

# The ABC's of 1/2C



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***Dear parents,***

Welcome to class 1/2C! I am very excited to have your child in my class and I look forward to sharing this special year with you. I hope that we can work together to make your child's 1<sup>st</sup> /2<sup>nd</sup> grade experience a fun and exciting one. In the classroom my main goal is to make each and every child feel comfortable and develop a love of learning. I strongly believe that once a child feels comfortable they are able to take risks and reach their full potential while developing a positive self-image.

In this booklet, you will find some important classroom information, as well as some suggestions that may help you and your child adjust to the new school year.

## A

### **Agenda**

Students will be writing in their agenda each morning, as they arrive in class. This agenda will be used to communicate important messages and homework; therefore, it is essential that it be brought to and from school **every day**. Please take the time to check the agenda every night and to **sign** each day's message. I will check student agenda's each day and will give them a sticker or a stamp once they are finished their message.

**Please note:** the agenda is kept inside of the homework folder (*See letter H*)

### **Allergies**

Due to the number of students with severe nut allergies, some of which are life threatening, our school is a **NUT-SAFE SCHOOL**. This means that students must refrain from bringing any products that contain nuts to school, including peanut butter! This ensures a safe environment for all students.

### **Attendance**

Daily attendance is necessary to have a successful first grade experience. Our day begins promptly at 8:56 am. Please be sure that your child arrives to school on time every day. If your child is unable to attend, for any reason, please call the office at 780-458-1112 to let us know. When leaving a message, be sure to say your child's **full name and grade**.

# B

## **Birthdays**

Birthdays are special and will certainly be acknowledged in class. However, I would ask that you **do not** send any treats to school for birthdays **unless** you have made prior arrangements with me. This is important so that we can find a convenient time and so that we can ensure that the treat is something that all the children, including those with allergies and other medical concerns, will be able to enjoy.

Please **do not** allow your child to hand out birthday invitations at school, as it often results in hurt feelings for those who are not invited. You may, however, give the invitations to me and I will discretely distribute them for your child.

## **Book Orders**

Each month, your child will receive a book order from Scholastic Book Clubs. If you wish to place an order, please mark your selection on the order form and send it back with a cheque for the correct amount. Please make cheques payable to Scholastic. If your book order is a gift that you do not want your child to know about, please indicate so on the order form and I will be sure to get the books to you without your child knowing. Scholastic also offers parent pay online, so please remember it as an option.

# C

## **Communication**

I value open communication between home and school, and I encourage you to contact me at any time if you have questions or concerns. You may write a note in your child's agenda, send me an email or call me at school. Although I may not be able to speak with you immediately, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

**Phone:** 780-458-112 **Email:** [emaunder@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:emaunder@gsacrd.ab.ca)

## **Curriculum**

All subjects will be taught in French, with the exception of English and Religion. If you are interested in seeing an overview of what we will be learning in each subject this year, please visit the following website:

[www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildlearning/grade1.html](http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildlearning/grade1.html)

<http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildlearning/grade2.html>

## **D**

### **Directory**

In order to facilitate communication between families, I will be preparing a class directory. If you wish to be included in our directory, please be sure to complete the consent form. Please note that the names and numbers will only be shared with the families in our class and will not be used for any other purposes.

### **Drop off & Dismissal**

A big part of grade one is learning to be more independent, which includes learning how to prepare for home and school on our own. Therefore, when dropping off and/or picking up your child, we ask that you please remain outside, unless of course you need to speak with me. Not only will this help your child learn to do things on his/her own, but it also helps alleviate congestion in our hallways before and after school. We appreciate your cooperation in this manner.

\*Students may be dropped off at 8:45 am and will be dismissed at 3:32 pm. Please note that there is no supervision prior to 8:45 am.

## **E**

### **Email**

[emaunder@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:emaunder@gsacrd.ab.ca)

Please ensure that you have provided the school with an up to date e-mail address, as much of our communication will be done using this tool.

# F

## Field Trips

Throughout the year we will be going on several field trips. In order for these trips to take place, I will need volunteers to assist me in supervising the children. If you are interested in helping with any of our field trips, please indicate so on the permission slip. Please keep in mind that we are often limited in the number of volunteers that we can bring with us on a field trip. Therefore, depending on the number of volunteer responses received, your assistance may not be required.

Please note that only children who have written permission, signed by either a parent or a guardian, will be able to participate in our field trips. **Oral permission given by phone will not be accepted.**

## French Flashcards (Subject dependent for Grade 2)

For every French theme, flashcards will be sent home so that your child can review the vocabulary that we are learning in class. Please keep the flashcards together in a safe place (shoe box, cookie tin...) and practice them for 5-10 minutes each night. The goal is for your child to recognize and name the picture, as well as the word.

# G

## Grenouilles

Grenouilles are given to students who make an effort to speak in French while at school. By working together to collect *grenouilles*, students can earn special rewards such as Crazy Hair Day, Pajama Day, etc.... Classes that have collected a certain number of *grenouilles*, by the end of each month, will be able to participate in that month's reward.



## **Homework**

Homework is an important part of the learning process and must be completed regularly. Grade one students should have no more than 10-15 minutes of homework per night. Homework will consist mainly of practicing French flashcards and English sight words, as well as reading. Grade 2 students should also never exceed 15 minutes per night. Homework may consist of reviewing their math facts, practicing their spelling/dictée words, reading in English and/or French or reviewing what they learnt in Social Studies.

## **Homework Folder**

Each student has been given a homework folder that is to go to and from school each day. The students will use this folder to bring home their agendas, homework, classroom reading books, as well as important information, such as permission slips and the school newsletter. **Please be sure to check your child's homework folder daily.**

## **HRTS**

This acronym is used throughout the school as a reminder of our values here at EMP.

**H- Honesty R- Responsibility T- Tolerance S- Safety**

These terms are consistently used when discussing behavioral expectations at school. The intent of this school-wide approach is to promote a safe, caring and predictable environment for learning and teaching. Throughout the year, our HRTS values will be clearly communicated and reinforced in our school.

# I

## **Illness**

If your child is sick, please keep him/her home. We love to share in first grade, but we don't want to share our germs.

# J K L

## **Late Arrivals**

If your child arrives to school after 8:56 am, he/she will have to enter the front doors and report to the office before proceeding to class. Please note that all doors, except for those at the front entrance, are locked after 8:56 am.

## **Library**

We will be visiting the library once a week from now until the end of the year. Each week your child will be able to take home two books, one in French and one in English. Please remind your child to return his/her library books every **Tuesday**. Students who do not return their books on library day will have to wait until they bring their books back before they can take out any new books.

## **Lunch**

Our lunch hour begins at 12:50 pm. Students will have 20 minutes to eat before heading outside for 'big' recess. Since our lunch is much later than most, please ensure to send your child a good-sized snack. Any uneaten food will be sent home to ensure that you are aware of what your child is eating

# M

## **Medical Concerns**

If your child has any serious medical concerns that we should be aware of, please be sure to fill out a medical concerns form. These forms are available at the school office.

# N O P

## Payments

Payments of school fees, as well as most school activities, can now be paid online at the following link location:

website: <https://gsacrd.schoolcashonline.com/>

This site offers a convenient way to make secure payments from your home, thus avoiding having to send your child to school with cash or cheques. Please consider registering for this service.

If you choose not to use School Cash Online, please **do not staple** your payment to the corresponding form. Instead, use a paperclip to attach the payment or place the payment, with the corresponding form, in a small Ziploc bag or envelope. Please be sure that these envelopes are sealed and labeled with your child's name, as well as a description of what is included.

## Printing

When practicing printing with your child, please be sure that he/she always prints his/her letters from **top to bottom**. If you would like more information about how you can help your child with his/her printing at home, please come and see me.

# Q R

## Reading Program

Our Reading Program will begin soon. This program allows students to bring home-leveled reading books from our classroom library. The books are to be read and practiced several times before being returned to school. In order to prevent lost or damaged books, the children will be asked to keep their books in a Ziploc bag. Please take the time to read with your child each day. Enjoy the chance to talk and share ideas about stories, words and sounds. By reading stories and talking about words and sounds in print, you are helping your child learn to read.



## **Recess Agreement**

When your child is outside during recess, they are to follow the recess agreement. This encourages your child to make choices that help both themselves, and others stay happy and healthy, as well as to play friendly and cooperative games. This allows the school to ensure that our EMP friends stay safe. Please encourage this recess agreement behaviour at home with your child.



## **Schedule**

Here are the scheduled times for Music, Physical Education, Daily Physical Activity, and Library. Please be sure that your child is adequately prepared for these courses on the appropriate days. Please note that on Monday's the Grade 1's will be taken out of the classroom for Gym with Mme Harting, and the grade 2's will stay in class. On Wednesdays, the Grade 2's will be taken out of the classroom for Gym with Mme Harting, and the grade 1's will stay in class.

**Music**-Monday & Wednesday

**Physical Education**-Monday (Grade 1), Tuesday (both) Wednesday (Grade 2) & Thursdays (both)

**Daily Physical Activity**- Monday, Wednesday & Friday

**Library**-Tuesday

## **Sight Words (Grade 2, depending on level completed in Grade 1)**

Our Sight Word program will begin shortly, at which point each student will be given an individualized list of English words to practice reading each week. Once a week, your child will be tested on his/her words by a parent volunteer. Please note that students must be able to read these words **without hesitation**. To be successful, students should practice their sight words nightly, but only for 5-10 minutes. More information regarding this program will be sent home at the end of September.

# T

## **Technology**

As a school and as a district, we have made amazing progress towards the use of technology in the teaching and learning for our students. The use of robust devices is an important extension and a key tool to their interaction with their teachers, each other, and the community. We highly recommend B.Y.O.R.D. (Bring your own robust device) for our students. Having one's own device allows students to have consistent access to technology wherever and whenever they need it. Your recommended choices are either a tablet (ex: iPad), a Chromebook, or a laptop with chrome web browser.

If you do decide to send your child with a piece of technology, it will not be permitted outdoors during recess. You may choose to ask your child to bring it home each night, or leave it at school.

## **Tying Shoes**

Unfortunately, this is very necessary skill that is no longer taught in school. Please work on this with your child at home. Once they become proficient at tying shoes, they will become one of my "Tying Teachers" and assist in teaching other students with learning to tie shoes.

# U V

## **Volunteers**

Volunteers are always welcome and appreciated in our class. Please note that all volunteers must sign the appropriate forms and complete a Criminal Record & Child Welfare check before being able to volunteer in our class and/or on field trips. Volunteers must also read the Volunteer Handbook prior to volunteering and sign in at the office before each visit. If you are able to volunteer, please let me know... as the saying goes «many hearts make a school, as well as many hands».



### **Waterbottles**

To help stay hydrated, the students are encouraged to keep a water bottle in the boot room, which they can access throughout the day. When sending a water bottle to school, please be sure that it is clearly marked with your child's name and that it only contains **water**! Please avoid sending water bottles with twist off caps, as they tend to increase the number of spills. Students will be encouraged to bring their water bottle home daily to be cleaned.



### **eXtra clothes**

In case of rainy days, painting days, spills or accidents, please keep a change of clothes in your students backpack just as a precaution.



### **You**

Always remember that you as a parent are a teacher too! There is no one who is more influential in your child's life than you!



### **ZzZzZzzzz...**

Young children need plenty of rest each night to prepare for a full day of learning. It's important to set and stick to a nightly bedtime so that your child is ready to go when morning comes.

*Thank you very much for taking the time to read through our grade one handbook! If you have any other questions or concerns please feel free to call or email me and I will get back to you promptly.*

*I look forward to spending a wonderful year getting to know you and your child!*

*Mlle Élodie Maunder*