



September 8, 2015

Dear Parents,

It is our pleasure to be teaching your child this year! We look forward to working closely with you and getting to know your child. You are your child's first teacher, and together we can help your child meet the Provincial expectations for this year. These first few weeks, we will be getting our routines and classroom rules established as we get to know each other. A major emphasis with our students is that effort is more important than ability in achieving success and that a student's "job" is to work hard and try his/her best.

We often get questions about homework expectations and how parents can support their children at home. We hope the following information will be helpful in establishing routines at home that support the efforts your child is making in the classroom.

Homework

Guidelines suggest that grade three students spend no more than 30 minutes on homework and reading every night. Homework is given on a weekly basis. If time allows, you can encourage your child to read orally and ask them questions about what they have read. Daily problem solving tasks at home are a wonderful opportunity to expose children to real-life problem solving. Making change with money, estimating amounts (volume/distance) and measuring are just a few examples. Practice in basic addition and subtraction will help your child improve their speed in computations.

Organization

Each student at St. Stephen receives an agenda. It is important that your child takes ownership of their agenda in order to keep track of assignments and ensure homework is returned, completed and on time. Please check and initial your child's agenda each night. It is an excellent home/school communication tool, so please use it to ask questions or provide us with important information concerning your child.

Nutrition

Students are provided two snack periods per day. These are approximately ten minutes long, therefore healthy snacks that are quick and easy are recommended. Since children continue to work while eating their snack, "non-spoon" snacks at this time would be appreciated. A small container of hand sanitizer that can be kept in your child's desk is also recommended.

* Please Send Snacks, Drinks And Lunches In Reusable Containers.

Suggested Grade 3 School Supplies

- Scissors
- Ruler
- 3 large glue sticks
- 1 package of pencils - sharpened
- 1 box of pencil crayons - sharpened
- Pencil sharpener with compartment to catch shavings
- 2 white erasers
- 1 highlighter
- 2 red pens
- pencil case
- 1 package Post-It Notes 3"x3" (no lines)
- Headphones (Dollar Store) No Earbuds please
- 1 box Large Ziploc bags
- 2 Boxes Kleenex

Clothing

Students should come to school prepared for the weather. All students are required to have separate indoor shoes. All clothing and school items should be clearly labeled with your child's name.

Classroom Library

Donations to the classroom library are always appreciated. If your child has finished a great book or magazine and would like to share it with their friends please feel free to bring it into class. These books will become part of our classroom library for students to enjoy for years to come.

Scholastic Book Orders

On the subject of great books, each month we will be sending home a Scholastic Book Order Form. Please take a moment to look it over. You are under no obligation to buy. If however, any titles interest you, please send in both the form and a cheque.

Religion

The spiritual theme for our school board this year is based on a passage from Paul's Letter to the Galatians, Galatians 6. "Restore one another in a spirit of gentleness." We will be exploring this theme often in the coming weeks as we begin to build our classroom community into a welcoming environment for all students.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support. We look forward to meeting with you and working with your child throughout the year.



Sincerely,

Jillian Buccino
Julie Burke
Katie Lyons
Jared Semenchuk