September 2021

Dear Parents and/or Guardians,

Welcome to Grade 5! I am excited for the new school year and the learning opportunities that will take place in our classroom! I will strive to ensure our class is a place where learning is enjoyable and interesting, and school is a place where your child wants to be. Students can help themselves to be successful by being prepared for class, listening carefully, following directions, and actively participating and contributing to our class discussions and activities. Working together, we can make this a successful year for your child.

**Subject info and more:**

**Respect others, property, and yourself:**

I strive to have a classroom where students feel safe and want to question and explore. This means there will be no tolerance of teasing, bullying, put-downs, threatening, or ridiculing. Students are expected to be kind, encouraging, and thoughtful of one another. This same respect needs to be given to all people in the school, be it staff, other students, parents, or anyone else.

These Grade 5 students are regarded highly by the younger children, it is especially important they show the utmost respect for others, for property, and for themselves.

As we are coming in and out of the school a lot this year to attend music, French, library, and use the washrooms, students will be working on walking down the hall quietly. We do not want to disturb other classes or the office staff while moving down the hall, so it requires us all to work together.

**School Supplies:**

Are **$35.00** this year, as well there is a **$10.00** cultural fee. These can be paid online or by contacting the office for alternative payment methods.

**Snack –** Students will have a morning snack every day. However,Tuesday morning's snack will be very brief and later than usual, as students will not eat until they return from French. **I suggest students ensure they have a large breakfast in the morning, as well as a quick and easy snack to eat (granola bar, banana, veggies, etc.).** In addition, students will be eating their snack in the music room on Thursday mornings; it will be helpful to have a quick, easy, portable snack on that day as well.

**P.H.E.** - will be on **Tuesdays and Fridays.** At this point, your child will **NOT** have the opportunity to change for PHE. They are encouraged to arrive on these days prepared to run, jump, and play! As preparation for class is a part of a student's work ethic, I will be recording whether students are wearing 'gym' type clothing on our P.H.E. days.

As a class, we will have the opportunity to explore our neighbourhood and parks, students should make sure they always have runners and a light sweatshirt available to them every day at school. \*\*An off campus field trip went home on Monday, September 13th☺

**French** - taught by Mrs. Weststrate on Tuesdays.

**Music** - taught by Mrs. Wong on Wednesdays.

**Library book exchange -** will be on Fridays!

**Google Classroom:** It is my intention to begin using this program with the students starting this term.

You will receive an email with the link to complete the consent form if you **HAVE NOT** done this already (you do not need to re-register your child every year).

**Fresh Grade:**

The Fresh Grade program enables students and myself to create an online learning portfolio.

I will send an email to parents who need to set up an account for their child which allows you to access your child's learning portfolio. Once you have completed the online consent for your child to participate in this program, I will send you an email, which will give you an invitation to set up an account so that you can access your child's learning portfolio.

Once this is set up, you will get a glimpse into the activities your child is participating in, the learning that is occurring, and assignments that are completed. As well, students or I will often put a comment, or even a mark, with the picture so that you have an understanding of how your son/daughter is progressing or what they have done on an activity or assignment. I hope this information will not only make you feel more connected to our classroom, but that it will also enable you to talk to your child more effectively about both what is happening and the learning in our class.

**Student Agendas:**

The agenda is an invaluable tool for your child. Each day, students are responsible to record homework assignments as well as school reminders in their agendas. I am asking you as a parent to read your child's daily entries so you are aware of what is going on at school and in the classroom.

Students will keep their agendas in their backpack or drawer and bring them out at agenda time. If your child knows, they have a note for me to see, they can bring it directly to me in the am. I will be checking to ensure that the information is recorded accurately in the agendas.

Thank you for reading and signing your child's agenda daily.

**Field Trips:**

I hope we will be able to plan some field trips for this great group of Grade 5's throughout the year. There will always be a separate field trip form that needs to be completed before your child attends the field trip. I ask that students do their best to return forms as quickly as possible.

**Communication:**

Please feel free to contact me by writing a note in the agenda, phoning the school (250-870-5128), or by email [shandra.bowen@sd23.bc.ca](mailto:shandra.bowen@sd23.bc.ca)

Grade 5 is a very exciting time and I plan to do everything I can to make this year a memorable and successful one.

Sincerely,

Shandra Bowen

\*\*\*A couple last things,

1. I would appreciate it if each family was able to send in one box of Kleenex for the classroom.

2. Please send an inexpensive pair of head phones with your child at your convenience for research purposes (listening to interviews, etc.), labelled and in a baggie would be great.

3. Please take the time to read over the Work Ethic criteria with your child.

~Thank you!

Attitude

"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company…a church…a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past…we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude…I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it. And so it is with you…we are in charge of our Attitudes."

\*Charles Swindoll

**Work Ethic Criteria**

**Work Ethic Awards** will be earned each term by students in the intermediate grades who meet or exceed the following criteria.

It is possible for EVERY student in an intermediate class to be recognized for positive work ethic!

Quality of Work/Work Habits

* works neatly (to the best of ability)
* completes work in class as assigned
* consistently completes homework as assigned
* takes care of personal space/supplies, school equipment and materials

Effort

* follows classroom/school guidelines to work without disrupting others
* demonstrates responsibility in completing tasks
* gives best effort at all times without frequent reminders from staff to focus
* is usually prepared for class (including P.E., Music and French classes)
* uses a student agenda consistently

Relationships with Others

* participates appropriately during group activities and class discussions
* works cooperatively during group activities
* maintains positive relationships with classmates and staff
* is helpful to classmates and others, including the teacher