

Grade 1: September



Dear Parents,

Welcome back! This is an exciting time in the world of learning. You will be amazed at just how much your child will learn this year! 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 newsletter will inform you of some basic routines and expectations. Communications will either be by e-mail, agenda, or through the Bloomz app.

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

- Follow directions, Work and play together
- Question and experiment
- Number Sense (identifying numbers, counting objects)
- Literacy (identifying letters & sounds, creating simple sentences)

Parent Communication

- ❖ You will be informed regarding upcoming events through the school monthly newsletters, Bloomz app, e-mails and student agenda. If you need to get in contact with me or you wish to make an appointment to discuss your child's work, please phone the school after 2:45. You may be required to leave a voicemail as I may be supervising or in a meeting. I can also be contacted by email at mgerla@rockyview.ab.ca if you have a question or message, but please be advised that 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.
- ❖ Bloomz is an app you can download to your phone/computer. Our class code is N9UCQT. The website is <https://bloomz.net>

Agendas

Please check your child's agenda each night.

- ❖ You will find any important paperwork in the agenda. Please fill it out and return it to school.
- ❖ Please initial your child's agenda to show that you have seen it. I will initial it in turn each morning.
- ❖ Please write a note in the agenda, if needed. It is one way to communicate with me.

Volunteers

- ❖ If you would like to volunteer in our classroom at any time during the year (including field trips), you will require **TWO** things:
 1. A Rocky View Confidentiality/Non-Disclosure Volunteer form
 2. A police check with a vulnerable sector check
 - The Rocky View Volunteer form is available through the office.
 - The police check and vulnerable sector check need to be obtained from your local RCMP office. In order to get the fee waived you will need to take a letter from our school with you to the police department indicating that you will be volunteering and that you will be working with children. We have copies of this letter in the office. If you know you want to volunteer, please come in and pick one up at the office.
- ❖ If you are interested in volunteering with the school council (hot lunch & school council events), please pick up a volunteer package from the school office.

I welcome your help with:

- ❖ Book Club Coordinator: Compile booklets and date for return. I will send home the Scholastic booklets with your child.
- ❖ Classroom helpers, as needed- classroom preparation, etc.

If you are interested in a specific position(s) please email me (mgerla@rockyview.ab.ca)

Scholastic Book Orders

- ❖ Scholastic book orders will come home each month, ideally before the 10th of the month. Please return them no later than the 20th of each month.
- ❖ If you are interested in ordering books, please complete the order form and return them to me. They have an online payment (credit card) or you can pay with a cheque written out to Scholastic.

Headphones

- ❖ Please send in a pair of headphones in a labeled plastic bag. Children will be using these throughout the year. You can pick up a pair at the dollar store if you do not have a pair at home.

Library

- ❖ We have library each Thursday.
- ❖ Grade One students are allowed to take out one book; this needs to be returned each library session for exchange or renewal.

Home Learning

- ❖ Our home reading program will begin in October. A letter explaining the home reading program will be sent home in October. Students will be taking out two books on Monday and returning them on Thursday to allow for multiple readings of each book in order to improve reading fluency.
- ❖ Sight word lists will be sent home at the beginning of October. These words lists are to be practiced in many different ways which will be outlined in the letter you will receive. When you feel your child is fluent with these words, you will send them back to school and I will test them on the list. If they are fluent, they will then receive their next list. If not, they will be asked to continue to practice their previous list. Children will progress through these lists at different rates.

Kleenex Boxes

- ❖ Children gets lots of colds and bleeding noses. If you could donate one box of kleenex to our classroom that would be greatly appreciated!

Toys

- ❖ Please do not send toys to school as they frequently get lost or broken. This includes pokemon cards, fidget spinners etc.

Indoor Shoes

- ❖ Please send your child with a pair of indoor shoes. If your child does not know how to tie their laces, please send them with shoes with a lace alternative. Please label both shoes with your child's first and last name in case they are misplaced.
- ❖ If you child does have shoes with laces, please make sure the laces are short enough for your child to tie.

Lunches

- ❖ Please ensure your child has a healthy and filling lunch for the day. I always ask that children choose their healthy snack from their lunch kit in the morning and save their treat for lunch.
- ❖ Students are encouraged to bring water bottles to class each day. Please encourage your child to fill up at home, they will be able to re-fill during the day if need be. These bottles are encouraged to go home each day for washing and refilling.
- ❖ Please be aware East Lake is a **“Nut-Aware”** school. Please read the ingredient labels of the foods you are sending with your child. Packages reading “may contain nuts” are also unsuitable. We do have a number of children with severe nut allergies in the school; therefore we take this very seriously. Your child will not be permitted to eat a nut item including candy with nuts, **Nutella** sandwiches etc.

Birthdays

- ❖ Your children are welcome to bring a treat to school to share for their birthdays.
- ❖ If your child’s birthday falls on a weekend, they can bring in their treats the Friday before or the Monday after, whichever is the most convenient. If your child has a summer birthday, we will celebrate in June. Please check with me in order to pick a date to celebrate.
- ❖ As with lunches, please keep all treats nut free. If your child has dietary restrictions that would prevent him/her from eating birthday treats brought in to share, please let me know as soon as possible. You may also send in alternatives for your child to have during those times.

For our Grade one students, they may seem more tired, and perhaps more emotional, while they are transitioning into the longer days and school experiences of Grade One over the course of September. The Kindergarten to Grade One transition may take some time, but know it will get easier for them in October!

I look forward to a wonderful year with your children!

Many Thanks,

Megan Gerla

