

**ABC’s of grade 3**

**Welcome to grade three! I am looking forward to a wonderful, exciting and fun filled school year. In our classroom, children are valued as active learners who will be challenged to think creatively, develop a sense of teamwork, and also individual responsibility. My goal is to encourage children in all areas of development by providing activities that peak curiosity, encourage independent thinking, develop problem solving skills and promote self- esteem. I am confident that this is going to be a great year, one that you and your child will remember as fun and rewarding! You can check out my webpage** [**www.mrsfk.weebly.com**](http://www.mrsfk.weebly.com) **for an updated schedule of class events, websites, photos and curriculum information. I encourage home-school contact and believe that it is important to work together to get the best results for your child. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns at** **dfisetkinzel@cisnd.ca****, or to set up a meeting.**

**The following ABC’s to our classroom should hopefully answer any questions you have, if not, please ask! I know there’s a lot of reading below, so read it at your leisure, so you know exactly what is happening in the classroom!**

***A*BOUT ME:**

I have been teaching for over 20 years, and have taught from pre-kindergarten to grade 12. I have taught in BC, Alberta, USA and New Zealand. My first two years at Our Lady of Lourdes I taught all the students in the school, and last year I taught grade 2/3 so I already know most of the students in the class, and I am looking forward to a great year!

***A*LLERGIES**

There will be various celebrations and class parties throughout the school year. Therefore it is important for me to know if your child has any allergies, or if there are certain foods you do not wish them to eat. Please email me if there are any concerns. There is a school policy of no nuts in the school. There are allergies to nuts in the class this year, so please no nut products in class.

***A*BSENCES**

Please notify myself and/or the office if your child will not be in school.

***A*RRIVAL AND DEPARTURE**

School starts at 8:30, and ends at 2:30. Supervision after school is until 2:50, supervision in the morning starts at 8:15.If they arrive late (after 8:30) they must check in at the office.

***B*EHAVIOUR**

Expectations for appropriate behavior are established at the beginning of the school year and I will be using Whole Brain Teaching techniques for teaching and behaviour programs. Repeated issues with behavior will be addressed immediately. Behavior plans are based on Whole Brain Teaching, and may change throughout the year, but are based on the class expectations. If students are not following the rules they may be asked to practice them, and notes or phone calls home may be made. I will also be sending home positive notes and emails for great, bucket filling behaviour (see below about bucket fillers).

***B*IRTHDAYS**

If your child wishes to celebrate their birthday at school they can bring a treat to class, I will try to make them the VIP on their birthday, or close to it, so they can bring it in on that day. I will have a monthly calendar with the special person of the day, or VIP, so they can bring it on that day if possible. If the item needs plates, napkins, cups or anything, please bring those as well. Also, if you have birthday party invitations to give to the whole class, that is great. However, if they are only inviting a few students, please have them be discrete when handing out invitations so it does not cause hurt feelings.

 

***B*UCKET FILLERS**

 My classroom started with bucket fillers three years ago when I read the book about being a bucket filler, and the school has now also adopted bucket filler tickets. We will continue to be bucket fillers, people who fill peoples buckets make them happy, bucket dippers make them sad. Each child will have a bucket where others can deposit comments about how they made their day, and I will continue with bucket filler tickets to students.

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***C*OMMUNICATION**

I welcome open communication, you can get in touch with me by email at dfisetkinzel@cisnd.ca, or by phone at the school. I will be sending home monthly newsletters as well as short emails when needed. If you would like to discuss your child, please schedule a conference time with me, as often I have meetings or practices after school and prayer in the mornings, so it is easiest to pre-arrange a time to meet.

***C*ALENDAR**

I will be sending home a calendar at the beginning of each month along with my newsletter. It will have the monthly events on it, as well as the VIP for the day. Your child will have a VIP day about once a month, where they will have special privileges for that day, student names will also be on the calendar. If you would like the calendar sent home in a paper copy please let me know.

***D*IFFERENTIATION**

It is my philosophy that every child is unique and learns in different ways. Each child needs to be challenged at their own level. I differentiate my lessons to fit the needs of all students. For example I check their spelling and reading levels periodically and they are given work at their level. Groupings change as students levels increase. It is important to know that your child may have different work from another child, but they are learning at a way that is best for them.

***E*ARLY DISMISSAL at 1:30**

Early dismissal is usually the third Thursday of the month for our staff meetings, this is also usually the day of our school mass. Occasionally this changes, so watch the newsletters and calendars for the dates.

***F*RENCH AND MUSIC**

French this year will be in our classroom with Ms. Dubinsky, and music in the music room with Mrs. Aubichon. Mrs. Hale D’Aoust will also be doing music and other activities with the class

***F*IELD TRIPS**

We will try to get in as many great field trips as we can this year, so if you are able to drive, please ensure you get all your paperwork into the office as soon as possible, as we will try to spread the field trips out throughout the year.

***G*RADING**

The BC Ministry of Education has established a new curriculum this year, and as such I will piloting a different reporting system this year in my classroom. Last year I used a website/APP that parents signed up with to see photos and videos that I posted of their child, with access through a username and password. This program also has a report card segment to it, and I will be using that for report cards this year. You will be getting approximately weekly progress reports through Freshgrade, and then three report cards. They will still be printed off and sent home, but will look different than last year report cards, but will still have the same, if not more information on them, including photos.

**GROWTH MINDSET**

Growth mindset is something we touched on last year, and will continue to talk about. People in a **growth** mindset believe anyone can be good at anything, because your abilities are entirely due to your actions. For example, in a fixed mindset, you believe “She’s a natural born singer” or “I’m just no good at math.” In a growth mindset, you believe “Anyone can be good at anything. Skill comes only from practice.”

***H*OMEWORK**

In this grade usually the only homework is reading and spelling. I suggest 10-20 minutes of daily reading silently or with a parent or sibling. Please color in one square for every 10 minutes in the small sheet that will be in the agenda. They can also work on their spelling, more information will come with the first unit. Occasionally there may be other things to do for special projects, or if your child was absent and needs to catch up.

***I*MPROVER GOALS**

Last year ach child tried to climb the super improver wall, by getting a star sticker if they improved. With 10 stars they moved up a level. This year we have the same sort of system, but the chart with their goal will be on their desk to remind them what they are working on. Each student will have personal goals they will try to improve on, whether it be academic, behavior, habits, or other things. They are not competing against others, but should be proud of themselves when they reach their goals!

***J*OURNALS**

We will be writing in journals on a regular basis to improve writing, we will be using the 6 traits of writing program this year. Occasionally journals may go home for you to read and respond in. We also have class journals that anyone can write in, and read.

***K*INDNESS**

Being kind to one another is very important in our classroom. We need to treat each other the way we want to be treated, and remember, WWJD- What would Jesus do? We will try to fill each other’s buckets, and not be bucket dippers! We have actual buckets to fill this year with kindness, and a gratitude tree to fill with kindness as well.

***L*ANGUAGE ARTS**

The basic curriculum for grade 3 is: Speaking-generate and share ideas, recall in logical order. Reading- self correct, make connection to text, locate information. Writing-write for a purpose/audience, access references, use criteria to improve writing, use conventional spelling, use proper sentence structure and variation and new vocabulary. Story- what are the literary elements and elements of a story.

***M*ATH**

The basic curriculum for grade 3 is: numbers to 1000 ,mental math for adding and subtracting two 2 digit numbers, addition and subtraction up to 1000 with 1,2 and 3 digit numbers, multiplication and division up to 5X5, basic fractions, patterning, time, measuring cm, m, and g,kg , perimeter, and 3d shapes.

***N*EWSLETTER**

Watch your email for a monthly newsletter and calendar. If you miss it, check my website for information.

***O*H- AGENDAS!**

Agendas will go home every night with information, even if there is nothing, the students will write NOTHING TO WRITE, so please check it every day, and initial it so I know it has been read. I check them every day as well in case you would like to write a note in the agenda, or slip it into the pouch. Please help your child remember to bring it back and forth every day, it is a great habit to get into for later years as well to keep track of homework! I may occasionally write a note about the day they had (good or bad). They will self monitor by checking off green yellow or red in the circles. There are also sheets in them to color in when they do 10 minutes of reading per night (with a book, comic, or raz kids). The agendas also have information on the virtue of the month.



***P*HYSICAL EDUCATION**

We have four gym classes booked per week, plus on the fifth day we plan for DPA- daily physical activity- this could be outside activities or yoga or other activities in the classroom. I have lots of brain breaks, or “get up out of your desk and move” activities planned throughout the day to keep them active and engaged as well. I try to make movement a part of most of my lessons in some way. The curriculum we will cover in PE class includes: activity, sleep and proper nutrition are important to health; throwing, catching, balance, running, jumping, kicking, trapping, dribbling, and patterns (eg. In dance and gymnastics).

***Q*UESTIONS**

I’ve tried to think of everything you need to know, but feel free to email me any questions!

***R*EADING**

I loved using Raz Kids last year and hope you will love it this year! Each student will be signed up, and it can be used at home or at school. I love it because as a teacher I can see what the students have read, how well they understood it, and it keeps track of everything for me. It allows me to listen to the students read and check their reading level after school, so I don’t have to take time during school teaching hours. I will have the students read to me one on one at school as well, but it makes it easier to give them a proper scoring to place them at their reading level. If you aren’t able to do it at home on a laptop, iPad or even a smartphone, they can do it at school on my iPad. There are quizzes after every book to check their understanding as well. I will also be using Reading Power this year, which is a program that focuses on the students learning how to get the most of books by things such as making connections, visualizing and asking questions. I will be sending home a small paper to record reading at home. Please initial one square in the sheet for every 10 minutes of reading (with a book or on raz kids, alone or reading with a parent or sibling), when the chart is full, send it back to school.

If you are willing to come and read with the students, please let me know!

***S*CIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES**

This year Science and Social Studies will usually be taught one at a time, so we will do a unit in Socials, then a unit in Science. The curriculum is:

Grade 3 –SS- culture of local and global indigenous people, social organization of indigenous people, history and stories of First Peoples culture, and relationship of people and their environment.

Grade 3 Science- biodiversity in the environment (different animals and plants, food web, food chain) matter and energy, thermal energy, and landforms.

***T*HEME**

The theme in the classroom this year is travel! We will have a VIP every day who will have special privileges, do class jobs and be allowed to share that day. My favorite saying is by St. Augustine: “The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.” I love to travel and to read about it, I have traveled to many countries and taught in three, and I would love to spark interest in the students about the world. Passport to Learning is my theme, and they will all have a passport! As they read books on different countries (fiction and non-fiction) they will get a stamp/sticker in their passport! Around the world in 40 days (books); if they can read 40 books in my suitcase they can get a prize!

***U*LTRA SPECIAL DAYS**

On special days such as Valentine’s Day, last day before Christmas holidays, Halloween, and the end of the year, we will probably have a small class party. I will be asking for volunteers to send in healthier snacks such as fruit or vegetable tray, cheese and crackers, chocolate milk, etc. If you wish to come and help run a station at the party, please let me know!

***V*OLUNTEERS**

I love volunteers in the classroom- if you have a special skill or a career you would like to share with us, please let me know so we can have you in. If you can talk about dental hygiene, or police work or share your love of painting or quilting, or whatever your skills are, please let me know. If you would like to read to the kids during the day for half an hour, that is great too! Just make sure the paperwork is in the office to work with the class and we can set up a time for you to come in and help out the class.

***W*EEKLY TRAVEL BAG**

Curious George- I want the students to be curious about the world- so I will be sending home Curious George in a travel bag. Each student will get him for a week, they can take him wherever they go. Then write about it, take a picture and put it in, or draw a picture. There will be a few books and activities in the bag too. It will go home on Tuesday and be returned the following Monday to go to the next student.

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***X*TRA BOOKS- scholastics**

I’m sure you all can relate to the excitement we all experience when we crack open the spine of a new book. That excitement is amplified for our new readers! Each month, I will send home a catalog from Scholastic Book Clubs. This program provides an inexpensive way to add books to your children’s home libraries while benefiting our class. With each purchase, our class earns Bonus Points, which can be exchanged for books for our classroom and other items. This year you can even pay online if you prefer, by using your credit card. You can log on at http://parentpay.scholastic.ca/ Please keep in mind that you are under no obligation to purchase materials from Scholastic Book Clubs

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***Y*OUR SPECIAL DAY**

When it is your student’s special day, they should be prepared for show and tell, and whatever the item is for that month. For example, this first month, every child will fill in a poster about themselves and present it to the class. Next month they will have a different opportunity, it could be they are allowed to bring something for show and tell. When it is their day they will have privileges such as sitting in the special chair, taking down the attendance and being first in line, choosing a brain break or warm up game in gym. I will try and give them their special day on or near their birthday. If they are absent, if possible I will switch their day with the next person in line.

***Z*ZZZZ’S**

We want our students to be at their best in school. This begins with a good night sleep. Please establish a reasonable bed time and stick to it all week, it is recommended that elementary students sleep 10-11 hours each night. Whew, I think I’m ready for a nap after writing all that, and you are probably after reading it! It will be on my website under introductory newsletter if you ever need to refer to anything! Let’s have a great year!

Mrs. Dina Fiset-Kinzel