



# Welcome to Grade One

## LETTERS

I would like to invite you to write or email me a letter this week telling me about your child. Please think about things that might be important for me to know as well as your hopes and expectations for the coming year. Would you please also include instructions for dismissal and any allergies or special conditions that I may need to be aware of. I look forward to reading your letters!!!

## CALENDARS

A calendar will be sent home each month to keep you updated on events and special occasions. Please post this calendar somewhere in your house where you and your child can view it each morning. Let me know if you need two calendars if your child splits his/her time between two households.

## AGENDAS

Every Monday we will write in the events for the week. Ask your child each night to show you his/her agenda. There is a clear pocket in the front of each agenda for notes and handouts. I check the agenda each morning so feel free to write me notes in it--**let's use the agenda as our means of communication.** These will be sent home immediately. I will write in your child's agenda once a week to keep you posted on what's going on in our classroom.

## ARRIVAL

Children will line up at the Primary doors (beside the basketball courts) at the time of the morning bell. Students are not to be in the hallways prior to the first bell.

## DISMISSAL

Students will be dismissed out the Primary doors at 3:15. Please wait for your child outside these doors.

**The Primary teachers are asking all parents to wait outside the Primary doors for their children to alleviate congestion and confusion in the Primary hallways at dismissal time.** We thank you for your attention to this matter.

### **WORD WALL WORDS**

In the agenda, there is a section for words of the week. In this section your child will print in 5 words each Monday for his/her test on Friday. This will start sometime in October. I will send home a note that will further explain our word wall program before we begin in October.

### **INDOOR SHOES/CHANGE OF CLOTHES**

Please send a pair of indoor shoes to school as soon as possible. We need them for gym as well as to keep our circle carpet clean. Please send in a dollar store plastic basket to store these items. Email me for the dimensions if you did not receive an orange note at the end of the year. Please send a complete change of clothes for your child-- just in case an accident of any kind occurs. Thanks.

### **SHOW AND TELL**

Each child is provided with a “show and tell” day. Please check the September calendar to find out when your child’s day is. The “show and tell” item must fit into your child’s backpack. Special items larger than your child’s backpack must be approved by me first. Your child should bring 3 “clues” to his/her special item.

### **Sight Words**

I will send home a list of sight words that each student should be able to read fluently by the end of Grade One. When I am testing your child on these words they must be read fluently without hesitation or sounding out. Please practice these words with you child on a weekly basis. You may wish to make these words into a game --for example BINGO or GO FISH. Be creative and have fun. Thank you for your support.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

A schedule for classroom volunteers will come home in mid-October. Please let me know then if you would like to volunteer as a classroom helper. This allows me ample time for me to get to know my students and for them to be accustom to the rules of the classroom.

### **BALANCED SCHOOL DAY**

We have 2 Nutrition breaks, 10:30-10:50 and 12:50-1:10. Please provide your child with ample food and drinks for these two breaks. The Milk program will begin later this month.

## **READING**

Tips for creating good readers:

### **1. Read aloud with and to your child every day**

Experts recommend 30 minutes a day

Pick books that are too long or difficult for your child to read on his own

Choose genres that your child prefers.

### **2. Create a print rich home environment**

Include both books (and books on tape) and writing materials

Include newspapers and child-oriented versions of popular

### **3. Explore books together**

Ask your child questions.

Point out new vocabulary and ideas.

Explore the characters motivations and relate them to your family's life

### **4. Tell stories together**

Talk together about your family history, tape your story telling

Look at old vacation photos and discuss your memories of the trip

### **5. Write with your child**

Provide lots of writing materials and papers

Encourage your child to draw and write on her own

## **INTERESTING WEBSITES**

[www.readingrockets.org](http://www.readingrockets.org)

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

*Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. If email is an easy way to get in touch feel free to use mine [jennigirl72@hotmail.com](mailto:jennigirl72@hotmail.com). I look forward to getting to know you and your child over the coming year!!*