



September

Welcome to Grade 1/2

My name is Mrs. Patricia Sawdyk Coverdale and I am so thrilled to be teaching your child this year. It's going to be an incredible year. Here's a little about me, just so you know who your child is spending their days with... lol. I have two children, Alex who is 8 and Annie, who is 4 and beginning JK this fall. They are the joys of my life and keep me on my toes between rep baseball and dance and music and swimming etc etc... My husband Dan and I recently moved to Brant county where we bought some property to let the "littles" run and play. We spent time at the family cottage this year, which is my favorite place in the world (Algonquin Park area) and is one of the best places for children to learn and grow. Our family loves to fish, boat, ski, tube and always a morning swim to start the day.

I am committed to providing your child with the best academic experience possible this year. I will be conducting lots of small group instruction to help meet children's needs and to explore various areas of inquiry and interest for the children. It's also really important that each child feels special, loved and heard. They need to feel safe and happy at school and that's my ultimate goal. I am very passionate about my job and feel blessed to have the opportunity to do this every day.

The curriculum this month will be focused on community building and character education. We will also be exploring the Zones of Regulation (google it if you have chance, it's fantastic for parents). I will be conducting diagnostic assessments on each child to see where they are at in reading, writing and math. In addition to speaking with last year's teachers, it would be helpful to me if you could fill in the survey I am sending home with this. You can indicate areas of need and development while also telling me about your child's interests, hobbies etc to help guide my planning for the year.

We will begin weekly spelling and word study activities next week. There will be a spelling test each Monday and then new words assigned after that. That way you have the weekend to help your child study and feel prepared. There will be different words for grade one and two's and children can choose words that are appropriate to them as some may like the additional challenge of grade two words etc. You will see other assessments coming home throughout the year, some will be tests, some will be students demonstrating their learning with hands on activities inside the classroom.

The main homework component in grade one and two is the Home Reading Program. It won't take much time at all if you can commit to a few minutes each night to read with your child. I will be looking for volunteers to come and help us out with this in October. If you're interested, please let me know and complete a police check and have it on file at the office. Thanks so much.

We will begin with a patterning unit in math for both grades and will be starting science and social studies in a couple weeks. Grade two children will be working in the classroom, and grade ones will be visiting Mrs. Metcalfe for social studies and science lessons. I am committed to making this a wonderful year for your child and look forward to learning and growing together!

The following items would be a wonderful donation to our classroom this year and very very much appreciated.....

Lysol wipes, or baby wipes, dollar store craft supplies, large zip lock bags, tissue, paper plates, plastic spoons, empty paper towel rolls, saved yoghurt cups etc for paint Thank you so much in advance!!!

Gym Shoes/Extra Clothing

Please send along gym shoes that can stay at school all year long. They should not be laces if your child can't tie them independently. Also, it's important to send extra clothing in a bag in case of accidents with muddy puddles etc etc. It saves us calling you in the middle of the day to bring a change of clothing for your child

Agendas

Agendas will be required for each student to use daily. Please send in \$5 for your child to purchase one. The agenda is the primary means of parent and teacher communication. If you have any questions or concerns I am always happy to call or meet with you. Send a note in the agenda and I will get back to you that day. I check them every day but sometimes miss my emails so a note in the agenda is the best way to reach me.

Remind App

I use the remind app on my phone to send notes and reminders about special days, tests, pictures of our learning and other important information. Please take a quick moment to add this to your phone:

Enter this number: (365) 800-0275

Text this message: @trishcov

You will receive texts on your phone from me when you do this. Please note this is a one way communication tool. Please do not text back, notes in the agenda are preferred.

Thanks so much. ☺