

September 7, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A big hello from the Grade 2 & 3 class at Osborne School. Although, I have met many of you, my name is Gwen Neudorf and I am happy to be your child’s homeroom teacher for the 2018-2019 school year. I am looking forward to an educational, exciting, fun-filled year with your child. The grade 2 & 3 class will also have Mrs. Christian for Physical Education and Grade 3 Math and Mrs. Safinuk for Art, Social Studies and Health. It will be a great year!

Each student will be anticipating what this school year will bring. I hope that by working together (family, child and teachers) that we can fulfill their expectations and give each student a positive start in their educational journey. I hope to keep an open line of communication to inform you of what is happening in our classroom and school by using, this letter, our class agenda books, Osborne web page, Seesaw and in notes to come. Children always enjoy sharing the things they are doing in the classroom with these tools.. If you have any concerns or questions please feel free to call me. The school number is 922-8078 or email me at gneudorf@srsd119.ca.

**September Themes**

This month we will be working on getting to know each other better, along with getting used to class and school rules and routines. We are having fun learning how to be bucket fillers and to stay away from being bucket dippers. This concept is based on a book called “Have You Filled a Bucket Today? by Carol McCloud. Your child will be able to share their knowledge and ideas about being a bucket filler or dipper. Please ask them.

In Math, we will begin units in Patterning, while reviewing some of the basics they learned last year. In Science, our first unit will be “Magnets and Static Electricity”. This will be an engaging, hands-on unit, filled with many discoveries.

**Agenda Books**

Each day your child will be bringing home an agenda book (instead of shiny folders). We will be putting all school notes, event reminders, correspondence from me, word lists to practice, homework etc. that needs to go home in this folder. Please use the agenda to send any correspondence, money (in a bag or envelope), homework etc. from home to school, as well. It is important that the agenda stays in their backpack, as it will be an important means of communication from school to home and home to school. I will be checking agenda books each morning for any correspondence from home and I ask you do the same in the evening. There is a place for parents/guardiansto initial to show they have read the agenda. Thank you.

# Home Reading Program

We will be starting the Home Reading Program in September. The children will be given 2 short books or l longer book to bring home in a green folder. I encourage parents, grandparents, older siblings etc. to take 15 minutes each night to listen to the child read and fill out the reading log duotang. If the book is longer, please record the chapter or pages the child has read each night. The green folders should be **returned** **each** **day** **with all contents**. Make this a pleasant time for you and your child. The students will receive some prizes during the year and a gift book and certificate at the end of the year. Although, I love to hear that the children are reading other books, I would like them to just record the books that we send home.

**Library Day**

Our library book exchange is on day 1 (p.m.). Please return library books on that day, so your child may choose two new books. I will be encouraging the children to take special care of our library books. Please help your child find a place at home where they can keep their library books. This will help your child easily find the books and keep them out of reach of younger siblings or pets. We are very fortunate to have this collection of books at school. If you find any Osborne library books or Home Reading Books that were not returned last year, please return them. Thank you.

I will also be sending home information about reading, sight word lists and practice reading in the reading log.

**Scholastic Book Orders**

At the beginning of each month I will be sending home the student scholastic book order sheets that are supplied to our classroom. I am willing to send orders and distribute the books when they arrive. You have until the 28th of each month to place your order. There are two ways to order. The first way is to send me the order with a **cheque** made out to **Scholastic Canada.** The second, is to go to the Scholastic Canada website, find our classroom and use your credit card to order books. I will send instructions home with the first Scholastic book order sheets.

**Volunteers**

Anyone who wishes to volunteer in our classroom or the school is welcome and much appreciated. Please give me a call or email if you are interested or need more information.

**Homework**

Your child should not be getting a lot of homework this year, other than home reading, practicing sight words and spelling. However, if they are not completing their daily work, I will send it home for completion. Please help your child complete it and return it to me as soon as possible. When they have homework, you will find it in their green folder. There will also be a note in their agenda book. Thank you.

**Spelling Lists**

The grade 2’s and 3’s will begin spelling the second week of school. Their list will contain sight words, word families and words with similar sounds. Students will have a small notebook in their green folder, where the students have glued in their weekly spelling words (**always return this book in their green folder each day**). We will practice during the week and have final test on Friday. On the cover of the notebook an explanation of the program is given. Please read this and assist your child in learning the weekly lists.

**Snacks and Lunches**

Each day we have a small snack after morning recess. If your child would like a snack at this time, please include an extra snack. If we have a special lunch, such as a hotdog sale, please send a snack for that day. **We do not have microwaves in the school to warm food.** Thank you.

**Clothing**

Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. If it is a wet day, it may be a good idea to send an extra pair of socks in their backpack. Thank you for sending the extra clothes in case of an emergency. We have had cases where a child has ripped his/her clothes, fell into a mud puddle, etc. These can be older clothes the students have at home. Please send the extra clothes in a labeled plastic bag.

**Items from Home (Toys, electronics etc.)**

I encourage the students not to bring items such as toys, games, etc., from home. We are very fortunate to have a wonderful playground and good equipment, plus many friends to play with. Items can easily be broken or lost. We will have a **sharing time the last Friday of each month**, to give the students a chance to bring items from home that they would like to show the class. I am aware some students bring electronics for the bus. This is fine, however, the device must stay in their backpack during the day.

**Allergies**

In some of our units we will be tasting and smelling different foods. Please contact me if your child has any food allergies. Thank you to those that have already notified me. I will also check the registration forms that you filled out this week.

**Osborne Website/Email/Seesaw**

Our school has a website which includes information about our school. Each teacher has made a webpage specific for their classroom. Although, some of these pages are under construction, many have links to websites that will enhance your child’s education.

We will once again be using Seesaw in our classroom. Please watch for information about this great tool used to communicate and share your child’s work and school experience with you.

We will also be setting up a small display at our Meet the Staff evening. If you need any help downloading the app or connecting to the webpage, please ask me about it at the “Meet the Staff Evening”.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and for your anticipated cooperation. It is important to be involved in your child’s education. I look forward to meeting you at “Meet the Staff Evening” on September 12, 2018.

Mrs. Gwen Neudorf

Homeroom Teacher, Grade 2 & 3,

Osborne School