

**Grade 3**

**2016-2017**

**Classroom Information**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please find below important information pertaining to our classroom routines and procedures this year. Familiarizing yourself with this information will help your child settle in to their new classroom in a timely manner. As always, if there are any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at **espooner@rockyview.ab.ca** or by phoning the school after 2:45 pm at 403-932-9811. During the week, I will make my best attempt to respond within 24 hrs.

Agendas

Please help us bridge the gap between home and school by checking your child’s agenda daily. I will check the agendas each morning for notes from home and will send all parent-directed notes home there as well. Homework, important reminders, papers and forms will also be sent home in the front pocket. The agenda will serve as a means of communication as well as a way to keep your child organized. **Please initial the agenda each day** so that I know messages have been received.

School Website

 <http://rancheview.rockyview.ab.ca/>

Important information regarding our school and upcoming activities can be found on the RancheView website. Information specific to our class and our curriculum can be found by clicking “Grade 3” under the “Our Grade Teams” header on the left side of the school page. Our classroom page (found by clicking my name on the right-hand side) will be up and running in the next few weeks. This is where you will be able to find classroom newsletters as well as information and links related to what we are learning in class.

Homework

Home Reading - Grade 3 students should be reading **daily** at home. This is in continuation of the expectation from previous grades and is critical in supporting further growth in literacy and learning. To keep your child accountable for the reading they do at home, we will encourage them use the monthly calendar portion of the agenda to log the time they have read. This will be checked periodically. Please note, reading can include, reading to self, reading to someone, or listening to reading (being read to).

Math Games – To further develop your child’s number sense and mental math abilities, instructions for math games will be sent home as we learn new games in class. These will also be posted on the website for you to reference. Math games are important (and also a fun way) to strengthen your child’s numeracy skills at home.

Borrowing School Library Books

Students in Grade 3 will be permitted to borrow one book at a time from the Learning Commons at Mitford School. Students will not be permitted to check out new books until they return the one they have already checked out. I will let you know ahead of time what days we will be going to the Learning Commons.

Book Orders

Scholastic book order forms will be sent home throughout the year. If you wish to place an order, please send Mrs. Spooner a cheque payable to Scholastic or pay online on the Scholastic website (instructions can be found in the book order). **No cash please.**

Snacks

Please send nutritious snacks and lunches to school with your child each day as this helps ensure both their mind and body is ready for learning. Please keep in mind there will not be a microwave available for student use. Reusable labelled water bottles are recommended so as to limit the trips outside of the classroom to the water fountain. We are also a nut aware school so **please send peanut-free and nut-free foods to school**. This is very important due to severe allergies for both students and staff in our school.

Physical Education

As we will be participating in daily physical activity in Grade 3, please ensure that your child has a pair of clean, non-marking running shoes to wear indoors at all times. It is also recommended that students wear comfortable clothes to school that are easy to move in.

Outdoor Education

As part of a school-wide initiative, our class will be taking our learning outside as much as possible. This might include Phys. Ed activities, a morning run to spark energy or taking our materials for different subjects outside to complete activities. Students will need a signed permission slip to leave school property, as we intend to use the amenities in Cochrane to our advantage (trees for shade, pond for Science lessons, etc). We ask that children come to school every day **dressed appropriately for the weather** (including good walking outdoor shoes).

Volunteers

Our class will be happy to welcome volunteers after the month of September when we are better settled into our new routines. If you would like to help us out, please send me a message in your child’s agenda or via email. We have lots of jobs that we would love some help with and we are always looking for experts to teach us something new! **All volunteers must have a valid criminal record check submitted to the office before they can join us**. **If the office already has your paperwork on file, you must still submit an annual declaration form each year.** Please note that this also applies to any parents/guardians who wish to join us on field trips.

Classroom Materials

All of your child’s school supplies for the year have been purchased in advance, however it would be very helpful to our classroom if students could bring the following items from home:

* A box of Kleenex
* A container of antibacterial disinfectant wipes (i.e. Lysol Wipes)

Also, please clearly label all student property with your child’s first and last name on it whenever possible. This helps us find the owner of recovered items around the school in a timely manner and prevents congestion in our Lost & Found.

Thank you in advance for your support this year!

☺ Mrs. Spooner