



Welcome to Kindergarten!



Hello! My name is Mrs. Ferris and I'm excited to be your child's teacher this year! I know you have received a lot of information already and I apologize if some of what you already know is repeated here.

This first year of elementary school is a new starting point for your child and I know that as we work together we will create opportunities for fun, exploration, imagination and powerful learning. I believe that good communication between home and classroom is an important part of each child's positive school experience and I will endeavor to make it as easy as possible. I will email you a monthly calendar and a classroom newsletter and will post it on our school website (<http://promontory.sd33.bc.ca/>) so you know what is coming up each month. I will also use email as a means of communicating other reminders or information as they arise. I am planning on using the app called REMIND as a means of communicating reminders and brief messages.

Covid-19

This is an exceptional year as we move forward during the pandemic. Our class will follow daily routines of hand washing and sanitizing and surface cleaning in order to keep us all healthy and safe. There will be times that I will wear a mask and/or a face shield in the classroom and will discuss this with the students. Students are welcome to wear a mask as each family sees fit and students will have to follow protocols regarding the use of the masks and hand sanitizing. School district health and safety protocols are available on the school district website.

Routines

Routines are very important in our school day and our class will follow a fairly consistent schedule from day to day and week to week. In order for routines to become familiar we will practice many things over and over and you may find your child is quite tired for the first few weeks of school as we all adjust to the new learning. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time each day as our practice begins with lining up outside in the morning. By allowing your child to say "good-bye" outside, it reinforces that you know they are socially and emotionally ready for school and all it entails.

Our class will use a "take home" bags (this will be provided for you) to send papers and art work to and from school each Thursday. Your cooperation in sending the bag back the following day is greatly appreciated! Take home bags will be sanitized before being sent back home. In the classroom, students will learn how to deal with the papers in their bags as part of our morning and afternoon routine.

Snack/Lunch

We eat our snack and lunch inside the classroom and then go outside to play each day. I strongly discourage sending Juice or juice boxes with students. They are seldom finished and often spilled. Although students are taught how to dispose of leftover juice and to recycle the boxes, it can be quite a messy situation. Feel free to send refillable water bottles (less waste and mess if they are spilled). Because school drinking fountains will be shut down during the pandemic, please ensure your child's water bottle has a secure lid and drinking spout. Students will have time to eat ONE healthy snack in the morning. Please send spoons or forks as necessary with your child. We are not able to heat up food in a microwave.

Outdoor clothing/indoor shoes

Using the out-of-doors as a classroom will happen on a regular basis. As the weather changes we will continue to go outside to play, explore and learn. Please ensure your child wears appropriate wet/cold outdoor clothing. This includes warm layers, boots, raincoat with hood and rain pants. If you would like to send a set of rain clothing (such as a “muddy buddy”) to leave at school, that would be fine.

Our “inside” shoe routine will begin shortly. We will change into inside shoes every day and will have PE activities every day so please send your child in shoes that are easy to run in (ie. no flip flops, crocs, slippers, backless shoes). Please also ensure your child is able to put on and secure their own shoes (only tie shoes if they can tie shoes securely on their own).

Extra clothing

Please send an extra change (or 2) of clothing in your child’s backpack as wet accidents happen frequently during outside play (wet pant legs from a puddle or a wet bottom from sitting on the grass). As a wet set is sent home, please ensure you replace it with a new set. Please check your child’s backpack daily for wet clothing.

Fees

If you have not yet paid your \$40 school fees and \$10 Emergency Kit money, please send a cheque payable to *Promontory Heights Elementary School* or cash with your child as soon as possible.

Scholastic Book Club

Each month I will send home a flyer from Scholastic Books Canada. This company provides inexpensive books for you to purchase for your child. Each purchase also provides the classroom with coupons to purchase new materials for our room. You are under no obligation to purchase.

Home Reading Program

Promontory Elementary hosts a school-wide home-reading program. Our Librarian, Mr. Mueller, will send home a package at the beginning of the year for families to fill in as parents or older siblings read to children each night. Small incentive prizes are awarded as each 50 nights of reading are completed. Our class may also begin a home reading program later in the year with book bags that come and go from the classroom. Reading with a grown up EVERY day is integral to a child’s ability to learn to read and to foster a love of books. Please set aside at least 15 – 20 minutes each day to read with your child.

Special Helper/Sharing Bag

Each child will have an opportunity to be a special helper and will bring home a “sharing bag” before it is their turn. The special helper will help with our routines and will do little jobs that come up during the day. Instructions for our sharing “Theme” will be placed in the bag each month. Please help your child to choose something that is connected to our current sharing theme. Please do not send toys. If your child asks to bring in something extraordinary, please check with me ahead of time so appropriate time can be set aside (ie. a new baby in the family or a special pet).

Home Toys

During the pandemic, nothing from home is allowed to come out of student’s backpack except for dry clothing and lunch boxes. Toys that come from home will be kept in your child’s backpack during the day. A backpack can become very full

and heavy, please keep only absolutely necessary items in it. We may have some special days during the year when students are invited to bring “special friends” from home but I will send home a notice when this is going to happen.

Birthdays

This is a special day for your child and I will do my best to help him or her feel special at school. Due to the pandemic, unfortunately, we are not allowed to share treats this year. We will find different ways to celebrate your child’s birthday in the classroom.

Parent Helper

I love to have parent volunteers help in and out of the classroom. Unfortunately, we are not able to have volunteers in the school yet. If new policies are put in place I will send home a message about volunteering opportunities. Please ensure you have a Criminal Records check done prior to volunteering. These can be obtained, free of charge, at the RCMP station on Airport Rd or at the school office.

Allergies/Medication

If your child has a medical condition, which may require administration of medicine at school, (ie. Epi-pen, inhaler, Benadryl etc) you and your child’s physician will need to complete a Medical Alert form and provide the medication with complete instructions. Please see the school office for the form.

Absences/Late arrivals

Please ensure your child establishes good attendance routines for his/her first year of school. This is a vital part to school success. If your child is going to be away, please notify the office as soon as possible (604-824-4885). If you arrive to school after our scheduled start at 8:30 am, please bring your child to the front door of the school and check in at the office to sign your child in as a late arrival.

Before/After school Routines

Your child will wait in the same location each morning upon arrival. The first bell rings at 8:30 am and I will come out to meet the class and escort them to our room. This will also be our dismissal location. I will bring the students out at approximately 2:20. The students will give me an “elbow bump” before they go to their “Safe Adult”. Please don’t take your child from the dismissal area without letting me know. It is very unsettling to have a child “disappear” from sight if I’m speaking with another family. Thank you for your cooperation!

Change of address/Phone number/Emergency numbers

Please notify the office if you have any changes in address, phone number or emergency numbers (including daycare). This will ensure I can always reach you if necessary.

Questions/Concerns

Working together to ensure the best possible learning environment for your child is always my priority. Please feel free to contact me by email (nancy_ferris@sd33.bc.ca) with any questions or concerns you may have. If you would like to talk in person (more than just a quick question) I’m happy to meet before or after school and will arrange a time that is convenient for you. I can also be reached by phone after class hours at the school number (604-824-4885).

Wow! What a lot of information to digest. I am so happy to be working with your child - I know we will have a great year! Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thanks for all you have done to ready your child for their first year of Elementary school!

Nancy Ferris