2021.09.10

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Hello and welcome to 5D! Students have settled into Room 12 and have very quickly learned class routines and expectations. These first few days back at school are filled with a lot of information and your child may have already shared some with you. This note should help clarify items that may still be confusing. You can also find out what we are doing in class on my teacher webpage at<http://westlockelementary5d.weebly.com/>. It will be updated once or twice a month.

**A Request From the Office** – Please phone the Office first thing in the morning if you know your child will be away that day. This is such a help when keeping track of so many children!! Please also remember to do the daily COVID-19 check each morning before school.

**Water Bottles** - make sure your child has a refillable water bottle for school each day as the fountains continue to be disconnected.

**Hand Sanitizer** - if your child brings their own bottle of hand sanitizer to school, please make sure it is labelled with their name.

**Goal Setting and Planning Meetings** – I’m looking forward to meeting with **you and your child on either October 19 or 21.** Once messages go out in agendas asking for parents to sign up, please find the Online Appointments link on our school’s website to book your time. We can also schedule a time to chat **via phone or arrange a Google Meet** if that works better for you**.**

**Agendas/Planners** - All students in 5D are expected to record things such as unfinished class work, projects, test dates, and special events in their agendas. The plastic pouch at the very front will be where notes, permission forms and newsletters will be placed.

As this is a learning experience, agendas will be checked and initialled each day at school. Using these planners helps students to continue to develop their organizational skills as well as a sense of responsibility.

Your assistance is needed in this as well. Each evening, check to see what is recorded in your child’s planner. If all the work gets done (including reading and recording number of pages read), please put your initials *beside mine*. If only some things are done, please initial *beside the items* that have been completed.

Also, it would be greatly appreciated if you would write a note in your child’s agenda in the boxes on the second page for each school week, if you know in advance that he or she will be away. I can then make sure to collect his or her missed school work, as well as let the Office know of the absence.

**\*\*\* Please also use the agenda to write your child a note when necessary regarding where he or she is to go after school. We realize that plans may change at the last moment, but doing this whenever you can save us all a lot of time! \*\*\***

**Homework and Daily Reading** – Students are expected to read for a minimum of 20 minutes four or more times a week. They should also practice their weekly spelling words and basic x and ÷ facts regularly. Other homework assignments are not given on a regular basis. Children may need to study, or take some time to complete projects and assignments to be ready for the next day’s lessons. Students should generally spend about a half hour most evenings on homework. Please give me a call if your child is struggling, or using much more time than that on a regular basis. Assignment expectations can be adjusted, or time management skills further developed.

After absences, your child will have a Homework Note stapled in his/her agenda. Some of the work they miss will need to be completed at school, such as gluing in photocopied notes and completing quizzes/tests. Please chat with your child about what they might be able to bring home so they can quickly get caught up. You will also be better able to help them plan based on how busy your after school and evening schedules are! If they are going to be out of school for longer than a day or two, we will probably need to chat so arrangements can be made to send some work home.

**Home Reading Logs** – Our class has decided to use the second column of the agenda spelling words section to record our nightly reading. Students have been shown how to record the title of the book as well as the **approximate *number of pages they read each day***. I will look for your initials in each day’s agenda square to confirm their reading.

**Fresh Grade -** We will again use Fresh Grade to give you glimpses into classroom learning and academic progress. Look for an invite that was sent on Sept. 8 via the email address the school has on record.

**Remind App** - I will be setting up Remind as another way to easily keep in touch.

**Subject News:**

**Gym** - Mr. McKenna will be 5D’s P.E. teacher Monday through Friday. Proper clothing and footwear are an absolute necessity.

**Music** – 5D has Mrs. Schmidt for Music each Wednesday and Thursday.

**Math** – We will start the year with place value work to millions numbers in our *Number* unit. We will also focus on developing a repertoire of efficient strategies for multiplying, dividing and estimating. Place value to the millions is a two digit jump from grade four where the children learned about five digit numbers. This can be challenging for some students. Mental math is another skill that needs regular review, so ***please practice basic multiplication facts*** a few times each week at home. Links can be found on my webpage and the school’s website.

**Language Arts** – We will start the year focusing on understanding and following procedures for spelling, reading and writing work. Students will be brainstorming and collecting writing ideas to start the year. In reading, the concepts of fluency, theme and genres will be introduced so that we are able to circle back to these key concepts regularly throughout the year. Spelling will start with number words the week of September 13th. Students are also expected to read an appropriate novel or non-fiction book at home for a minimum of 20 minutes at least four times a week. The children will do several book talks this year which serve a few purposes - to share different books with their classmates, to practice presentation skills and to demonstrate comprehension of what they’ve read.

**Library** – 5D’s library class is on Fridays.

**Science** – We have started the year with a unit on Chemistry. States of matter, carrying out investigations and designing fair tests, recognizing and separating mixtures, making crystals, surface tension, reversible and irreversible changes, and acids and bases will be our focus.

**Social Studies** – We are beginning with a mapping unit consisting of the capital city and province names in Canada as well as latitude and longitude, and scale. Your child has a map in their agenda pocket which they can use to study for our first quiz in this unit which will take place on Sept. 16.

**Health** – We will have weekly class meetings that cover many health outcomes. Goal setting and growth mindset are concepts we will be covering over the next few weeks. Virtues work will also take place during health class.

**Art** – 5D will start the year by creating name tags for their lockers, as well as completing a couple ‘getting to know you’ projects. Any extra art time will be used for projects in the various subject areas.

If you have any questions please feel free to email, call the school or send a note in your child’s planner. The sooner we discuss confusion or concerns, the better for all of us. By working together, we can make this year a successful one for your child.

Sincerely,

S. Deshoux