



*Dear Parents,*

It is a great pleasure to have your child in our class this year. To start off the year, the Cycle 3 team has assembled this handbook to share with you the homework requirements and other vital information that will help make this a very positive and rewarding year.

We feel that open lines of communication between parent, student and teacher are essential to creating an educational environment favourable to learning. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or if there is something you would like to discuss.

We look forward to working with you this year as your child grows and learns.

Sincerely,

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Cycle 3 Team

## Agenda

Agendas are a useful tool to help your child learn organizational skills. Your child should record any homework, projects, newsletters, special days etc. in his/her agenda. Please ask your child to show you their agenda regularly. Due to certain circumstances, if a student for any reason is unable to complete an assignment during class time, this will automatically become homework – to be completed at home and returned by the assigned due date.

All communications with the office (i.e. bus, pickup, appointment, or daycare changes) should be written on a separate piece of paper and put it in the front agenda pocket. Please bring this note to the attention of your child so they know to give it to their homeroom teacher.

## Homework

Students will be assigned homework. Please check your child's agenda regularly to make sure all assignments are completed.

- Students are expected to read and converse for 20 minutes every night.
- If students do not complete daily work, they will be expected to finish these assignments at home and returned by the assigned due date to the appropriate teacher without any reminders.
- Homework information is regularly posted by teachers but should only be used as a supplement or backup to the agenda.

## Gym

Students **MUST** have appropriate footwear for gym class. For safety purposes, students without proper running shoes will not be able to participate in gym.

It is also recommended that students change into gym-appropriate attire before class.

## Healthy Snacks

Every morning and afternoon, students have time for a healthy snack. Please send in healthy food items for each snack break. Some ideas are fruit, vegetables, cereal bars, cheese and crackers, yogurt.

\*\*\*We do have allergies in our classes and within the school and due to shared spaces and common areas we ask that no nut products are sent to school.



# **Communication**

**Class/Teacher Website:** <http://msguthriesclass.weebly.com/> I have sent home information on how to find and use our website. Pertinent information including assignments, upcoming and important events, reminders and tips can be found here. It should be visited regularly by both parents and students.

If you do not have an *iOS* or *Android* device or access to a computer with internet, please let me know.

## **Classroom Expectations**

1. Demonstrates respect, including "Ps & Qs"
2. Cooperates with, and respects his/her peers
3. Works independently and stays on task
4. Listens and follows directions
5. Completes assignments on time
6. Comes prepared for class
7. Completes homework and returns it to school by the assigned date
8. Is kind and considerate of others

## **Absences and Tardiness**

Attendance and punctuality at school are important for every student. Frequent absences from school significantly affect your child's learning. Students who are late or absent, are responsible for finding out from his/her teachers, what they have missed and completing the work in a timely fashion.

# Grade 6 Exams

We know that, for some students, exam time can be stressful and we want to make this a positive experience for your child. In order to give them the feeling of preparedness, we complete activities throughout the school year that are similar to the ones they will see on the exams.

## How we prepare:

### English Language Arts

- **Response writing**
  - Emotional
  - Opinion
  - Structures and Features
  - Message/Lessons
  - Themes
  - Symbols
  
- **Narrative**
  - Narrative craft – i.e. Hook, foreshadowing
  - Narrative features
  - Graphic organizers
  - Editing and revising

### Math

- Revision of math concepts throughout the year
- Application questions
- Situational problems
  - Steps
  - Organization techniques
  - Showing your work

# **What you can do at home:**

## **English Language Arts**

- **Response writing**
  - After reading, watching a T.V. show or movie, converse with your child about what they just watched.
  - Examples of discussion points include but are not limited to; theme, real-world connections, opinions, character change, character traits, predictions, symbols, lessons/meaning etc.
  - **Important:** When having these discussions with your child, ALWAYS have them explain and support their thinking with evidence from the text/media.
  
- **Narrative:**
  - Have students keep a writer's notebook at home to build writing stamina and to explore writing.
  - When reading with your child, pay attention to author's craft, discuss beginnings and endings, genre and style/voice.

## **Math**

- Ensure that all current math work is complete
- Review concepts on a regular basis
- Review and discuss tests, quizzes, application questions and situational problems
- Use online resources to practice newly acquired concepts and for review purposes (i.e. IXL, online math games etc.)
- Discuss with your child the important of organizing, labeling and showing their work.