



Dear Families,

Welcome to Grade 1/2. I am thrilled to be your child's teacher! I can't wait to watch the boys and girls blossom and grow throughout this school year!

We will be working on establishing our routines in September and getting to know our classmates. This year will be a big change from Kindergarten for the Grade 1 students and I will be looking to our Grade 2 friends to help lead the way! We will be focusing on our routines, taking turns in conversations, and being kind friends.

Celebrating a "Yes, I Can" approach to learning will be a goal in our classroom. The boys and girls will be encouraged to always try their best as they build confidence with new or difficult tasks.

Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with you this year!

Your partner in education,

Mrs. Laura Dudley

## START-UP NEWSLETTER for Grade 1/2!

September 2017

### NUTRITION BREAKS

Yum! The boys and girls love snack time. Please help them be focused and ready for learning by providing lots of healthy snacks. Please note that we are a nut-free school. Food sharing in the classroom is not permitted. Please be sure that the snacks you provide are peanut and nut free. \*Artificial peanut products are NOT permitted (i.e. Wow Butter, Pea Butter etc). This is a Board-wide policy. Thank you!!

### Important Dates:



**\*Please complete and return all school forms ASAP! Thank you!**

**Meet the Teacher –  
Sept. 12 4:30-6:00**

**P/A Day – Sept. 15  
No School Today**

**School Pictures –  
Sept. 20**

**\*Remember to  
bring your smile!**

### STAY IN THE LOOP!

Here's how to keep up to date on what's happening Grade 1/2!

- Check the Agenda every day.
- Follow our class on Twitter!

@Mrs.LADudley

I will tweet pictures of our classroom happenings. (Please let me know as soon as possible if you do **NOT** want pictures of your child on Twitter.)

- Newsletters will come home in the first week of each month.
- A Calendar will be glued in your child's agenda.

## SOME 'NEED-TO-KNOW' ITEMS:

### RUNNING SHOES

**Gym is every Day 1 & 5.** Students must wear running shoes for gym. For safety reasons, no exceptions will be made. Being prepared for gym class is part of the gym expectations for report card purposes. **Please send in a pair of running shoes** to leave at school for gym. Please remember to label both shoes with your child's name. **Shoes with VELCRO (or other easy fasteners) are required, if your child is unable to tie their shoe laces independently. THANK YOU!**

**EXTRA CLOTHES** – Please send an extra change of clothing in your child's backpack "just in case". \* **Helpful tip:** Put the extra change of clothing in a large, labelled Ziploc bag. Easy! Remember to change the clothes as the seasons or size needs change throughout the year. ☺



**AGENDAS** - We will be using agendas this year. Be sure to check the agenda after school each day for special event reminders, due dates etc., and please remember to return it the following morning. We will write in our agendas every day! A quick initial beside our message will let me know that you have checked the agenda. I will check the agendas in the morning each day. If you need to write me a note, please write it in the box for the following day, so I will see it that morning. Be sure to write in the area for parent comments/notes (the boys and girls will print in the larger, lined white space). The clear pocket at the front of the

agenda is perfect for sending in money, forms, etc. to the school. Remember to place money in a labelled envelope or a zip-lock bag with your child's name! **Please pay \$5.00** to cover the cost of your child's agenda on **School Cash Online** as soon as possible. Please keep the ruler that comes with the agenda at home. It makes our writing too bumpy! Thanks!!

**WHAT ELSE CAN YOU SEND IN?** – It is important to stay hydrated, especially in warm weather. Please send in a reusable water bottle that your child can leave on their desk. We have a refilling station at the school. I will send them home for a wash too!

The boys and girls are also welcome to bring in:

- coloured pencils (already sharpened please)
- markers, crayons, glue stick
- a pencil case for storing these items in their desk
- one box of Kleenex - our noses thank you!! ☺

## **SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS**

I will be sending home Scholastic Canada Book Flyers throughout the year. This book club offers a wide variety of children's books and other educational materials that you and your child can enjoy together. Letting your child be a part of the selection process will encourage even the most reluctant reader to dive right into a book that he or she helped choose! With each order placed, our classroom will benefit by receiving books and other resources that we can all enjoy! **Of course, you are under no obligation to purchase from this club.** Happy reading!

## **CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS**

In each newsletter, I will outline what we are learning about in the classroom. This will help you support your child's learning at home.

\*Routines – We will be learning routines and making new friends this month.

\*We will begin learning how to develop a "Growth Mindset".



\*Language – Reading assessments, shared reading of weekly poems/songs with a focus on developing reading strategies. Introducing our Words of the Week (WOW words).

\*Writing – Pattern sentences and copying messages in our agendas. Writing complete sentences using capitals where they belong, finger spaces between words and punctuation at the end.

\*Math – We will begin with Number Sense – proper number formation, composing and decomposing numbers to 20, counting backwards, skip counting and learning how to use our math journals. Patterning will follow soon!

\*Visual Arts – Primary and secondary colours.

\*Science/Social Studies: "Big Idea" – Community

\*Mrs. Jones will be teaching Gym (Day 1, 5) and Dance, Music and Health this year.



## **INTERNET CONNECTIONS**

Would you like to learn about the Ontario Curriculum for Grades 1 and 2? Perhaps you are curious about our WOW words? Please take some time to learn about these by checking out the following websites!

**\*Ontario Curriculum Expectations:**

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/>

**\*WOW Words (Dolch Word Lists):**

<http://www.mrsperkins.com/dolch.htm>

**\*For some fun with reading & math:**

[www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com)

**\*For physical activity or calming mindfulness exercises, check out GoNoodle at:**

[www.gonoodle.com](http://www.gonoodle.com)

We use GoNoodle most days for transitions and movement breaks. The kids love it! \*Tip: This site works best when Google Chrome is used as your internet browser, rather than Internet Explorer.

## **HOME CONNECTIONS:**

Please help support what your child is learning in the classroom and give the following a try!

Encourage your child to sound-out tricky words when writing or labeling a picture. Please do not worry if the spelling is not perfect. That's OK!

Warm Fuzzies" are saying and doing kind things. The boys and girls will be working on being polite, patient and kind at school. Remembering to say "please and thank you" takes a lot of practice. Help them make this a habit both at home and at school. ☺

Read lots of books together and talk about them when you're done. What was their favourite part? Why? Did the story remind them of anything (another book, something they have done before, or something in their community)?



## **READING PROGRAM**

Later this month, our home reading program will begin. Detailed information will follow with their first home reader!

Birthdays and special celebrations are a lot of fun. If you would like to share a treat with the class on a special event day, please do! Unfortunately, as delicious as home-made goodies are, treats shared with us at school must be store bought and nut free. Thank you!



## **COMING SOON!!**

### **WOW WORDS**

Beginning next week, your child will start a word study program. Words of the Week or "WOW" words will be covered for both grade 1 and 2 using Dolch words. Grade 1 will begin with a review of a selection of Kindergarten words from the Pre-Primer and Primer lists, while Grade 2 will review Grade 1 words from last year, before moving on to their grade-level words. Students will then be encouraged to self-select from two lists (List A, B or both) to meet the individual needs of each student. They will write their words in their agenda at the start of each week. Please help them practice these words for a few minutes each day by printing them, finding them in books they read with you and even printing them in a sentence. After working with these words all week, both at school and at home, we will have a Friday WOW Word challenge (spelling test ☺).

Here are a few additional ways to make our WOW word homework more fun!

- Print the words using fancy letters/colours
- Make a word scramble that they solve  
e.g. rehe = here
- Write the words and underline the vowels
- Write them in ABC order

### **VOLUNTEERS ARE MOST WELCOME!**

Once we have established our routines in the classroom, I would love to have volunteers come in to support student learning. Please let me know if you are interested in helping in this way and when you would be available. A valid police check is required. Please check in at the office and Mrs. Dalby can help you with the necessary paperwork. Thank you so much!

I am looking forward to a great year!  
Mrs. Laura Dudley