

September 2018
Welcome to Grade 3!
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September 6th 2018

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child back to school. I hope you had an enjoyable and restful summer break. I can tell the students are just as excited as am I to begin this school year. Before things start to get busy, I would like to go over a few items so that the classroom routines will run smoothly and efficiently all year long.

School Bags

Please ensure that your child has a good sized school bag. They will need to take textbooks, folders, library books and agendas home for homework, as well as their lunch and gym gear. Students are not allowed to carry the books out of the classroom in their hands; books must be in their bags when they leave school. This will really help to decrease the number of lost items, ruined books, folders and projects.

Gym Gear

The students will need to have a full gym strip (including white socks) in order to go to P.E.. It is extremely important that each piece of your child's uniform and gym gear, including socks have a clear label on them. Items of clothing such as socks, gym shirts, shorts etc will be put in the lost and found box should they have no label on them. Having all items labeled allows me to return expensive uniform pieces. The students must also label their gym bag to reduce the loss of items.

The students will have PE on *Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays*.

The students are to wear their gym gear to school on *Tuesdays* as they have PE first thing in the morning. Please remind them to bring their school uniform to change into after PE class.

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 help minimise the time it takes to collect notices and money.

Homework and Homework Planners

The students will be writing their homework in their planners everyday. They will be initialed and checked by myself or a T.A. The planner will play an important part in keeping your child organised throughout the year and, in addition, it will keep you informed as to what your child must complete for homework. The students will be assigned homework almost everyday and will also be taking home any work that he/she should have completed during class time. This will help your child to keep up with the class and not fall behind.

Regular homework assignments should not take more than 35/40 minutes to complete. If your child is having difficulty completing their homework, it is important that you inform me by either writing a note or calling me at the school. Most of the homework assignments will be a continuation or review of an

activity or concept covered in class. If your child continually gets frustrated over a certain assignment, it is important that I know so that we can give them the extra support they need to understand the concept. All homework planners **MUST** be initialed daily by a parent.

Supplies

The students will keep their extra supplies (which have been labeled at home) here at school. The students must all have a pencil box/case to keep pencils, erasers and the correct notebooks and folders (duotangs) etc. In order to complete some activities at home, the students will need scissors, a ruler and a glue stick. Thank you for your help in organising these supplies!

Lunches

The students are asked to bring a healthy lunch from home. What a student eats at recess and lunch really affects their energy levels and behaviour throughout the day. We will be learning about a balanced diet, healthy eating and the Food Pyramid in class over the coming weeks. I encourage you to talk about these topics with your child at home, as they help you to prepare their lunch each day/as you do your weekly shop in the supermarket.

We are also trying to cut down on the amount of rubbish/garbage in the school, thus, each student should have a proper lunch bag and sandwich or food container. The students are not allowed to drink pop. Water is the only permitted drink for students to have throughout the day. Please note that Saint Patrick's is completely nut free. There are many students with severe allergies. This means peanut butter, Nutella and any other bars containing nuts are not permitted at school for safety reasons. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

The Redesigned BC Curriculum

The students have been introduced to the new BC curriculum last year in Grade 2, when this curriculum was in its 'phasing in' process. This year, the new curriculum will be fully implemented throughout the school. You will notice some differences in the redesign, most specifically, a focus on three 'Core Competencies': *(1) Communication, (2) Thinking and (3) Personal and Social competencies*. These competencies are a set of intellectual, personal and socio-emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in deep and lifelong learning. The students will be introduced to the language specific to each competency and encouraged to use these terminologies to describe their learning. Their attention will be drawn to their own progress and learning through self-assessment. I will be sending home more information regarding the new curriculum and how it will look in the classroom and be reflected at home throughout the course of the year.

I am a Gift from God

Grade 3 will be engaging in the 'I am a Gift from God' programme shortly after Christmas. This programme is designed to help children to develop the understanding that the human body, as a gift from God, is to be respected. There will be a meeting dedicated to this programme for parents closer to the time we will be beginning it in class and informed consent is needed on that evening from parents. Parental involvement at home, as with all curricular areas, is integral to the implementation of this programme.

I look forward to working with you all this coming year!

Respectfully,
Miss Kinsella.