*Welcome to Grade One*-Two



2018-2019

This book is a guide to our classroom and our daily and weekly routines. I hope you will find it useful. I encourage you to call, write or e-mail me with any questions or concerns anytime during the year. Thank you for your support. I look forward to an excellent year working together.

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Welcome to Grade One-Two! September is a month in which the students will become familiar with our classroom. In our first month we will

-become acquainted with new friends

-discover the classroom and the stations for learning and

         playing

-become aware of and follow school and playground rules

-establish classroom routines, expectations and rules

 To help us develop good work habits. Some of our routines are:

-signing in for attendance

-calendar

-choosing a work station

-math and literacy work stations

-bathroom routines

           - recess routines

-Nutrition Break routines

-daily writing

-home reading program

-classroom organization

-agenda use

-end of day dismissal

Universal Design for Learning/Respecting Diversity

At Ruth Hooker School, all members of the school community are valued for the many different ways they are able to contribute to the learning environment. In Grade One-Two we celebrate the many different ways we can show what we know. You will hear your child use language such as ‘Art, Math, Body, Nature, Self, People, Music, Word, and Idea Smart’ to describe themselves.

English Language Arts

It is important to be aware that students have a wide-range of abilities and that they learn at different rates. This range is normal. Although I may have different expectations of students and the work they do in class, I expect all students to do their best! Your child will continue to read and write on a daily basis this school year following the Daily 5 literacy program. It is a balanced and varied program, which allows students to build on their strengths.

Your child will be involved in the following activities:

-printing and letter formation using the

                    Handwriting Without Tears Program

-Guided Reading

-Large and small group writing instruction

-‘Daily News’ writing

Much of the learning and exploring that we do during English Language Arts instructional time will involve many different curricular areas, such as Math, Science, Social Studies and Health.

Show and Share

Forming our thoughts and ideas and relaying them to others so that they can clearly understand what we have to say is an important part of the early years program. Each student will have a time to show and share the things that are important in their lives.  An explanation of the ‘Show and Share’ program, as well as a schedule of your child’s sharing time will be sent home with your child. Please have your child practice at home prior to their turn so they will feel more confident when standing and speaking in front of their peers. It is extremely important that you help your child gather the items that will be required as Show and Share participation is reflected on their Report Cards.

Home Reading

The Home Reading Program will begin in October. Every student will be signing out books daily from our classroom library to read for 5-15 minutes each night together with you at home. You will be asked to sign a Home Reading log. Take home books and bags with activities for the whole family to do are also sent home on a regular basis. **Families are responsible to cover the cost of any missing or damage home reading books or book bags ($10.00-$15.00 depending on the book).** Prizes are awarded as Reading Logs are handed in!

Library

We will also be going to the Library every Day 4 and Day 6. Our librarian, Mrs. Michelle Place reads a story to the students and they then have a chance to look at and sign out books. Students are expected to return the Library Book in their library bag for the next Library period. **Again, families are responsible for any cost associated with lost or damaged library books or library book bags.**

Technology

Technology is integrated into many aspects of our day. We use the classroom SMART Board on a daily basis and have access to laptops and iPads for independent work.

Mathematics

Throughout the year Grade One will focus on the three strands of the math curriculum. We will participate in activities that reinforce

-Numbers

-sequencing, representing, comparing, and estimating numbers

-number concepts (identifying, addition and subtraction)

-Patterns and Relations

-describing, representing, extending, and

creating patterns

-Shape and Space

- measurement through identifying, ordering, and   comparing

-sort, replicate and compare 2D shapes and 3D   objects

Grade Two will also focus on the Stats and Probability strand.

A large part of the math curriculum involves hands on exploration of objects and their properties and little paper and pencil tasks. We learn better when we are playing games and are able to touch and manipulate counters and objects.

Calendar Time

This is an important daily meeting time in the early years’ classroom. This routine includes identifying the time of the day, week, month, and year we are in through calendar based activities, a morning message, shared reading and writing activities, Number of the Day, poems and songs. At this time goals are achieved from the Math, Science, Social Studies and English Language Arts curricula.

Some of the Math skills include

-counting by 1, 2’s, 5’s& 10’s

-recognizing and producing patterns

-before and after

-months of the year, days of the week, holidays and  birthdays

-daily and seasonal changes and weather

Science

Our science topics are integrated into thematic units as well as other curricular areas. Grade One topics covered include:

* The Senses
* Daily and Seasonal Changes
* Characteristics and Needs of Living Things
* Characteristics of Objects and Materials

 Grade Two topics include:

* Growth in People and Animals
* Characteristics of Solids, Liquids and Gases
* Position and Motion
* Air and Water in the Environment

Social Studies

 Grade One students will develop a sense of their place in the world as we explore the following topics:

**I Belong ---**where weexplore our personal connections to different groups and family celebrations

**My Environment----**where we explore our place within a larger community

**Connecting With Others---**where we explore our rights and responsibilities as global citizens

Grade Two will explore Communities in Canada by exploring their own communities as well as communities in Canada.

Gym

We have gym class with Mrs. Penny Hunter each and every school day. The Grade One-Two students change into shorts for gym class. For their safety and the safety of their classmates, students must wear non-marking indoor only shoes that fit them well.

Music

We have been scheduled for music with Mrs. Britanny Collins on Days 1, 3, and 5. Music will also be integrated with the everyday activities and the themes throughout the year.

Art

 Art is integrated throughout the curriculum as part of our Inquiry Process. You can recycle by sending us your old magazines, toilet paper rolls, egg cartons, etc. If you come across anything interesting we’ll use it!

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to demonstrate integrity, ethical conduct, and academic honesty in all assessments, research, class work and homework assignments. Students must understand that the tests/exams they complete and the assignments they submit as evidence of learning must be their own work and that cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Aspects of academic honesty include copying others’ work, using cheat notes, misrepresenting circumstances to obtain extensions, and submitting or representing someone else’s work as one’s own.



Golden Rules

We will observe the Golden Rules of Ruth Hooker School at all times.

Be Kind

Be Safe

Be Respectful

Be Productive

Keep your hands and feet and unkind words to yourself.

Nutrition Breaks

The Nutrition Break procedures have been outlined in our Ruth Hooker School Student Handbook. Some more specific guidelines that we follow in Grade One-Two are

-eat sandwich (or substitute) first

-no trading food

-pop is discouraged

-try to limit sugar snacks to one a day

-stay in your chair until you are done eating

-clean your spot and under the table

We have two nutrition breaks (provided by the parent) during the day. Students are encouraged to have ‘Grow Foods’ at this time as our brains work better when we have more nutritious foods in our bodies. A good rule of thumb when choosing school foods is to check to see if sugar or a sugar substitute is within the first three ingredients. If it is, that food is more of a treat, rather than a grow food.

Recess

As stated in our school handbook students will go out daily for recess. A good rule of thumb for illness is; if your child is well enough to attend school, they are well enough to go outside for recess. Please ensure your child is dressed for the weather! It is also important that your child be capable of dressing him or herself including putting on and tying up their footwear. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOU LABEL ALL OF YOUR CHILD’S FOOTWEAR, especially their outdoor shoes. We will often have 2 or 3 pairs of shoes that look the same and are the same size and they are hard to tell apart without names in them.

Bathroom

The students are encouraged to use the washroom at recess and lunch times or when we visit the washrooms as a class. If they need to use the bathroom during class time, they must ask for permission so everyone is accounted for at all times, but are never denied the washroom break. Students may keep a water bottle with a pop up style lid at their seat to drink whenever they want.





Agenda

Students will use a daily agenda as a tool to communicate between home and school, as well as to practice proper letter formation. The students will write a simple message as a reminder for a school project or deadline. Parents are asked to read and sign their initials in the agenda on the parent side, EVERY day. As this is our communication tool feel free to write me a message, **on the right hand side** of the agenda in the Home/School box, concerning your child. Please do not write on the left hand side as that is your child’s space to write their message. I will also check and put a sticker in the agenda daily and write any concerns or observations I would like to share with you.

Calendar and Notes

Every month you will receive a Ruth Hooker School Calendar and Newsletter as well as a classroom calendar, marking our school days and any important dates you should make note of. Notes and letters to keep you in touch with what’s happening in the classroom as well as the school will also go home as necessary. Information is also posted on the ‘Parent Info Board’ right outside the classroom door. The classroom calendars and newsletters are also available through the link on our classroom webpage. The webpage is available through the school website or at  www.lssd.ca/~mkowalchuk

Homework

Your input is valuable to our program. Please help your child participate actively in the Grade One-Two program by doing the ‘homework’ that is occasionally written in the agenda. Examples of homework might be to count by twos together, or find words that they are able to read in flyers or magazines. Daily Home Reading will begin in October.

Book Orders

Books can be ordered from Scholastic Book Club. An order form will come home monthly. If you are interested please return the order form with exact change or a cheque made out to **Scholastic** in an envelope addressed with your child’s name. Check monthly calendars for due dates. Please see me if you would like to order but are unable to meet the deadline for whatever reason and we will try to work something out.

Home / School Connection

I believe a strong home / school connection will help your child to experience even greater success at school. We share a partnership this year in caring for and helping your child become a strong student and a good citizen. Please feel free to call, write or e-mail me with any concerns regarding your child, or questions about the school or classroom. I will also contact you should I have any concerns or information to share.

Thank you for taking the time to read this handbook!

Melissa Kowalchuk