

GRADE ONE NEWS

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10 Ways To Be- come a



Better Reader:

- Read
- **Read**
- Read
- Read
- **Read**
- **Read**
- Read
- Read
- **Read**
- **Read**

Wow! GRADE ONE!

Welcome to Grade One! I hope you had a great summer!

My name is Mrs. Katie Metcalfe and I will be your child's teacher this year!

I am married and we have two spunky kids at home.....one is a daughter named Allie and the other is a pup named Ozzie! Allie is starting JK this year—so it's a REALLY exciting time at our house right now.

I had a busy summer with my guys....bike riding, playing outside and gardening.

My passions include visual art and literacy. I have completed my Literacy Specialist courses. They have taught me a lot about the value of reading and how to spread that belief to each student—even if they don't want to read traditional texts and novels.

I truly try to make a connection with each and every child that I

teach. I think it's important for kids to know just how much they **CAN** do.....even if they are not at Gr. 1 standards....**YET!!!!** Everyone has their own strengths and weaknesses. The world would be a scary place if we were all the same. I will try to keep that in mind as we build a positive community in our class.

It takes us a bit to learn the new rules and expectations in our room. Our big job for the next little while is to remember to wait our turn to speak and to work quietly. It does take a while to get into a routine in Grade One. (It is such a big change from Kindergarten.) Patience is the name of the game! We want to **RESPECT** each other and allow everyone the chance to learn! My focus will continue to be

on authentic, real-life tasks for learning. I like to be creative with the curriculum so that we can have some fun with it. Hopefully you'll get a sense of that throughout the year.

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns. Happy thoughts are welcome as well!

Thanks for saying hi and introducing yourselves during these first few days of school. I'm just as excited (and nervous!) as the stu-



Want to know the latest about what's happening in our classroom and school? It's so easy!

1. Check the Agenda.
(We write a message every day!)
2. Follow along with the James Hillier Facebook page
3. Newsletters will be sent home monthly via our new school webpage!
4. Monthly calendars will be found glued into our agendas!
5. Say hi!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

GYM SHOES!

Please send in a pair of indoor shoes. Ideally, they should be a pair of running shoes so that they may be used for gym.

They should be a pair of shoes that your child can change into and do up on their own. Changing into indoor shoes is essen-

tial for keeping our classroom clean and mud-free as possible. We do have a spot where the shoes can be kept at school, just please ensure your child's name is on both shoes so that there are no mix ups! **MUSIC and HEALTH** will be taught by Ms. Getty this year!!



Ms. Sabatino will be your child's gym and dance teacher this year!

*"Let us read
and let us
dance—two
amusements
that will never
do any harm to
the world."*

*Voltaire—
(1648-1778)*

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS!

This year, your child will have an opportunity to participate in the Scholastic Canada Book Club. This book club offers a wide selection of children's literature in paperback and hardcover as well as age appropriate learning materials such as puzzles, videos and computer games. A school book club helps children:

- by improving their reading skills through regular exposure to good books
- by allowing them to select their own books

which gives them a positive feeling about reading, especially if they are reluctant readers.

-by supporting classroom reading activities.

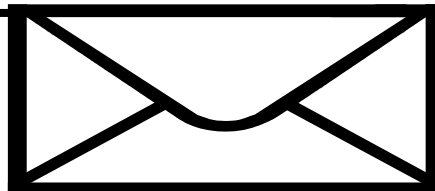
With every order that is placed, our classroom will receive free books as well as other classroom resources.

A copy of this month's selections will be sent home soon.

If you are interested in ordering any books or other items for your child, please complete the order form and return it by the date due

shown on our class calendar. **If you are paying by cheque, please make it payable to Scholastic Canada Ltd. I will also accept cash!!!** The class order normally arrives within a week or so. (These items make great birthday and Christmas gifts too! Please let me know if the books are a surprise—and we'll make secret arrangements!)

Please note that you are under NO obligation to purchase. An order form will be sent home each month for viewing.



NOTES TO REMEMBER!!

****Please label all coats, shoes, bags—etc. We will have lots of students using the room each day—it will help to keep things tidy. You may wish to send an extra change of clothing to stay at school on your child's hook in case of (any kind of!) accidents.**

****Parent volunteers are more than welcome at our school! But, our class would like to be able to get our routines**

settled independently at first....and then invite some people in to help with our reading program. I'll write more in our next newsletter about how you can help. While you're waiting—be sure to see if your Police Check is up to date!

**** More information about Show and tell, Reading Bags and Library days will come as we get settled in.**

Please pay for your child's agenda VIA SCHOOL CASH ONLINE this year! The agendas are \$5.

****We will have a special STAR of the Day each school day. That person will be put to work doing special jobs around the classroom! Other information will be sent home as we go along. Thanks for being patient!**

CELEBRATIONS/BIRTHDAYS

Back to school means lots of yummy snacks and sticky fingers. Please ensure that your child has a peanut-free (and Wow Butter Free) lunch and lots of healthy peanut-free snacks to keep them focused for the day.

We do have friends with severe peanut allergies in the school and we want their family to be confident that they'll be safe at school. For this reason—I discourage sharing snacks at nutrition break time.

We cannot accept home-made goodies or treats on your child's birthday or other fun days. Things must be pre-made/store bought and claim to be peanut free if you would like to share. Thanks for your help and sensitivity!

MEETING THE CURRICULUM

With every newsletter, I will be letting you know what we will be working on for each month.

This first few weeks we'll be focusing on routines and getting along with our new friends.

***Language:** Reading assessments, big books and lots of Shared Reading.

*** Writing:** Pattern sentences, finger spaces and learning to copy our agenda messages.

***Math:** Patterning!!

***Visual Arts:** Colour

Ms. Sabatino will be teaching Gym and Dance this year.

Ms. Getty will be teaching Music and Health.

What can you do at home to reinforce these units?

Have your child practice identifying the sounds that

they hear in the words they want to write. Start small—don't worry if the spelling is not perfect. Try writing the grocery list together.

Read (anything!) together—share what you thought of it with each other.

Please check out the Gov't of Ontario's website for further information about our Grade One Curriculum and Expectations!

www.edu.gov.on.ca

Please send a note if your child's pick up/drop off routine changes anytime throughout the year. Talk to your child about who will meet them and where it will be.



SEPTEMBER HOMEWORK

- * Get lots of sleep.

- * Eat well.

- * Keep playing outside....it's still so nice out!

- * Practice packing your own backpack! Agendas and lunch bags are hard to get in. How fast can you do it?

- * **Bring in your favourite school supplies for your desk! Good ideas include: gluesticks, nice writing pencils and something to colour with. Twistables are cool! Crayons are still awesome! And yes, we'll use markers sometimes, too!**