

September 4, 2019

Dear Parents,

After an enjoyable summer I am looking forward to teaching your child this year.

I usually send notes home every Friday to keep you informed about what we are doing in the classroom and ask for your help in reinforcing what has been taught in class. This year I will only be sending paper copies to those who request a copy. Everyone else can get the newsletters on the website which I update on Friday. The website is not yet up but will be up soon. I will also send an e-mail with the newsletter every Friday.

Five years ago we started using SeeSaw in the classroom. I am sending a note about how you can see your child's work on SeeSaw. We will be taking pictures of things they have done in class so you can have an idea of things your child does in class. I will also have the children learn how to video tape their friends so you can see how they present their Show and Tell. I will also assign a class photographer who will take pictures of things we do in class. I am sending home a sheet which has your child's name on it with the QR code you will need to access See Saw and the instructions if you have not received it through See Saw already. Both parents and grandparents or aunts and uncles can access See Saw once I accept your requests.

**I will especially ask you to read to your child and have your child read to you daily.** Twenty-five years ago I began a book bag program and I found that it has worked very well. Every day I send home a few books in a cloth bag with your child's name on it. I ask that you have your child read those books to you and to everyone who will listen to him/her read. At first the stories may be memorized but your child should point to the words as he/she "reads" them. As the weeks go on you should notice that they will recognize many words when they see them in other books or in their environment. **Please send back the books in the bookbag every day.** I only have a few copies of many of the books that they will be reading and both Grade one classes share the books so I need to have them returned every day. If your child did not get a chance to read the books to you or you think they need more practice they can take the same books back again.

In the next parent note I will have a list of Sight Words. **Please practice these words daily in order until your child can recognize them easily** (they don't need to know how to spell them, they just need to know how to read them without sounding them out). When we have learned 10 of them I will be testing them on all 10. If your child has difficulty with them I will send home a review sheet so you can practice them. It is extremely important that your child doesn't get behind in learning these words because these are the words they will be seeing over and over again in his/her reading.

We will be using a website called Freckle to practice math and Language Arts. Your child will be working on this every day and you can also work on this at home. I will send home a card so you can work on this at home if your child needs extra practice.

In the beginning of the year we will be reviewing how to print all the letters of the alphabet and their sounds. **If your child does any writing at home please encourage him/her to print the letters**

**or numbers starting at the top. I will send home a sheet that has the correct way to form the letters and numbers.**

When your child has a birthday we will be making a Birthday book for him/her. Each child writes a story and draws a picture for the Birthday child. When it is completed the child will take it home. You will be able to see what your child writes for their classmate on SeeSaw because they will take a picture of it when it is done. When your child has a birthday you may send a snack for the class. We have two children with allergies in this class, so no peanuts. One child can not have eggs, peas sesame. I will ask the parent to have some snacks that are safe for when we have special treats for birthdays.

With this note I will send home a copy of our schedule so you know when we have gym. In the winter the Grade 1 classes go skating for gym so if your child doesn't have skates and a good hockey helmet maybe you could try to get one before we start skating. I also have a copy of our Show and Tell Schedule. We have Show and Tell every day during lunch. I would like the children to bring interesting things that they have found or made rather than toys. Pictures or items from their holidays are also good things to bring. They can also read a story to the class.

Show and Tell Schedule				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Abigail	Arienna	Arya	Benjamin	Carter
David	Evan	Graeme	Hanna	Hannah
Lanaya	Lily	Lucas	Madison	Marc
Nicholas	Noah	Penny	Sully	Teagan

I am sending home the first Scholastic Book Orders soon. If you would like to order from any of the clubs just send in the order forms with one cheque made out to Scholastic Canada Ltd or cash or you can pay online. There are many good books featured in these book orders. The class receives free books for our class library.

If you have any questions or concerns please call me at school after 3:15 or you can e-mail me at school at [siepmanjoanne@calvinchristian.mb.ca](mailto:siepmanjoanne@calvinchristian.mb.ca)

Mrs. J. Siepman