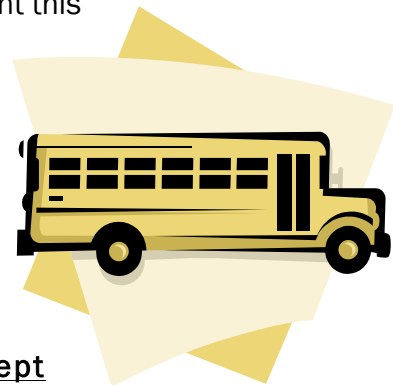
Any items found within the classroom will be placed in our classroom "Lost and Found." If something remains in there for a long time and no one claims it, it will be moved to the lost and found area beside the office. Please check these two places for any misplaced items. Should your child accidentally bring home another child's property, please return it to school the next day. The best way to prevent this is to label **everything** including water bottles, lunch containers, sweatshirts, coats etc. Children are asked to leave all toys at home as items can easily get lost or damaged. They will be given the opportunity to bring a special toy into school when it is their turn for Show and Tell or on other special occasions.

Supplies

This year students are required to order their own supplies. Any supplies that your child still needs should be brought in as soon as possible, including a box of tissues. Everything should be labeled (**except the pencils!**) We share the pencils communally and I hand them out as needed.

Student Planners

The students will write in their student planners daily. Grade 1's are expected to read daily as well as practice their spelling words each week. Please sign your child's planner **every night** and feel free to write any comments/messages to me in the planner. I will sign this planner every day as well as write any comments to you, if necessary.



Homework folders

Please bring in a labeled homework folder for your child. Students will bring home various notices, permission slips, homework and home reading record sheets in this folder. **It is important to check the folder (and the student planner) every night.** Thank you! **Note: If their homework folder from Kindergarten is still in good condition, there is no need to buy a new one!

Money

We will be collecting money from the students for a variety of events throughout the year (field trips, Halloween Carnival, Jeans Day etc). The students are asked to bring money only in envelopes with their name, grade and event written clearly on the front. This is very helpful. Thank you.

Scholastic Orders

Children will be given the opportunity to purchase books from Scholastic throughout the year. Please ensure you look at B.C. prices and send orders **BY CHEQUE ONLY.** (No cash..) The other option is placing your order directly online. Thank you!

Fieldtrips

Grade 1 will be taking part in a few fieldtrips and outings this year. Parents are invited and your help is always appreciated. Stay tuned!

Student of the Week

Each week, we will have a "Student of the Week"! If it is your child's turn, a notice will be sent home the previous week explaining what this entails. Part of this responsibility means completing an "All About Me" project, which must be brought to school on the Monday of their special week. All the pieces of the project should be cut out, coloured and displayed on a large piece of paper or a poster board. They will share this project with the class. They will also have a chance to bring in something special for Show and Tell that week.

What we're working on...

Religion

Our theme this year is "What Do You Want of Me, Lord?" Children in Grade One will learn that God created them, each unique and special, in their own way. We will talk about the importance of loving each other and making good choices.

Homework

In Grade One, students can be expected to have the following things for homework:



1. Reading - Students will read one book (of their reading level) every night. They will be assigned a color within the first month of school, and will bring home a book from that color bin. As their reading progresses, their colors (levels) will change.
2. Spelling - Students will receive their spelling words every Monday. They will have to practice their words at home each night that week. We will have our spelling tests every Friday.

Math

A huge part of the grade 1 mathematics curriculum is to develop number sense. This month, students will practice number recognition, counting and printing numbers. We will do activities that promote thinking of numbers in many different ways, and work on knowing what comes before and after a number. We will work on building our number sense for **numbers 1 - 20** to start.

Theme Work

Students will have the opportunity to share things about themselves and their families. We will begin a new inquiry unit on Home and School Communities this month.