

SEPTEMBER CURRICULUM PREVIEW

Mrs. Chaudhary and Ms. da Silva

Welcome back to school! We hope everyone had an enjoyable summer and is ready to work hard. The purpose of this curriculum preview is to outline the expectations in our classrooms for this year, as well as previewing what students will be learning this month. We look forward to discussing our plans for the year further with you at our **Curriculum Night on Thursday September 26th at 7:00pm.**

Expectations:

- Students are expected to demonstrate appropriate and respectful behaviour at all times.
- Students are expected to complete all work on time and be prepared for class.
- Incomplete class work and assignments must be finished as homework.
- Indoor shoes are to be worn in the classroom and the gym.
- **Agendas are to be taken home each day and returned with a parent signature.**

School absences:

Students are responsible for catching up on work they miss while they are away. If students miss a test, they will write the test on the day they return. Other arrangements can be made if students are away for a long time. Students are encouraged to see their teacher for help when needed.

Agendas:

Each day we will take a few minutes to review the night's homework. Students will record all homework from the Homework Board into their agendas. **The agenda needs to be signed by a parent/guardian each night.** Parents are also encouraged to write the teacher a quick note in the agenda if you have any questions or concerns. We may also communicate to you through the agenda if needed. **Education is a partnership between the student, the school and parents. By working together to encourage good work habits, your child's success at school will improve!** Thank you for your support.

Moodle:

The Moodle is a secure website that no one outside of our class can access so the responses, images, and feedback posted there are secure and private. We will be using the Moodle in class and sometimes the students' homework will include activities on the Moodle. As well, any assigned homework will be posted daily on the Moodle.

Our class Moodle can be accessed at <http://moodle2.yrdsb.ca/login/index.php>

Work on the Moodle includes:

- academic discussions on a topic generated in class
- reading responses
- journaling / blogging

- providing feedback to peers ("stars and stairs")
- resource sharing (e.g. websites, appropriate videos for learning)
- accessing texts and documents posted by the teacher, including viewing videos that the teacher has deemed appropriate for educational purposes

Earbuds:

We use technology to support learning in a variety of ways. This includes viewing videos for content and for media analysis, and listening to texts as a means of modelled reading. However, students working on other tasks sometimes find the sound of the videos or read alouds distracting. Therefore, we are asking each student to bring in his/her own pair of earbud headphones. These will be stored in individual baggies labelled with each student's name in order to ensure proper hygiene.

Independent Reading:

Students will be given regular blocks of time for independent reading. This provides them with the opportunity to practise the skills learned in class, and cultivate a love of reading. All chosen reading material must be appropriate for school and students are expected to have their reading material with them at school every day. They may either bring material from the public library or they may choose their material at school. Students will be learning how to choose reading material according to their interests and ability, and will be provided with regular opportunities to visit the school library for book exchange.

Reading at Home:

Students should be reading at home for 30 minutes each day and recording their reading in their Reading Log. To promote fluency and lifelong reading, students are encouraged to continue reading the same book at home and at school until it is finished. They do not have to always read novels! Quality magazines, the newspaper, non-fiction, poetry, short stories and even picture books for older children are fabulous!

Boomerang Lunches:

In an effort to help our students be responsible stewards of our environmental resources, please reinforce with your child how to correctly use the Green bin, Blue (recycling) bin and garbage. We are encouraging students to bring home any part of their lunch waste that they are not sure about so that you can help them correctly sort their waste.

My Child in a Million Words or Less:

We believe that parents are the experts on their children and we would love to tap into your expertise as we try to get to know our students. Please complete the attached "My Child in a Million Words or Less" and tell us anything (and/or everything!) you want us to know about your son or daughter.

Here is a glance at what we will be working on this month:

Language:

- Mini-lessons on making good book choices, thinking and talking about reading, genres, etc.
- Oral reading strategies to improve phrasing, intonation, fluency, expression, etc.
- Launching of the Writer's Notebook and developing writing fluency.
- Word Study
- Listening skills, group skills and active participation

Math: Number Sense (place value of large numbers and decimals; adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing)

Science: Flight (grade 6) & Structures (grade 5)

How to Help at Home:

- Help your child establish good work habits (e.g. sign the agenda nightly, establish a regular time and place for homework, help your child organize and prioritize his/her work and then, let him/her work on his/her own. Assist your child only if he/she is struggling).
- Your child should read at home daily. Take turns reading, stopping to discuss and check for understanding a few times. This is a great opportunity for children to read what they are interested in and at their level. Make this an enjoyable time together.
- Help your child practice his/her math facts. (*Students should be able to mentally calculate up to 12×12 by the end of grade 5*).

If you have any further questions, please contact us at the school. We look forward to meeting you on Thursday September 26, 2013.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Chaudhary and Ms. da Silva

(Sign and return by Monday September 9, 2013)

I have read the September Curriculum Preview.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

My Child in a Million Words or Less...

