



From the desk of Mrs. Pierson... September 2019 Classroom Newsletter

I have had the pleasure of getting to know your child the past few days...I am looking forward to a successful year with your son/daughter! The transition from summer to September is always a big one, and most students are adjusting quite nicely! We are Division 11, Room 157. Our class of 20 students is made up of 12 grade one students and 8 grade two students. I welcome any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have in order to support your child in his/her learning process. Please feel free to contact me by email, phone, in writing, or by dropping by the classroom. ****This will be the last paper newsletter. All classroom correspondence will happen via email or the school website.****

About Mrs. Pierson...

I have been a teacher in the Chilliwack School District for twenty years and I am pleased to have been a part of the team at Promontory Elementary for the last nine years (I have taught grades 1-3 for twelve years and Kindergarten for 8 years)! I have three boys: my husband and two sons (grade ten and grade one); and one girl, my grade 6 daughter! My family also includes a dog and a tarantula.

Parent Drop Off and Pick Up

In the morning, our class will be lining up along the chain link fence beside the portables. After school, our class will be dismissed at this same place. I will hand off your child to you or the person who is picking them up unless you have a prearranged meeting spot. Please help your child establish regular attendance at school. If your child is unable to attend, please contact the office at 604.824.4885. You can even leave a message the night before. If your child is late (after 8:30), please have your child obtain a late slip from the office upon arriving to school, and before entering the classroom.

The school hours which students will be in attendance are 8:18-2:15. Please inform the office and myself immediately if you have any changes in address, phone number, or emergency numbers.

Planners

The students are very excited to have their school planner. We try to print a message in our planners every day and often your child will have mail and important notices in their planner pockets. Every day your child will bring home his/her planner in his/her backpack. Please read and sign your child's planner every day. Your child will receive recognition for having their planner signed. Feel free to write information for a particular day if needed.

School Supplies

Please send (if you have not yet already) a \$30 (grade one) or \$35 (grade two) cheque or cash in a name-labelled baggy or envelope for your child's school supplies and planner as soon as possible. We share our supplies in our classroom and have been discussing responsibility when taking care of all supplies and have been practicing using supplies appropriately. Please remind your child to keep up the good work when taking care of all supplies in the class. Later in the year, students will be given a pencil box and supplies of their own to look after. Please remind your child to keep "special" school supplies (eg fancy pencils, felt pens, etc) at home to use.

Indoor Shoes

Thank you to all of the parents who have sent indoor shoes already. Your child will need a pair of slip on, Velcro or lace up (if they proficiently know how to tie) pair of running shoes to be left at school in their cubbie. We change into our indoor shoes each morning, after recess and after

lunch. This is a very important part of keeping our school clean and ready to learn. Please label your child's shoes with their name and initials.

Water Bottles

I encourage students to bring a water bottle (filled with water only), with a top that will not leak or spill, to keep in their cubby so that they can drink water often throughout their day at school. We have a water bottle filling fountain in the hallway close to our classroom! Students are welcome to bring other drinks for lunch in their lunch kits.

Lunch

The school district has adopted the same garbage and recycling program as the City of Chilliwack. The classrooms no longer have garbage cans and we are now using centrally located garbage, recycling and green bins. Students are encouraged to bring "garbage free" recess snacks and lunches and bring containers and bags that can be reused. We are encouraging students to "bring in, take out" just like hikers.

Peanut Allergies

We have several students in our school with allergies. Please do not send peanuts, peanut butter or products containing peanuts or peanut butter in your child's lunch or backpack.

Library...

A reading log form is being sent home. Please sign the reading log for each month read and return that month's portion to the classroom. You can read with or to your child for 10-20 minutes. Your child could read the book, you could take turns each reading a page or line, or he/she could listen to you read a book. Please ensure your child returns his/her library book by Monday of each week (our library day). Your child will be allowed to sign out two books per week (one book will be a levelled home reading book, the other one will be a choice book).

Email/Phone Numbers

Please ensure that the school office has your most up to date email address and cell phone numbers. When sending me an email, please remember that with a class of busy grade one and two students, I often do not check my email until after school. If you are needing to get information to me quickly, please phone me at school (604.824.4885) or send a message in your child's planner and remind them to show it to me.

Magic 1-2-3...

In the classroom, I use small work incentives and lots of individual and group praise. Students are "caught" displaying appropriate behaviours! Your child may also bring home a "STARS award" to be signed by you and brought back to school to be entered into a draw at our school assemblies. If there are issues that do arise in the classroom, I use Magic 1-2-3:

- 1: A verbal reminder about a particular behaviour.
- 2: A second reminder about changing a behaviour.
- 3: Time out or loss of privilege in the classroom (we call it a "Calming time" or "Thinking time"). I chat with the student about how the student can be successful. I will always work together with your child to make your child's learning safe, productive, and fun!

Volunteers...

Some of the ways to be involved in the classroom include field trips and special activities. The school and district require you to provide a criminal record check. You can obtain a form from the office. Even if you are not sure if your schedule permits it, getting a check completed will ensure that you will be able to be involved should your schedule permit in the future. I will send home further information once our volunteer schedule begins.

Scholastic...

Book orders will come home once a month from Elf, SeeSaw, and Lucky book clubs. If you are interested in ordering books, please make cheques payable to Scholastic Canada or pay online (follow the directions on the book flyer) and return by the date specified each month. Books make great affordable birthday and Christmas gifts (you can indicate on the order envelope if the order is a surprise and I will 'carefully' get the books to you!). Ordering also provides our classroom with great resources.

Promontory School Schedule 2019/2020...

8:18 First Bell: Students independently hang backpacks/coats, change shoes, sign in, hand in planners, and then read.

8:23 Second Bell: School starts. If you arrive after this time, please obtain a late slip from the office.

10:15 Outside Play: Don't forget a jacket for those now chilly mornings! We go outside rain or shine to get some fresh air (unless there is a downpour). Boots, raincoats, and umbrellas are great for rainy days! **Snack:** Students have the opportunity to have a snack during learning centers before recess and can also take a snack outside. Students are encouraged to clean up after themselves by throwing their garbage away and cleaning their table area. Juice boxes are saved for lunch time. Water is the preferred drink choice as it contains no sugar, is extremely healthy, and is provided from a water fountain in our classroom!

12:00 Lunch: Students eat in the class until 12:15. Students do enjoy socializing during this time and are encouraged to focus on their eating. Anything that does not get finished can be put back into their lunch bag. If I am not in the classroom, there are peer lunch monitors and a noon hour supervisor with the students in order to encourage appropriate and healthy eating habits and to ensure the students are eating the majority of their lunch and are being safe.

12:15 Outside Play

12:44 Inside: Classes start again. Students are allowed and encouraged to use the washroom before and during recess and lunch.

2:15 Dismissal: I am still learning faces and names. Please do not hesitate to say hello and introduce yourself!

Classroom Schedule...

Mondays...Library with Mr.Mueller

Tuesdays...Mini Gym

Wednesdays...Music with Mrs.Solomon

Thursdays...Big Gym and Makerspace with Mrs.Buck

Fridays...Big Gym and Music with Mrs.Solomon

If you are not receiving information and newsletters from the office, please ensure the office has your current email address. Important information is e-blasted on a regular basis!

Contact Information...

Thank you for all of your support and help in your child's learning process. Together we can ensure a successful year for all. Please feel free to contact me at any time. Here are some of the ways to get a hold of me:

1. **Written:** On a note in your child's planner.
2. **Phone** @ Promontory: (604)824.4885
3. **Email:** vanessa_pierson@sd33.bc.ca *I will do my best to respond in a timely manner!*
4. **In person:** "My door is always open."

The classroom website will be updated each month and will include copies of monthly newsletters that go home. To find us on the web, go to the Promontory School website and click on 'Classroom News.' Then click on 'Mrs.Pierson' to stay connected with what is going on in Division 6!

