September 19, 2013

**Dear Parents of Division 10,**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child. The children are settling in nicely as everyone adjusts to the new school year.

Division 10 is a class of twenty Grade One students.

Mrs. Sheryl Morris will be teaching the class on Mondays, Tuesdays and alternate Wednesdays. Mrs. Jeanette Murphy will be teaching the class on alternate Wednesdays, and every Thursday and Friday. We have been team-teaching combined grade primary classes together at Laurier since 2006. We are looking forward to an exciting year, full of positive experiences and learning adventures for your children.

The first few weeks will be spent getting to know one another, becoming familiar with classroom routines and learning about expectations for classroom behaviour and learning.

**Attendance**

Please make sure your child arrives at school on time. The warning bell goes at 8:55am and class begins at 9:00am. If your child is ill and is going to be absent, please remember to call Ms. Horne in the office at **604-713-4925**.

**Home & School Communication with Daily Agendas**

Communication between home and school is vital to your child’s success in the classroom. If English is not your first Language, please bring a family member or a friend to any school meetings in order to translate important information. Remember to check your child’s agenda on a daily basis as there is often important information sent home. Please remind your child to remove notices from their “Home Pocket” on the classroom door at home time.

**Recess (10:35-10:55) & Lunch (12:10-1:00)**

Div. 10 students will take their recess snacks out on the playground to eat. The children will be supervised while eating their lunch in the classroom. Please remember to send **nutritious** snacks and lunches that your child can eat independently. Children need healthy food to learn and work well at school. Sugary snacks and drinks have little or no nutritional value and are detrimental to learning as well as behavior.

**Please do not send candy or pop to school.**

**Hot Lunch Program**

Wednesdays and Fridays are optional hot lunch days. Watch for hot lunch information from Laurier’s wonderful PAC, or go online to the Laurier website at [www.laurier.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.laurier.vsb.bc.ca) to register.

**Birthdays**

We will celebrate each child’s birthday in the classroom by singing the birthday song. All summer birthdays are celebrated in June.

**Due to severe food allergies, please do NOT send birthday treats (cakes/cookies) to be shared with the class.**
You are invited to donate a new or gently used book to our classroom library on your child’s birthday. The Birthday Books will be given a sticker with your child’s name & year, and will be shared with the class in our “Birthday Book Bin” for years to come.

**Div 10’s Family Booktime –Wed 9:00-9:15am**

Please join us on Wednesday mornings for our Family Booktime. We strongly believe in the importance of parents and guardians playing an active role in their child’s education – not only at home, but also in the classroom. We would like parents and care givers to read with the children during our 15 minute “Family Booktime”. We invite you to drop in and read with us during this time whenever you have the chance.

**Behaviour**Our goal is to create a happy and supportive learning environment. We teach children to make “good” choices. All students have the right to learn in a safe, productive environment. When problems arise, they are dealt with naturally and logically. The children helped to generate the following “Classroom Promise”, and have signed their names at the bottom; it is hanging on our classroom wall.

Our Classroom PromiseWe keep our hands and feet to ourselves.

We use kind words.

We use walking “marshmallow” feet.

We listen when others are speaking.

We use our inside “30 centimetre” voices.

We take care of our school, each other, and ourselves.

We always try our best.

**Fitness Fridays & Daily Physical Activity**

Laurier Staff & Students are committed to taking care of ourselves. On Friday mornings we meet in the gym for warm up activities before heading outside for a jog around the gravel field.

A minimum of 20 minutes a day of physical activity is recommended for every child in BC. You can help your child exceed this expectation by **walking or cycling to school** every day. It’s a great way to warm up for the school day and an excellent opportunity to chat with your child while modeling a healthy lifestyle.

**Star of the Day & Sharing Time**

We will rotate alphabetically by first names for each student to be Star of the Day.

This is a time for each child to be ‘in the spotlight’ and to take on special leadership roles for the day – lining up first, leading the class to music, library, or gym times, helping the teacher read the daily message, and presenting their sharing to the class.

Please check our class website for the Star of the Day schedule. A paper copy will be sent home as well. [www.mrsmorrismrsmurphysclass.weebly.com](http://www.mrsmorrismrsmurphysclass.weebly.com)

For your child’s sharing days, encourage your child to bring a book to ‘review’ for the class, a poem to read, a hand-made creation, a nature-found item, or help your child to share some news or photos about an exciting event in their life.

No Toys, Electronics, or Valuables please. These items often become lost or broken, which leads to disappointment and tears.

**Home Reading Program**

Home Reading packages will be sent home in October. Remember to read with your child every day. Each child will choose one book to bring home every day. He/She will read and re-read the book at home to a parent, then return it to school the next day to choose another book. Please set aside a regular reading time with your child; you are developing strong literacy skills and a wonderful enjoyment of reading.

**Laurier’s Library with Ms Alanna Wong – 8:30am and 3:01pm**

Ms Wong plans to have the Library open for 30 minutes before and after school for book exchanges. This is a great time to visit the school library with your child, help to exchange their library books, and to get to know our wonderful school librarian. Ms. Wong hopes all families will enjoy the Laurier Library because… The more you read, the better you read!

**Housekeeping**

Be sure to **label** everything your child brings to school, including lunch boxes, water bottles, and back packs.

On gym days, (Mondays, Thursdays, and Fitness Fridays), children need to wear runners and either shorts and a t-shirt or comfortable clothing (no jeans please).

Please send a pair of indoor shoes to store at school for use on rainy days.

In case of spills/accidents, please keep a change of clothesat school in a ziplock bag clearly labeled with your child’s name**.**

**Coughs & Sneezes**

We tend to go through a lot of tissues—we ask that every family send a box of tissues to school for sharing. This way we should make it through the year!

**Classroom Volunteers**

Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering in our classroom to help with gluing, cutting, reading, cooking activities, art projects, or sharing your special talents with the class.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange a time when we can meet.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sheryl Morris Mrs. Jeanette Murphy
smorris@vsb.bc.ca jpmurphy@vsb.bc.ca

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mon** Mrs Morris | **Tues**Mrs Morris | **Wed**Mrs Morris/Mrs. Murphy | **Thurs**Mrs Murphy | **Fri**Mrs Murphy |
| \*Gym Day\*Library Open Daily 8:30am and 3:00 for Book Exchange | \*Music with  Ms Chung\*Library Open Daily 8:30am and 3:00 for Book Exchange | \*Family Booktime\*Library Day\*Hot Lunch Day\*Library Open Daily 8:30am and 3:00 for Book Exchange | \*Gym Day\*Music with  Ms Chung \*Library Open Daily 8:30am and 3:00 for Book Exchange | \*Fitness Friday\*Big Buddies\*Hot Lunch Day\*Library Open Daily 8:30am and 3:00 for Book Exchange |