

2019-2020 Information Package

Mrs. Pocklington's Grade 1 Classroom

Dear Parents,

Congratulations! You are the parent of a first-grader here at Fireside School. This is an exciting time in the world of learning. You will be amazed at just how much your child will learn! Keep in mind that each child progresses at his or her own rate, acquiring skills when they are developmentally ready. It is important to maintain your child's self-esteem and build a secure foundation for future growth.

This letter will inform you of some basic routines and expectations.

This month your child will explore the world of learning. During the coming weeks, we will begin to:

- Follow directions
- Read and write the alphabet
- Work and play together
- Question and experiment
- Count and compute

Picking up Students and Dropping Off Items

Parents are asked to wait for their child(ren) at the office if collecting for an appointment during the course of the day. Please do not come to the classroom. If you need to drop anything off for your child, please leave the item at the office and the secretary will ensure that your child receives it; this helps to minimize teaching and learning disruption. When collecting your child after school, please pick up from the grade one doors. If you are going to be late please contact the office and your child will be sent there until your safe arrival. If there is a change to an after-school arrangement please record in the agenda, if this is missed please phone the office and your child will receive the message. **Please DO NOT e-mail me about the change during the day**, my attention is with the children and I cannot ensure that your e-mail will be received before the end of school.

Nutrition

Research increasingly supports that quality nutritious food choices enhance

student learning and attention through the day and conversely confirms high sugar foods interfere with learning. Please have your child eat a nutritious breakfast to start their day and pack a snack and balanced lunch to help maintain high energy levels. Please label lunch bags/food containers etc. with your child's name. Students are not permitted to share their food for allergy reasons.

Forgotten Lunches

If your child has forgotten his/her lunch they are asked to notify me at snack time (or earlier). An alternative snack will be given at this time. This also provides me the opportunity to contact you. If you are unable to drop off a lunch, a school alternative will be provided. Forgotten lunches should be dropped off at the office, the office will send for your child. This helps prevent class disruption.

No Nut and Peanut Policy

Fireside School is an allergy aware school where we strive to ensure the ongoing safety of our students and staff. This includes ensuring that we are sensitive to the health risks associated with food allergies within the school, which most commonly (but not exclusively) includes peanuts, tree nuts, eggs, dairy, shellfish, gluten, and soy.

For the safety of those who may have a severe allergic reaction to peanuts and tree nuts, we request that you **do not send peanut or nut products to school with your child** in lunches, for snack, bakes sales or classroom celebrations.

Shoes and Coats

Our school has a two-pair shoe policy. Many of the gym classes will be outdoors (weather permitting) so it is asked that students wear footwear (shoes and boots) that lend themselves well to fitness activities (running, jumping, skipping etc.) Students are also required to keep a pair of indoor shoes at school. Please label all footwear with your child's first and last name in case they are misplaced. All children are encouraged to wear footwear that they can put on themselves without adult help– we encourage independency and children do thrive on this. I am unable to tie twenty plus laces, so please teach at home or provide lace alternatives. Regarding clothing, again it needs to be suitable for gym wear and 'messy' classroom activities—they are after all Grade Ones and if the opportunity

arises they will get messy—it's their nature!! Please again clearly label jackets, snow pants, snow boots, mitts etc.

Backpack

Students should bring a backpack to school every day. This is necessary to ensure that all reading books, student agenda, library book and projects make it safely to and from school. Please, as always, make sure that it is clearly labeled; many bags look the same and can be mistaken.

Toys

Any toys brought to school are the student's responsibility and are kept in their backpacks until recess. It is recommended that special or expensive toys not be brought to school because they can get lost or damaged. The teacher or the school cannot take responsibility should this occur. For any beeping toys, watches, cell phones etc. students will be asked to make sure that they are turned off during instructional times to reduce disruptions to the teaching and learning day.

Student Agenda

Student agendas will be used as a 3-way means of communication between student, teacher, and parent. Please read your child's agenda every day for class messages. Inform me regarding a change to after-school arrangement (bus/pick up/change in person etc), **please write this in the agenda rather than e-mail, agendas are checked during the working day, e-mails may not be looked at until the end of the day.** If you miss writing the change in the agenda, please contact the secretary who will forward the message to your child. Should you have a message you wish to keep confidential, please send it in a sealed envelope or e-mail.

Parent Communication

You will be informed regarding upcoming events through the school communication, class newsletters, e-mails, and student agenda. In the morning, my energy goes to preparing for the teaching day and for my students as soon as the morning bell rings. If you need to get in contact with me or you wish to make an appointment to discuss your child's work please contact me by email at cpocklington@rockyview.ab.ca Please be

advised I may not check these messages during teaching hours due to the nature of my job. I will endeavour to reply to e-mails within 48 hours during the working week. If you have any questions, concerns, or your child is unhappy about school at any time, please make an appointment with me. On the other hand, if there is something going on that you approve of, are impressed with or notice that your child is excited about, please let me know. This kind of feedback is essential, so I know what works well. I send home weekly updates, as past parents have said they have benefitted from receiving current information, not only have they been kept up to date with immediate issues; relevant educational advice but they can readily engage with their child on the class topics.

Behaviour System

In the agenda, you will notice a coloured dot for each day, which corresponds with our behaviour tracking system. This system is intended to encourage communication between the home and school and enable follow-through as well as collaboration in problem solving. **Green** indicates a good day. **Yellow** indicates that your child required frequent reminders for behaviour. **Red** indicates that behaviour continued to escalate, or there was a more serious issue. If your child has a red dot, you will receive a phone call to discuss the situation. Please try to follow up on this by discussing the day's events at home. A **Purple** dot means that your child went above and beyond that day.

Birthdays

If you would like to provide a treat in recognition of your child's birthday please let me know via agenda, or email ONE WEEK in advance since there may be allergies/medical concerns and ALL children need to be catered for (sometimes a modification can be made or the parent with the child with the concern can make an alternative arrangement– this can take time to organize). It would be preferred that the classroom not be used to distribute personal classroom invitations unless all students have been included. If your child does invites, your child can hand them to me directly and I can place them into the agendas without fuss. Issues do arise if a child openly discusses who is going/or not going in class and a child can feel excluded from a friendship if others are given an invite and they have not.

Water Bottles

Students are encouraged to keep a water bottle on their desk. They are free to drink during work time. These bottles are sent home on Fridays for washing.

Supplies

Classroom supplies are provided by the school. However, it would be helpful if you could provide a box of tissue with your child's name on it (they feel it is special when their tissue box is being used).

Volunteering

Parent volunteers are an integral part of the Grade One program. Your open communication and involvement in classroom activities are welcomed and strongly encouraged. A reminder that to volunteer in your child's school and/or help with supervision on a field trip, that a Mandatory Criminal Police Check must be completed. The volunteer schedule will not begin until October so that I may get to know your child better along with establishing a daily routine with the class.

I hope that the detailed information in this letter is found to be helpful and informative. Please keep it on hand for reference purposes during the school year. These simple guidelines and routines help to make the year run more smoothly.

Many Thanks,

Mrs. Carleen Pocklington