



# Mrs. Ireland's Grade 5/6 Class

*September 2025*

**Welcome to Mrs. Ireland's Grade 5/6 class in Room 112!**

**We are in for a fantastic year of learning and discovery.**

## **School Supplies**

It is not necessary to purchase any school supplies. You are welcome to bring your own, if you wish. Everything your child needs to learn will be provided.

## **Students should always have the following items:**

- ☐ Running shoes (we have physical education or daily physical activity every day)
- ☐ Appropriate clothes for the weather (eg., jacket on cold days)
- ☐ Refillable water bottle

## **Regular Parent - Teacher Communication**

I communicate with families throughout the year on a weekly basis. My preferred method of communication is using a weekly email on Sunday nights to reduce the use of paper. These emails highlight our learning goals for the week and any upcoming special events. If there are immediate concerns or celebrations, I will reach out with a phone call.

You can also contact me at [aireland@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:aireland@hwdsb.on.ca). I will try and reply in a timely manner. Please note that during instructional periods while I am teaching, I do not check my emails – my focus is on your child and the classroom. If it is an emergency or something that requires an immediate response, please contact the school directly and speak to the office (905-387-5212).

If you do not have access to email or prefer paper communication, please let me know so I can provide an alternative method of communication for your family.

**I have attached a parent survey to this newsletter.  
This will help me to get to know your child better.  
Please return as soon as possible.**

## Personal Devices in the Classroom

You do **NOT** need to bring a device to school. If you wish to bring in your own device, please discuss the following technology rules that **MUST** be followed.

- Personal devices are not allowed into the classroom, even during nutritional periods. They are to be left in their lockers.
- No devices are allowed in the washrooms
- No pictures, audio, or video recordings of other students (minors) or staff are allowed on school premises

These rules apply to **all** devices being used on HWDSB property. If these rules cannot be followed, then it will result in an office referral and/or loss of device privileges.

## Scent-free School

A reminder that we are a scent-free school and no perfumes or scented items should be worn or brought to school. We have staff and students that can be impacted by the use of scents.

## Teaching Staff and Subjects

<b>Mrs. Ireland</b>	Math, Literacy, Physical Education, Science, Social Studies, Visual Arts, Dance, Drama, and Music
<b>Mr. Zorzetto</b>	French, Health

## Who is Mrs. Ireland?

I have been teaching at our Board since 2005. I have taught everything from Kindergarten to University level courses. I have additional training and experience supporting students with learning needs (eg., ADHD, ASD, Gifted, and reading interventions).

My favourite grades to teach are the Junior grades! I am passionate about getting all learners to read and to enjoy reading through fun and engaging activities. My math program focuses on collaborative learning and problem-solving skills and making math fun!

I am married with two children. I have a daughter in Grade 5 and a son in Grade 12. I love to do jigsaw puzzles, playing board games, crocheting and working in my garden. I also tell amazing "mom" jokes and puns! I hope to hear some amazing "groaners" this year so I can add to my repertoire!

## **Our Literacy Program**

Our literacy program is divided into 4 main components which follows the Ontario Curriculum. This includes: reading (decoding words, spelling, grammar, morphology), reading comprehension, writing, and digital literacy.

As I get to know your child, I use several diagnostic assessments and tools to determine their strengths and weaknesses in their literacy skills (which includes decoding words, reading comprehension and writing skills). Once I have the assessments complete, I will create small reading groups composed of students who have similar learning goals and needs.

Our literacy program allows students to work on skills at their own level, self-select order of work, and to meet their own learning needs. It also allows me time to focus on small groups of students at our meeting table to work on reading fluency, decoding and writing skills.

As we progress throughout the year, I will be providing information about how to support your student at home to reinforce specific skills learned in the classroom.

## **Our Mathematics Program**

Our mathematics program involves a variety of skills and groupings. There will be a focus on taking risks and asking good mathematics questions while building up mathematical self-confidence. I will provide opportunities for students to work individually and in small groups. There is also a component in the math program to reflect, think, and discuss about how we arrived at our answer. I believe in hands-on learning in mathematics using real world connections and game theory to make math fun and engaging!

Our current focus for the first part of the month will be on collaborative learning, problem solving skills, and number sense. We are reinforcing and practicing our addition and subtraction number facts so we can be more successful in our multiplication and division skills.

## **The Collaborative Classroom**

As the oldest grades in the school, we work hard on developing our leadership skills and working collaboratively as a team. We will have several "jobs" both in the classroom and throughout the school that make our learning environment successful for everyone. Information about our "jobs" will go home in about a week.

## **The Three Classroom Rules**



- ✓ **Be Kind**
- ✓ **Be Respectful**
- ✓ **Be Responsible**



## How can parents help with their child's learning?

### Reflect on YOUR gift to share.

We will be talking about "gifts" in the classroom and what we can contribute to the learning community. Everyone has something they are very good at and can share in the classroom. One of our learning journeys together this year is to discover our "gifts" and how we can best use them to share in the classroom and in our world. We can have the gift of math, writing, reading, drama, science, athleticism, caring, sympathy, environmentalism, mechanical (Mr. Fix-It) and much more.

Do you have a gift to share? Volunteering to listen to students read? Coming on trips? You have an unusual job that you could share with the class? Helping out on special days?

**Let Mrs. Ireland know if you would like to become more involved.**



## What can I do at home to support my child?

There are many fun ways to support your child at home with what we are learning in school. Some of these activities can be done in the car or informally.

- ☐ Continue practicing number sense skills. They should know their multiplication and division facts to 12, doubling facts, and skip counting by 2's, 5's, 10's, and 25's to 200 forwards and backwards.
- ☐ When talking about something or someone ask about three ways to describe them (adjectives).
- ☐ Read every day for at least 20 minutes. We are working on building up our stamina to read without interruption for 20 minutes. Ask your child about what they are reading. Can they retell the story back in order from beginning to end? Can they name at least 3 characters in the story and describe them? Can they make a connection to the story with something in their life or their life experience (eg., This reminds me of when we went to the beach.)

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school or by email ([aireland@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:aireland@hwdsb.on.ca)).