



2014 - 2015
Grade 2
Room 8
Mme Kristen Schmidt

September 2014

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Hello, and welcome to the 2014 - 2015 school year! I am looking forward to entering a learning partnership with you and your child. I am optimistic this will be a successful and fun year. I recognize the importance of maintaining open communication between the home and school. Therefore, if you would like to contact me please feel free to do so by e-mail at kschmidt2@sjsd.net. I will respond as soon as I am able. You may also wish to fill out a small note and leave it in your child's agenda. Another great way to maintain this communication is through your volunteering. At the end of this package you will find a Parent / Guardian Volunteer Form which you may wish to fill out at your leisure and send back in your child's agenda.

I have attached a copy of our timetable, as well as the divisional calendar so that you are aware of when your child has classes such as gym (to pack the appropriate clothing). The divisional calendar will help remind you of when there are early dismissals (every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month), in-service days, etc.

The following guide will explore the subject outlines and evaluations, agendas, lunches, home reading, scholastic book orders, discipline in the classroom, birthday parties, class parties, and parent volunteering.

It is an absolute pleasure to meet you and your child!

Sincerely,

Mme Kristen Schmidt

Subject Outline and Evaluation

The following is a brief overview of the outcomes and units your child will be exploring in Grade 2:

English Language Arts (ELA)

There are five general learning outcomes that serve as the foundation for the ELA curriculum. They are:

- 1) Explore thoughts, ideas, feelings and experiences
- 2) Comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, literary and media texts
- 3) Manage ideas and information
- 4) Enhance the artistry and clarity of communication
- 5) Celebrate and build community

Each outcome will be achieved through a variety of listening, reading, speaking, viewing, writing and representing experiences. Your child will be reading and writing on a daily basis. We will be following what is called the “Daily 5” which consists of reading to self, reading to a friend, listening to someone read, writing, and working with words (spelling/word study). While students circulate through each station, I will be meeting with them either individually or in small groups to do “Guided reading”. During this time I will be assisting students with their reading to develop their accuracy, fluency, rate and comprehension skills.

English spelling words will be sent home at the beginning of every week, as we will have a weekly spelling test every Friday (or the last day of the week). The words will be sent home in your child’s agenda. Please help your child practice the weekly spelling words at home.

Français (French Language Arts - FLA)

Your child will be involved in a variety of reading, listening, writing, and speaking activities and experiences while developing a positive attitude in French. We will also be doing the Daily 5 in French (Les 5 au quotidien) which will consist of the same activities as in English but with some slight differences. For example, your child will be studying spelling test words of high frequency words in French during this time, so these spelling words will not be sent home for home study (as the English words will be).

Mathématiques (Mathematics)

Your child will be evaluated both formally and informally on their understanding and application of knowledge of the following four strands:

- 1) Number (Develop number sense)
- 2) Patterns and Relations (Use patterns to describe the world and solve problems)
- 3) Shape and Space (Use direct or indirect measurement to solve problems)
- 4) Statistics and Probability (Collect, display, and analyze data to solve problems)

Throughout the course of the year, your child will be involved in a variety of learning activities and experiences to help them grasp each concept that is taught. I may occasionally send home extra work for students who need extra help.

Sciences de la nature (Science)

Your child will be evaluated both formally and informally on their understanding and application of knowledge of the following four units:

Position and Motion
Growth and Changes in Animals
Properties of Solids, Liquids, and Gases
Air and Water in the Environment

I will be teaching the abovementioned units in the order they appear. Your child will also be evaluated on their understanding and application of the scientific inquiry process, as well as the design process and problem solving.

Sciences humaines (Social Studies)

Your child will be evaluated both formally and informally on their understanding and application of knowledge of the concepts taught, how they are able to manage and organize ideas and information, and on their personal growth over the year. We will be exploring the following four units:

Active Democratic Citizenship
Our Local Community
Communities in Canada
The Canadian Community

Hygiène (Health)

Your child will be evaluated both formally and informally on class discussions, their ability to interpret information, written work and hands-on activities. There are 6 units in health that we will be studying this year. They are:

Social and Emotional Well-Being
Dental Hygiene
Nutrition

Physical Well-Being
Safety
Environment and Health

Les agendas (Agendas)

As you know, your child will have an agenda in Grade 2. The daily use of the agenda is a great way to build your child's organizational skills and responsibility! It will be sent home each day with information such as for example: spelling words, websites to explore at home, and homework. Please sign the agenda everyday it is sent home. You are also more than welcome to jot down any questions, concerns, or other pertinent information such as an upcoming appointment (please do this on the right hand side by the spelling words). The plastic pocket on the inside of the cover can be used for any information that needs to be sent home and/or returned to the school (such as permission forms).

Lunches, Snacks (and valuables from home)

Please remember we are a **nut-free school**. I kindly ask that nuts and nut-related products are not packed in your child's lunch or snack.

We will break for snacks around recess daily (5 minutes in the morning and 5 minutes in the afternoon). In order to encourage and emphasize healthy lifestyles, I ask that you pack a healthy snack for your child that can be eaten within the 5 minutes allotted.

As you know, sometimes personal items become lost or stolen at school. In efforts of being proactive, I request that personal items such as toys, games etc. be left at home so they remain safe. If I notice your child bring a personal item to school without you knowing, I will inform you.

I understand that on Fridays the daycare participants are allowed to bring a toy or game. This is fine, as long as it is kept in the students backpack during the day.

English Home Reading Program

The purpose of the home reading program is to promote fluency and comprehension while encouraging a love of reading.

Schedule

Around the end of September, your child will begin to bring home books to read in English. Every Monday and Friday, your child will choose two new books to read at home which they will put in their home reading bags (books taken home Monday will be returned on Friday, and books taken home Friday will be returned on Monday). In the case of an in-service day on a Monday, students will return books and sign out new books on the Tuesday, and in the case of an in-service day on a Friday, students will return books and sign out new books on a Thursday.

The books they choose will be sent home in the “home reading” bag, and they will be accompanied by a reading log, which students and parents are to fill out after each time they read a book. Also included in the home reading bag will be a strategy to be used to help your child while reading. For example, “use the pictures” means looking at the images of a page and discussing what you see before you read the text. Your child may choose a book that is too difficult for them to read. If this occurs, please read the book to your child or help them read it so they do not become discouraged.

French Home Reading Program

Your child will also be bringing home books to read in French, following the above mentioned schedule for the English Home Reading Program. These books will be books we will have already read in class, so that your child can feel confident reading in French at home, and do so accurately. The French book(s) sent home will also be accompanied by a reading log which students are to fill out after each time they read a book, and it is to be signed off by you once they have completed the tasks. We will begin a little slower with this program; I anticipate starting in October.

Scholastic Book Orders

Every month, your child will be bringing home book orders in French and English. This is a fantastic way to help encourage and develop your child’s interest in reading! Please make note of the following when ordering books:

- Cash is not accepted, **cheque only**
- There will be a time frame of a week for ordering
- In the case that the book you ordered is out of stock, Scholastic will either send the book you ordered or another in its place.

To avoid delays, especially around the holidays, please get orders in as soon as possible. Thank you so much in advance for your understanding and cooperation!

Discipline System in the Classroom and Class Rules

One of our most important themes this year will be building a positive classroom community through learning about, understanding and showing respect for ourselves, each other and our environment. In the beginning of the year, the class will create a

social contract to determine what kind of people we want to be, how we want to treat each other, and what our quality classroom will look like. We will create a belief system, and from that we will create rules to follow. I have a list of rules I would like students to follow, which I will add to the list if they are missing. They are:

In Room 8...

we hang up our belongings

we walk

we use indoor voices

we allow one person to talk at a time

we use our hands for working and helping

we tidy-up our work spaces

we are kind to others and ourselves

we work together

we do our best work

If a rule is broken and/or the behaviour of a student is inappropriate, I will be using the restitution to help him or her get back on track. In this situation, I will be creating conditions for the student to fix his or her mistake and return to the group strengthened. When appropriate, I will guide the student to self-reflect and create a plan to improve.

In a situation where a student is violent or aggressive, I will manage the situation appropriately and the parent(s) / guardian(s) will be informed.

I would like to reiterate that our focus is going to be on building community and working together. I am open to hearing your thoughts and will take any suggestions you may have into consideration. I am also open to working with you on a behaviour plan for your child if necessary.

Les anniversaires - Birthday Parties

We will be acknowledging and celebrating all birthdays in class. If the birthday lands on a school day, we will celebrate that day. If it lands on the weekend or over the holiday, I will choose a time before the weekend/holiday. To celebrate birthdays that occur in July and August, I will choose a day in June for the class to celebrate (this will be communicated to you). Our celebrations will usually occur in the afternoons. Please feel free to provide a snack for the class (cupcakes, cookies, etc.) that is **free of nuts and/or nut-related products**. This year, we have 18 students in our class.

I recognize it is difficult to invite all classmates to birthday parties that occur outside of school. Furthermore, not getting invited can be very disappointing for some students. For this reason, I request that you do not send birthday party invitations to school with your child. Please distribute them outside of the school. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Les fêtes - Class Parties

This year, our class will have 5 exciting parties! They will be the following:

October - Halloween party

December - Holiday / Christmas party

February - St. Valentine's Day party

March - Holiday / Easter party

June - End of the Year party

It would be lovely if each student could bring at least one of the following food items to one of the parties:

-Juice

-Fruit tray

-Veggie tray

-Sweet snack

Again, in order to encourage and emphasize healthy lifestyles, there will only to be one sweet snack at each party. Please remember, **no nut or nut-related products.** If you are interested in organizing food and drinks for one or more of the parties, please indicate your interest on the parent volunteer form!

Class website and blog

I have created a class website that has a blog attached to it. The purpose of this website is to extend learning into the home and to celebrate class achievements and success. I will be posting documents such as pictures, videos and voice recordings of the students once I receive your permission to do so. I have also already begun to post links to websites and videos for your child to view and interact with at home for extra practice and fun! This is a great way to keep your child engaged in the course curricula at home and interact with it at their own pace. To access the class website/blog, enter the url address below into your browser:

www.grade2room8.weebly.com

**Parent/Guardian Volunteer Form
Grade 2, Room 8
2014 - 2015**

Name(s): _____

Dear Parent(s) / Guardian(s),

We have begun an exciting new school year! This is an exciting time for me as I am getting to know my new students! I would love to give you the opportunity to volunteer in the class and in the school. If you are interested in volunteering, please fill out this form and return it to me at your earliest convenience. I will require a couple of days to prepare for your visit.

Part 1 - When are you available to volunteer? Please indicate the time(s) on the day(s) you are available:

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Part 2 - What are you interested in doing? Please check:

- ___ To help with photocopying and other paper related duties
- ___ To be invited on a field trip and help supervise a group of students
- ___ To help make posters, organize bulletin boards, etc.
- ___ To help with a classroom art activity
- ___ To do a presentation related to the Grade 2 curriculum
- ___ To help organize classroom parties
- ___ Other : _____

Thanks again for your interest in your child's grade 2 year, and for your support. I will be in contact with you over the course of the year. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me via e-mail, or send/write a note in your child's agenda.



Mme. Schmidt

