September 17, 2018

Dear Parents,

Happy new school year! I am so excited to be your child’s teacher for their 4th grade year! I have been teaching for over 30 years and I feel truly lucky to do a job I am passionate about. To be most effective I am writing to ask you to become a partner with me in your child’s education. I will only have your child for a short time so I want to make a contribution that will last a lifetime.

I know my teaching must begin with making children feel at home in the classroom and helping all the children come together into a learning community. This community is made up of unique individuals, each with his or her own learning style, strengths, interests, history, hopes, and dreams. We have spent the first 2 weeks of school getting to know each other, setting up and practicing routines and expectations. We have had an amazing start to Grade 4!

It was wonderful to meet those parents who were able to attend Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday. For those of you how could not make it I am going to share some of the information that was discussed, in this note.

**School Fee**

My least favorite thing to do is harp about Student Fees. It is very important that you pay as soon as possible. All summer long I shopped for School Supplies for my students. I can promise you that all school supplies were purchased at the best possible price. When students entered the classroom on the first day there was a pencil case, a box of quality pencil crayons, markets, pencils, erasers, notebooks, a package of loose leaf, an agenda and a Communication Bag. I purchased all of these items during the summer. I paid for these school supplies out of my own pocket. As students pay student fees I can submit my receipts and be reimbursed. However, any students who do not pay the student fee, the money is out of my pocket.

Students will only receive one pencil case, one package of markers and pencil crayons. If lost they can use the bucket of random markers and pencil crayons. I only have one Communication Bag for each child. Baggies will be used if a Communication is lost or unusable.

Part of the student also goes toward technology upkeep.

If paying the Student fee is creating financial hardship please contact me. I am open to options for payment.

**Attendance**

If you child is going to be absent from school please call the office and leave a message. The office will enter the absenteeism in our system. Please feel free to send me an email. I am always interested in my student’s wellbeing. However, it is important to note that my check my email at 7 A.M and after school.

**End of the Day Dismissal**

Dismissal time is a very busy time. Things can get a little hectic. To help prevent your child from getting on the wrong bus, getting off at the wrong stop it is IMPERATIVE that any messages regarding bus changes / going home changes be sent in writing or the office contacted in the early afternoon. It is very difficult to make changes at the last minute. If a child tells me that they are being picked up my rule is; if someone is waiting for you when we dismiss that is great. However, if the bus is ready to leave and no one has showed up for pick up the child will get on the bus.

If your child is getting off at a different stop this must be put in writing so it can be given to the bus driver. No note or call means no getting off at a different stop.

Our goal is to keep everyone safe and delivered where they are expected to be dropped off. In order to guarantee this there are procedures we must follow. It is all in the name of keeping our students safe!

**Dismissal Time**

Once again in the name of keeping our students safe parents are asked to stay out at dismissal time. It is very congested at dismissal time. To ensure everyone is safe parents are to remain outside and not come to the classroom door. If you would like to speak with me just let me know via email or a note in the Agenda and I will arrange to meet. It is not that I am not interested in what you have to say…it is to keep everyone safe!

**Morning Drop Off**

The front doors are locked in the morning until the buses are unloaded .Parents are asked to remain outside even when the doors are unlocked. We ask that parents do not wait with their child in the entrance way until the bill sounds. All students should be out on the playground with the other students. Students are not permitted to come inside to hang their book bags up.

**Sign In**

If your child arrives late please remind him/her to sign in at the office. If you have something to drop off for your child please leave it and the office. If you are taking your child before dismissal please remember to sign him/her out.

**Homework**

The only homework I give is to read for 20 minutes, every night! I will not be policing this. Research shows that those who read daily tend to progress in reading faster than those who do not!

**Spelling**

We will not be following a specific spelling program. Students have been tested on the No-Excuse Grade 3 words. From this I will make a list of words that were spelled incorrect. Each child will have their own individual list. During the week each student will be provided with activities to help them master the unknown words. In the near future, I will test those students who have mastered all the Grade Words on the Grade 4 No Excuse Words.

**Math**

The only other homework that I expect to be done is mastering Times Tables up to 12. I suggest practicing Times Tables every night or at least every second night. In order to meet with success in Grade 4 Math students Must be able to instantly recall Times Tables. I will not be policing who knows their Times Tables and who does not. I will give frequent Times Tables Quizzes. This will show who knows their Times Tables and who does not.

**Social Studies**

In Social Studies we will learning all about Canada. We will take an imaginary trip across Canada. Later in the year students will be given a Social Studies Assignment to complete. There will be time given at school to work on this.

**Health**

The focus of the Health Curriculum will be Healthy Minds, Healthy Bodies. We will learn about nutrition, mindfulness, mindset, friendship and many other topics.

**Science**

The 2 units we will focus on in Science is Habitats and Rocks and Minerals. The remainder of our Science class time will be spent conducting STEAM Experiments..

**Phys Ed**

We have Phys Ed every Monday, Tuesday and Friday. It is important that students be dressed appropriately to take part in Phys ED and that they have proper fitting sneakers.

**Music**

We have Music with Ms. T every Thursday

**Library**

We have Library on Friday. Library Books will remain at school.

**Money**

Any money that is sent into school please ensure that it has a name and what it is for on it.

**Clothing**

Please ensure your child is dressed for the weather including proper footwear.

**Agenda’s**

Every student has an Agenda. Homework and reminders will be printed in the Agenda’s. Please be sure to check and sign nightly. If you need to send a message to me please feel free to write it in your child’s Agenda.

**Monday Folders**

Monday Folders will be sent home several times a month. Included will be samples of your child’s work. Please take the time to look at the contents with your child. Be sure to celebrate / encourage their success.. Please sign the first page and return in Communication Bag.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have a concern, want to share some information or have a question. I can be contacted via email at Mary.McConaghy@nbed.nb.ca or call the school at 453-5423.

We are off to a great start and look forward to a wonderful year!

Stay in touch!

Mary Ann