



September 17, 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are off and running with the *Grade One/Two* program. The students are adjusting to a new school year. Everyone is eager to learn and we are working hard already! The following are a few informational items which will help you gain a better understanding of our class routines.

### **Learning Commons**

Our class will be visiting the Learning Commons (library) every **Thursday afternoon** for book exchanges. The learning commons is currently being re-organized and should be opened up in the next few weeks. Students may take out 1 English and 1 French book at a time. Please encourage proper care for and prompt return of books. A student who does not return his/her library book on time will not be allowed to take out another book until it is returned.

### **Physical Education**

The children will have Physical Education in the gym twice per week (**Tuesday and Thursday**). On all other days, DPA (Daily Physical Activity) will be implemented into the school day. We recommend that your child have a clean pair of **running shoes with non-marking soles** for gym. The gym running shoes can also be their "indoor shoes".

### **Grade Two Sacrament Curriculum**

As part of the *Grade Two Religion* program, we will be learning about the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Communion. Please stay tuned for more information regarding the sacraments and an upcoming parent information meeting being held at St. Isidore Church.

## Homework and Word Wall Words

**Grade 1:** At the grade 1 level, students should spend about 10 minutes a night on homework. These 10 minutes should consist of reading Snuggle Books (leveled books from our classroom library) and reviewing the week's word wall words. Our word wall words provide an excellent base for reading. They are often referred to as "sight words" because some of them cannot be sounded out and need to be learned by sight. Every Monday your child will bring home two **Snuggle Books** and a red duo-tang to record the books they have read. Please see the instructions on the front page of the duo-tang. **The Snuggle Books and duo-tang are due back at school every Friday.** A student who does not return his/her Snuggle Book will not be allowed to take out another book until it is returned. **Please ensure proper care for and prompt return of the Snuggle Books. Much time has gone into preparing these books for our class. We need your help to keep them in good condition so other students can also benefit from them. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.** A complete list of all the grade one word wall words is also included in the red Snuggle Book duo-tang. Students are expected to be able to read and identify the words and be able to find them on the word wall. Every Friday, students will have a word wall quiz where they will need to find the word on the word wall and print it correctly. We will have our first word wall quiz next Friday (September 27). The 5 words will be: *I, the, not, us, to*. Snuggle Books will start to be sent home next Monday, September 23.

**Grade 2:** Each month, your child will bring home his/her *Homework Book*, a calendar of homework activities for the month, as well as any assigned *Making Words* or other homework sheets to be glued into the *Homework Book*. The *Homework Book* must be returned by the last Friday of each month. Each week, your child will be given 5 new word wall words for the week (*Words of the Week*). Your child will bring home the 5 new *Words of the Week* ("WOW words") in his/her Mail Bag at the beginning of each week. The words are to be copied twice each on the lines in the *Homework Book* and used to write two sentences (also in the *Homework Book*). Your child should then practise reading and writing (spelling) the words regularly at home. Every Friday, students will have a word wall quiz. We will have our first word wall quiz next Friday (September 27). During the one week per month when the *Homework Book* is not at home, your child will borrow two books from our class library to bring home and read to you or they can choose books from the Raz-Kids online reading program. The "**Snuggle Books**" and reading log will be due back to school by the end of that week. Research shows that nightly reading with your child is a key factor in a child's successful acquisition of reading and language skills. On occasion, your child may also bring homework in order to complete an assignment that he/she did not complete in class.

## **Student Responsibility and Celebrating Positive Behaviour**

Students are continuing to learn how to take responsibility for themselves and their actions. Our "Go Move" behaviour chart encourages the children to be accountable for their actions and celebrate positive behaviour. The chart consists of a pocket for each child (identified by a number). Each pocket contains four coloured cards beginning with green and ending with red. At the beginning of each week, every child begins with the green card showing. If a child has been warned for an inappropriate action (e.g., being rude or disrespectful to another child or the teacher, constant talking out of turn, etc.) and still continues to choose the inappropriate behaviour then he/she will be asked to "go move" his/her card to the following colour in his/her pocket. By having the student change the colour, the student takes ownership for his/her behaviour. At the end of each week, the children whose cards show green, blue, or yellow will celebrate the positive behavior choices they made that week by participating in a special activity (e.g., preferred activity time, extra outdoor play time).

## **Home - School Communication**

Thank you to all the families who have been using the **Mail Bags** to communicate with the school. Our Mail Bags carry many things back and forth to school. Please ensure you check it each evening to see if there are any messages from school or some homework for your child. We check the mailbags every day to see if there are any notes from home.

\*\*\* We also have a class website. The address is <http://gradeonekelly.weebly.com/>. You can also access our class website through our school website ([isi.ocsb.ca](http://isi.ocsb.ca)). Go to the "Our School" link, find Jennifer Kelly or Kristi Raz and click on that name. On our website you will find a class calendar, class newsletters, and resources (web links).

## **September/October Topics of Study**

The students are already working very hard! The following are some of our current and upcoming topics:

### **Math (Patterning):**

Grade 1 students will identify, describe, extend and create repeating patterns.

Grade 2 students will identify, describe, extend and create repeating patterns, growing patterns and shrinking patterns.

## **Language:**

Grade 1 students will use a sentence frame (i.e. On the weekend I...) to write a complete sentence that starts with a capital letter and ends with a period. We will also practice using "easy to read printing": letters should rest on the lines, letters should be the appropriate size, and there should be finger spaces between the words. We will learn the proper formation of letters when printing.

Grade 2 students will write personal recounts using appropriate capitals and punctuation.

Both grade 1 and 2 students will have opportunities for guided reading, self-selected reading, writing, and working with words (spelling, phonics, grammar). We will begin our 5 word wall words of the week and build on our phonemic awareness. We will begin our focus on short vowels and spell words with common sound patterns. Our reading focus will include how to use "fix-up strategies". Good readers use several "fix-up strategies" when they are stumped on a word or sentence, or having difficulty comprehending what they are reading. Some fix-up tools include rereading a sentence or section, reading ahead, thinking about what word would make sense, looking at all the letters in the word, looking for parts you recognize in a word, and trying to sound out the word.

**Religion & Family Life:** We will build a classroom community where each child is welcomed. We learn we are children of God and part of God's family.

**Science:** We will begin science with a look at the five senses. In all of our science investigations throughout the year, students will continually refine their ability to observe, using all five senses, and will attempt to describe their observations as accurately as possible. Themes from both the Grade 1 and Grade 2 programs will be presented. We are currently using the theme of water and air as well as liquids and solids.

**Arts:** There are four strands in the arts: visual arts, drama, dance, and music. We will begin with visual arts and learn to use a variety of art tools, materials, and techniques. We will also focus on creating more realistic pictures and colouring objects appropriately. We will discuss the warm colours of fall. Singing will also be part of our Wednesday routine and we will learn about beat, rhythm, tempo and dynamics.

**Health & Physical Education:** In health, we begin the year by discussing bus, playground and fire safety. In gym we will go over safety rules and begin cooperative games.



## **Recycling**

Recycling is a high priority at St. Isidore School and we will continue our effort in this area. There are green, blue and black bins located in the classrooms for recycling.

## **A Note About Your Child's Teachers**

Mrs. Kelly will teach your child Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and Mrs. Raz will teach your child every Wednesday. Mrs. Kelly will focus on Language Arts, Math, and Physical Education while Mrs. Raz will focus on Science and the Arts strands (visual art, drama, music and dance). Both teachers will be teaching Religion to the students. Your child's French teacher is Mademoiselle Constantinof.

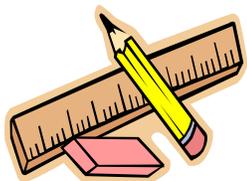
## **"Meet The Teacher" Night (Thursday, September 19)**

"Meet The Teacher" Night will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the school gym with the principal's address and welcome. Afterwards you can visit your child(ren)'s classrooms and meet their teachers. Mrs. Kelly will be available to answer any questions you may have about our Grade One/Two program and our classroom.

## **Thank You**

Once again, we would like to thank you for the donations of tissues, ziploc bags, plastic spoons, markers and glue sticks you sent in with your child. Thank you for your support and interest in our Grade One/Two program. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the school (592-1798) or via a note in your child's Mail Bag at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Kelly

Kristi Raz