

Welcome To Grade One at St. Joseph School!

(Miss Powell's survival guide)

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year! I am very excited to be given the opportunity to work with you and your child this year! We are already getting acquainted with our routines and we are hard at work in Grade One.

Nut Aware

When sending lunches and snacks, please send foods that do not contain nuts. Due to a large number of students with allergies, St. Joseph staff and students try their best to assist in keeping our school safe for everyone.

Parent Volunteers

Parent volunteers are always welcome and appreciated! If you would like to volunteer in the classroom, please come see me, call the school or send me an email at SPowell@ecsrd.ca. Please remember that all school volunteers must complete a Criminal Record Check with the RCMP. I often have an assortment of jobs needing assistance. I would appreciate if you let me know ahead of time if you are planning to join us so that I have the appropriate materials ready for you. If you would like to help out from home that would be great as well, for example, I would love to have a helper to organize scholastic flyers that arrive monthly.

Drop - off/Pick - up

In light of recent events in the community, the staff at St. Joseph school would like to do everything possible to ensure your child's safety. Our teachers will be on supervision duty outside at 8:25am daily. If your child arrives at school earlier than this, we ask that he or she wait in the office area. Students are not to

come to their lockers to drop off back packs as there will not be supervision in the hallways at this time. When 8:25 arrives, students must then go outside until the bell rings at 8:40am. We are asking that, when picking up your child at the end of the day, please have them meet you in the office area. If you need to come to the classroom at any time to see me, please sign in at the front office or have them page me. Your cooperation ensures that we are doing everything we can to help keep our school community safe for our children.

Agendas

Agendas are a great communication tool between school and home. Your child will write in the agenda daily. The message could be about an upcoming event or it could have a link to the activities we are doing in the classroom. Also, if I need to relay important information to you I will usually write a note and place it in the front pocket of the agenda.

I am switching up my routine a little this year, I usually have the students get started on agendas right away and this is when I check for notes from you. This year, we will be writing in our agenda at the end of the day. If you have important messages that need to get to me at the beginning of the day, please write them on a separate piece of paper and instruct your child to place it in the "important notes" basket on my desk as he or she enters the classroom.

Home Reading

Did you know it takes 40 minutes of daily reading to continuously develop and maintain the neurological connections in the human brain that are responsible for knowledge and learning?

Your child will bring home a new home reading book daily. With each 15 minutes of reading time, your child will colour one fish on his or her home reading record sheet. When all ten fish are coloured, initial the sheet and send it back to school. The sheet will be exchanged for a jewel or a coin which will go in your child's treasure chest. At the end of the school year we will find out how much time our whole class has spent on reading at home by. Last year the student with the highest total read for approximately 2500 minutes!!! I wonder that the record will be this year?!

If your child is forgetting to change the home reading book, please feel free to leave a reminder note for me so that I can help remind him or her to switch it up. At the beginning of the year I assist the students with this task and as they become familiar with the system they become responsible for switching the books.

Book Orders

Periodically, I will be sending home book orders from Scholastic Book Club. Many parents use book orders as a reward for achievement or good behaviour at school and at home.

Classroom Parties

During the year we like to celebrate many special occasions and holidays with special activities and treats. Food is always a great contribution! This might include juice and cups, cookies, veggies and dip, cheese and crackers, chips, fruit, or whatever else you and your child may wish to contribute.

I have assigned holidays for each student to bring in a snack. By sharing the responsibility, all of the children will feel that they have contributed and hopefully parents will not feel obligated to provide something for every occasion! You are welcome to send a snack if it is not your turn, but once is fine.

<u>Halloween</u>	<u>Christmas</u>	<u>Valentine's Day</u>	<u>Year End</u>
Catalina	Saige	Jasmine	Camryn
Sierra	Nathan	Keelan	Jacob M
Brooklyn	Ryan	Sheldon	Jayna
Demi	Nicholas	Landyn	Paris

Jacob W

I will send a reminder note when it is your turn. If you are unable to contribute a snack please let me know so that I can make accommodations!

Some Other Housekeeping

Students will be taught Physical Education by Gwen Guimond. They have physical education four days a week.

Students will be taught music by Grace Robertson. They have music twice a week.

Students will have time in the library on Tuesday. Please ensure library books are returned on time! If books become lost our librarian may require a replacement fee.

All students are given a locker at the beginning of the school year. Each student has ample room to store personal items. Please ensure your child has everything they need. A change of clothes, labelled and stored in a plastic bag is always a great idea and please remember to keep a pair of indoor shoes at school.

Our class wants to stay healthy! Sending your child to school sick affects the entire class. There are no school staff designated to indoor supervision at recess. All children will need to go outside. If you are concerned about your child being outside while they are sick, they likely need more recovery time at home.

Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter about our class. If you have any questions or concerns, please call me at the school, send an email to SPowell@ecsr.ca or stop by the classroom! I look forward to a great year together!

Yours in Grade One!

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