*** September News***

*From Mrs. Kostelny’s Grade 2/3 Classroom*

**Welcome** back to school! I hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. The beginning of a new school year is very exciting. The activities planned for September will help us all to get to know each other and establish our classroom routines. Students will be busy building relationships through various activities planned this month. We are working together to create a positive classroom environment where all students:

* feel included and appreciated by peers and teachers
* are respected for their different abilities, cultures, gender, interests and goals
* are actively involved in their own learning
* have positive expectations from others that they will succeed

**Agenda:** Today, your child has brought home an agenda. The agenda is a very important communication tool between home and school; therefore, it is expected that students bring their agenda to school **each day**. Please feel free to write me short notes, questions, requests, etc, in your child’s agenda as I will check agendas each morning. Also, please initial your child’s agenda each day and check the front pocket for any handouts. The cost for each agenda is $5.00 and can be handed in anytime the first week of school.

**School Supplies:** If possible, the following supplies are recommended for students to have at school: pencils, pencils crayons, erasers, pencil case, glue stick, scissors, ruler, pencil sharpener, calculator (very basic), and whiteboard markers.

**Kleenex:** Since allergy season is upon us and cold season is just around the corner, it would be very helpful if each student could bring in a regular sized box of Kleenex or two. Thank-you!

**Indoor/Outdoor Shoes:** It is recommended that students keep a pair of running shoes at the school to be used as indoor shoes, as well as for gym. Velcro shoes do work well for school.

**HEADPHONES:** All students are also asked to bring in headphones to use with the computers and tablets. Please label the headphones with your child’s name. The larger headphones that are worn on the outside of the ear are recommended (rather than ear buds).

**Scholastic Book Orders:** Participation is voluntary. Several times throughout the year, your child will receive a book order from Scholastic. You may purchase books by returning the order form, cash or cheque by the due date indicated (usually the following week). Unfortunately, I am not able to make change, so please ensure the exact amount is handed in. Each order helps us to earn new books for our classroom!

**Homework:** It is important that your child reads every night for at least *30 mins*. The public library is the best place to find reading material for your child to enjoy. Research shows that ***reading* is fundamental to a child's success in school and beyond.** Reading is the #1 factor in determining a student's ability to be successful in any other course of study. Children who are introduced to reading at an early age and are supported in this skill in the **home**, in **school**, and in the **community** are more successful students and adults. I do not assign regular nightly or weekly homework. Homework brought home will be work your child was not able to complete during the allotted class time.

**GYM/Health/Music/Dance/Library:** These subjects will be taught by the prep teacher, Mrs. Cowley. Gym will be on Days 2 & 5.

**School Snacks/Lunches:**  There are several students with nut allergies in our classroom and in our school, so we ask that students do not bring any types of food which contain nuts. This includes treats sent in for special celebrations. The safety of all students is our main concern.

I look forward to a wonderful year with all the students as we explore, investigate, and learn many new ideas and have lots of fun along the way! I hope that together we can make this school year fulfilling and rewarding. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at the school (905) 772-5071.

Sincerely, Mrs. Kostelny

**Helping Children Learn**

*~Tips Families Can Use to Help Children Do Better in School ~*

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| **Your input motivates your child**It’s the start of a new school year. You want your child to do his/her best, but what works? Try these tips:* ***Be positive.*** Children pick up their parents’ attitudes about learning. When you think your child can achieve, he’ll/she’ll believe that too. Encouragement and a “you can do it” attitude are great motivators.
* ***Use repetition.*** Teachers follow regular schedules in the classrooms. Put this to work for you at home too. Knowing what to expect reassures children and creates an effective learning environment.
* ***Break it down.*** Big tests and projects can overwhelm children. When you child thinks he/she can handle a task, he/she is more likely to be successful. Teach your child to break big tasks into smaller pieces.
* ***Teach the importance of a final check.*** One of the best habits to instill in your child is the final look-over before handing in any work. Help him/her create a checklist. For example:
	+ I followed the directions
	+ My writing is legible
	+ I double-checked my math
	+ I corrected errors in spelling/grammar
	+ I re-read my writing to ensure it makes sense
 | ***Daily attendance leads to student success***Research shows that regular school attendance can be the **KEY** to your child’s success in school. Absent students miss introductions to new skills, class discussions, hands-on learning opportunities and more. When they come back, they have to work harder to get caught up. So this year, make sure your child is in school on time – *every day*!star-black |
| **Simple routines get school days off to a good start**Avoid “morning madness” by establishing evening routines. Your child should:* **Choose** clothes for the next day
* **Have** his/her lunch and backpack ready to go
* **Set** an alarm clock. Make sure your child will have plenty of time in the morning
* **Stick** to a regular bedtime
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