



GRADE TWO NEWSLETTER



Greenville
Public School

September, 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year. My name is Mrs. Green and I will be your child's teacher this year. I have been teaching grade 1 and 2 for the past 22 years. Thank you for entrusting your child to me this year. I promise to do my best every day to be your child's companion in learning. I hope my students are well rested and eager to be reunited with their friends in grade two. We will start the year by getting to know one another, learn some new routines that may be different from grade one and brainstorm what it means to be a real classroom community. The students will be doing a lot of group/partner work so we will be working on how important it is to work co-operatively and to contribute a fair share of the work to be done. I will also take the first few weeks to do some assessments of the students so that I can program for them accordingly. I will be listening to them read, looking at their writing samples, and checking their knowledge of the grade one high frequency words and no excuse spelling words. In math I will be listening to them count by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's to 100, and number recognition to 50. This year we will continue to be on a 5 day schedule. Ms. Beaudoin will be our physical education teacher, Mr. Carle will teach library and computers and Mrs. Atkinson will teach music. I am very excited to teach your children this year and look forward to meeting all of my families at Meet the Teacher night.

Mrs. Green

Program Overview

Language

Our reading strategy for this month is making connections. Good readers think about what they already know about the topic by using their personal experience. We call this making a connection to self. In grade two I try to encourage the students to make meaningful connections and to think about how their connections will help them to understand the story better. For example, "I lost my puppy and I felt really upset and scared, so now I know how the character felt in the story," compared to, "The character was 8 years old just like me." When you read with your child at home discuss the connections you are making to the book and ask them what connections they are thinking about.

We will look at the writing trait "IDEAS." The students will learn how to pick a writing topic or theme and discover how to stay on topic without wandering. They will begin to add details to their writing, to create a clear message and a good picture in the reader's mind. We will look at authors like Robert Munsch and discover where they find their writing ideas. Each student will be receiving a small Author's Notebook. I am hoping it will inspire them to get their ideas down like real authors.

In word work we will focus on recognizing by sight the students' names in the classroom. Five names will be chanted each day and will be added to our classroom word wall. We will also be taking a look at colour words and number words.

Math

This month we will be looking at numbers to 100. We will be using the hundreds carpet as a tool to order our numbers to 100, skip count by 2's, 5's and 10's to 100, and look at growing and shrinking patterns. We will also be counting coins and making trades for nickels and dimes as we participate in our lucky cent incentive program this month.

Social Studies

We will be exploring maps and globes in this unit. The students will become familiar with the terms hemisphere, equator, poles, continents, cardinal directions and legend. They will create maps of their own and will also find Greenville, Hamilton, Ontario and Canada on a map.

Health

The grade twos will review the safety rules in the classroom, school and playground. We will look at safety practices going to and from school including bus safety.

Art

The students will explore the element of colour. They will mix the primary colours to make the secondary colours. We will look at how colour changes when you add white or black. We will discuss how different colours make us feel.

Homework Policy

On the report card there is a section to be graded for homework. The following homework will be given throughout the year:

- a) Returning agenda on a daily basis.
- b) Spelling – practicing the weekly words at home put in their agendas Monday mornings. Spelling tests on Friday to begin in October.
- c) Classroom work assigned that day and incomplete within time constraints given.
- d) Home Reading Club – to read for 10-15 minutes and list books read on the reading log provided.

Lucky Cent Incentive Program

The students will receive lucky pennies for working hard in class, demonstrating the character traits and following routines. The student with the most pennies at the end of the day will receive a prize from our treasure chest. Donations for prizes would gladly be accepted.

Other Classroom Teachers

Physical Education-Ms. Beaudoin will be teaching our class in the gym on day 1 and 2 . Please ensure that your child is wearing gym shoes, no jewelry and loose clothing on these days.

Computer and Library-The students will have computers and library on day 1 and 4. Mr. Carle will assign one of these days as a computer day. We will put this day in our agendas when we find out.

Music-The students will have Music on day 3 and 5 with Mrs. Atkinson.

Indoor Shoes

Please have your child bring in an extra pair of shoes to wear in school as soon as possible. The playground can get quite muddy and wet at times and this gets carried into our classroom.

Agendas

Please initial and return agendas daily to school. This will help your child get into a good routine. I will use the front plastic pocket to send correspondence home. You may use this pocket to place notes, forms and money items. I will check and initial your child's agenda daily.

Student Teacher

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs. Perrow from Charles Sturt University. Mrs. Perrow will be a student teacher in our room first term. She will spend the first week of school with us and then Monday and Tuesday until her placement in late November. We are very excited to have her join our classroom.

Other Dates to Remember

- Sept. 14 - Meet the Teacher
- Sept. 16 - Book Order Due
- Sept. 23 - Terry Fox
- Sept. 27 - Mad Science Assembly