MC900212587[1]September 7, 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new year at James Macdonald school! I am very excited about the challenges and fun experiences that await us in grade 4/5. A good learning experience is built on a co-operative effort between parent, child and teacher. With your participation in your child’s education, we can look forward to a productive and enjoyable year! I look forward to working with you to create a positive environment where all students will excel academically and socially. I would like to take this opportunity to outline some expectations and routines for this school year in Room 6.

*Items Needed*

We will be incorporating technology into our learning in Room 6. Therefore, students need to have two items. One, a set of earbuds (they sell these at the dollar store if you need to purchase a set) and two, a USB stick to save any work they do on the computers at school. Please bring these to school **as soon as possible.**

*Agendas*

Your child’s agenda has already been sent home. It is the responsibility of the teacher, parent and child to ensure that it goes back and forth on a **daily** basis. The purpose of the agenda is to open the lines of communication between home and school and to help children learn some organizational skills. Please check your child’s agenda ***daily*** for notes, reminders, homework or test dates. Please also check the front pocket and ***empty nightly***. I will periodically stamp or sign the agendas throughout the week. Parents are reminded to sign the agenda daily and not in advance since items are sometimes added throughout the week. If there are any messages, notes or questions, please write them in the agenda or on a separate sheet in the front pocket.

*Physical Education*

At this point in time, the students in Room 6 have gym on Day 3 and Day 5. These times may change and I will notify parents in a separate note if this occurs. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately on these days. Running shoes are mandatory; shorts and t-shirts are optional. However, it would be a good idea for students to leave a pair of running shoes in their locker, since they are participating in DPA (daily physical activity) every day.

*Book Orders*

Once a month, you will receive a scholastic book order form. There are many books that the students enjoy reading at very reasonable prices. If you would like to order anything, please fill in the order form and return it to me by the due date. I am sending home a separate note today attached to the September book order explaining the new Parent Pay option, where parents can pay for the Scholastic book order online using a credit card. If you choose ***not*** to use the Parent Pay option, please send a **cheque** payable to Scholastic Book Club for the correct amount attached to your order form.

*Homework*

Homework in grade 4/5 will consist of nightly reading. Students are expected to read for at least half an hour on a nightly basis at home as part of the Home Reading Program. At times, students will have to finish any work not completed in class for homework. There also will be some math homework sent home that supplements what is done in class.

*Website*

I truly believe that communication between the home and school is essential.

Our classroom website will be ready soon. It will have information on the different curriculum subjects, including pictures of anchor charts used in the classroom. Please stay tuned for more information. I look forward to a fun filled year full of growth and discovery for the students in Grade 4/5 at James Macdonald school.

Yours in learning,

Mrs. Vernon