

Mrs. Coulombe's Class



Information for parents

My name is Lori Myles Coulombe and I have been teaching at Forest Hill School for 12 years. I will be your child's teacher for grade one.

Please read through the information and if you have any questions I can be reached at the school (453-5408) or by e-mail, lori.myles-coulombe@nbed.nb.ca. Please note that I check my e-mail after school each day or as time allows during the day.

Starting The Day

Our day begins at 8:15 and your child should be here, ready to start their day at that time. It is very important that your child is here to participate in our opening routine which leads into our math lesson. It is also very disruptive to both my teaching, and distracting to the other children when we have late arrivals. This year the school will be tracking tardiness.

Communication Bag

Each day your child will bring home a black "Communication Bag". All communication, homework etc. from the school will be in this bag and it needs to be returned **every** day. If you have a note, order forms & money, permission slips, please place it in the bag as I check them each day. It is helpful to place money/order forms in an envelope or a baggie with your child's name on it. Please be sure to write your child's name on all forms as well as sometimes the children unpack things and then it creates a mystery! The weekly news duotang will stay in the bag for the week, so please do not enclose notes in these as I may not find them.

After school Arrangements

If you have a change in after school arrangements other than what is indicated on the yellow sheet I will need a note. Often children will think they are being picked up at school but this may be a misunderstanding. If there is no note from home then I am to follow the regular routine.

Show & Tell

Beginning later this month, one student will bring something for show and tell each day. The “show & Tell Bag” will come home the night before. The children should choose something interesting to bring and not simply a toy from the toy box unless it is a special toy. Practice talking about why they have chosen their show and tell item and why it is interesting or special. Show and Tell is an excellent opportunity for the children to express themselves, speak to an audience, and develop oral language skills. It is also an opportunity to teach the children to pose interesting questions and practice listening skills.

Homework

Over the years there has been a lot of discussion about homework. Some parents want more and some want less. Forest Hill has a school wide homework policy. Each Monday your child will bring home a book or books (depending on the independent reading level of your child) to read and reread. The Home Reading folder should be returned on Thursday to allow time for your child to read to me and to give me the opportunity to prepare the homework for the next week. Math homework will simply be activities you can do with your child to reinforce the concepts and outcomes we are working on. As we begin each new unit, a letter will be sent home with suggested activities. If your child is struggling with sight words I may also send home word cards to practice as well.

* Homework should take no longer than 15 minutes to complete.

Special Subjects

Physical Education is with Mr. Saad on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. They are required to have sneakers to wear for safety reasons so these are the best choice for indoor shoes.

Music is with Mr. Rogers on Tuesday

Art will be on Wednesday

Snack and Lunch Time

We really encourage healthy eating at our school so we ask for your support with this. Please also be reminded that our school is a peanut and nut free school as we have students with severe allergies. Many parents are choosing soy butter or other nut free products and I appreciate receiving a note to let me know.

We often find that the children are bringing too much in their lunch and there is not time to eat everything or they are simply overwhelmed with the choice of what to eat. At snack time the children have 10-15 minutes to eat and have 20 minutes at lunch time. All of the children are expected to go outside at 12:10 when the lunch period is over. They are not permitted to stay inside to finish eating their lunch. It is important for them to go outside to get fresh air and physical activity. Classrooms are not supervised during these 25 minutes as the teachers who are not on duty are eating their lunch and/or preparing for afternoon classes.

We are not able to heat up lunches. If your child requires a spoon or fork, please include in their lunchbox as these are not supplied by the school.

Recess

Students are outside in the morning, at recess, and at lunch unless it is raining or the temperature is below -20. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather.

*If students are well enough to attend school they will be outside at recess.

Scholastic Book Orders

Each month I will send home order forms from Scholastic. It is completely optional if you wish to order. You can combine order forms and write one cheque made payable to Scholastic Canada. I will not be accepting cash for book orders as the office no longer allows us to have the school issue a cheque for this.

Shoe laces

We do not teach children how to tie shoes at school, it is not an outcome in our curriculum. Velcro or spring laces are a good alternative while children are still learning to tie.

Curriculum

The grade one curriculum has specific outcomes in each subject area to be taught and met by our students. Both the school and the district have specific benchmarks of achievement that the children must meet to be successful. The majority of our day focuses on Literacy and daily instruction in Math as well. The “You and Your world” program which includes science, social studies and health are integrated into our Literacy program.

Programs

Math: The Math program used in Grade one is “Math Makes Sense” and the math concepts are practiced and assessed using the “Math 3” program which includes Math by Myself, Math with Someone, and Math Writing. This model is very similar to the Daily 5 model used in Literacy.

Literacy: Daily 5 and CAFÉ programs are key components of our Literacy Block. You will hear your child talk about each of these programs, and information will be sent home throughout the year to explain what they are about. Guided reading is an important aspect of Literacy and ALL children will be given instruction at their individual level. We use the Lucy Calkins and Write Traits programs to teach writing. Periodically a marked piece of writing, and assessment rubric, will be sent home for you to sign and return.

School Website

***Please note that there has been a change with our school website and teacher pages will look different this year.**

Visit our school website at fhes@nbed.nb.ca to see what learning looks like in our classroom. I will post the weekly newsletter, links to fun songs and games and pictures of the student’s work. A permission slip will be sent home to be signed to allow your child to be featured on the class webpage.