

2L

Information Newsletter

“When educating
the minds of
our youth, we
must not forget
to educate
their hearts.”



Welcome to Grade Two!

GRADE 2L INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Welcome back! I hope that you all enjoyed your summer and are looking forward to a very exciting and productive year. We now currently have 23 students, 13 girls and 10 boys.

1. Parent Volunteers - Parent volunteers are an integral part of the Grade Two Program. Your open communication and involvement in classroom activities are welcome and strongly encouraged. The school sent home a few different Parent Survey Forms that will assist in making your involvement in the program both a rewarding and pleasant experience. As these surveys are returned, our class will have a parent coordinator who will contact and organize volunteers each month. This schedule will only be sent home to the volunteers. The volunteer schedule will not begin until **October-ish** so that I may better get to know your child along with establishing daily routines with the class. Typically I have an afternoon/month with 4 volunteers as well as for special activities. If you are interested in being our classroom coordinator, please send me an email.

2. Snack and Lunch – Snack time happens everyday before recess at about 10:15. So that snack time does not interfere with instructional time, or recess, students are asked to bring a quick, healthy and nutritional snack such as a small apple, cheese and crackers, a few carrot sticks, juice box, etc. Please remind your child what is his/her healthy morning snack and what is their lunch.

Just a reminder that our school is a nut/peanut aware school. Please read all labels carefully. We want to do our best to make sure everyone is safe.

Students do not have access to a microwave. If your child wishes to eat a hot meal, please provide them with a thermos. Don't forget to include the necessary utensils needed as well.

Students are encouraged to keep a water bottle at their desk all day and these water bottles will be sent home on Fridays to get washed. Some parents want the water bottle to come home daily and that's fine too.

"If a child cannot learn in the way we teach, we must teach in a way the child can learn."

- Unknown



More great quotes at supersimplelearning.com

3. Shoes - Students are required to keep a pair of shoes at school to be used as their indoor shoes. It is recommended that these shoes be ones, which can be easily removed and put on, as well as that they are clearly labeled with your child's name in case they are misplaced. These shoes will be used for gym and should be appropriate for gym activity. The children must be wearing running shoes to the gym for their own safety. Shoes with a heel are not appropriate. Due to our outdoor physical education program, please ensure that your child is wearing appropriate shoes for running outside as well. (no sandals, high heels, etc.) Outdoor gym takes place on Tuesday's and Fridays. When the weather does not cooperate, we do indoor gym in our classroom or around the school.

4. Money - If your child is to bring money to school for any purpose, please place it in a sealed envelope or zip-lock bag in the front pocket of their agenda with your child's name, the amount, and the purpose. Exact change or a cheque would be greatly appreciated.

5. Tote bag/Backpack - Students should bring a tote bag or backpack to school every day. This is necessary to ensure that all notes; schoolwork, library books and projects make it safely home without getting wet, dirty, or lost. Please label the backpack with your child's name. Your child's green book bag has been passed onto me and is to be used for all library/home reading books. More information will be sent home regarding use of the green reading bags. If you are new to the school, a bag will be provided for your child.

6. Toys/Electronics - Any toys brought to school are the students' responsibility and are to be kept **in their backpack**. Electronics are not permitted at recess but students are welcome to use them on the bus. Backpacks will be kept in the classroom, not in the hall. I will take away toys/electronics that are misused, returning when necessary.

7. Communication – There are 3 ways to communicate:

- a. **Student Agenda** - The grade two students will be bringing home an agenda, which will be used as a 3-way means of communication between student, teacher and parents. Every Friday students will record upcoming events for the week such as pizza day or library day in their agendas at school. There will be a weekly newsletter emailed to parents every **Friday** from your child's teacher. Please remember to check your child's agenda each day to ensure that you have read these notes. As well, please feel free to write any questions, comments or concerns that you might have in your child's agenda as I too, check these agendas daily in the morning. Any notices from the office will be placed in the front pocket of your child's agenda. Your child should be bringing their agenda to school each day.
- b. **E-Mails** – Major concerns should be via e-mail. ***Please be advised that I do not check my emails in the mornings so if it is something pertaining to that day, it is best to write a note in your child's agenda.***

I usually do not get a chance to check emails during the day, but I do check after school.

- c. **Phone Calls** - If you are picking up your child after school, please write a note in their agenda as I will put a reminder on the whiteboard and verbally remind your child at the end of the day. This will help to alleviate the many phone messages to students that the school receives each day.

8. Book Club – The grade two classes will participate in the Scholastic Book Club. This is an excellent opportunity to purchase children’s literature at reasonable prices. Newsletters from the book club will go home about ten times a year. I will be trying out the Parent Pay program through Scholastic this year. The shipment generally takes about two to three weeks. More information regarding this will come at a later date.

9. Sharing – There will be a time set aside each day for sharing. Students will not be given a specific day to share but are welcome to share when they feel they have something special or interesting to bring in or discuss. Students will be allowed to share once a week. To make sharing as meaningful as possible for the students, please discuss with your child the night before what they would like to say during their sharing time. Remember **No** toys. Parents can email any pictures/video of your child doing something special for sharing as well and then they can be shown on “the big screen” through our Apple TV. I will be modeling sharing expectations for the students before this program begins and will let you know when we are ready to start.

10. Headphones – For those children who have been previously enrolled at Elbow Valley, your child’s headphones have been passed along from your child’s previous teacher. A letter will be sent home **only** to the children requiring headphones. Parents are to purchase headphones outside the school or bring in headphones from home.

11. Picking up Students – Parents picking up students are reminded to wait for their child at the designated pick up area. Please do not enter the classroom, unless you are volunteering in our class at that time, as it is disruptive to your child’s learning. If you need to drop off a lunch kit, agenda, sharing, etc., please leave the item(s) at the office, as Mrs. Erikson will ensure that your child receives the item. Please adhere to this school policy.

12. Dropping off Students – To promote independence, which is something I feel strongly about, parents are encouraged to drop off their kids in the morning **at their entrance door** and let them socialize with their peers at their entrance door. I would like all children to enter the school with their classmates, carrying their own belongings. There are exceptions of course, like helping carry in a special project or sharing that is too big for them to handle on their own. Special visitors, grandparents, family from afar, etc. are

more than welcome to pop in for a few minutes to see the classroom.

13. Please label all of your child's belongings, e.g. coats, shoes, backpacks, lunch kits, etc. This makes it much easier to find when they are lost, misplaced or forgotten on the playground or in the gym.

14. Learning Commons – Our class will have a scheduled Learning Commons time. Each child will be allowed to sign out up to two books each week, provided that they have returned their books from the previous week. Please encourage your child to be responsible for remembering to return their library books themselves.

15. Pet Sharing – If you are wanting to bring in a pet for sharing, pet sharing will take place at the **end** of the day. Please make plans with myself ahead of time so I can schedule you in for that day. Students can also bring in pictures of their pets, or email me a picture to project on the “big screen”.

16. Birthday Invitations – I do allow students to bring in birthday invitations. Invitations must be in a solid envelope and brought to Ms.Lambie who will assist the child in putting the invitations into the student's mailboxes. Invitations are not to be opened until the students arrive home. If you are wanting to bring in a birthday treat on your child's birthday, non-edible items are encouraged. (pencils, bookmarks, etc.) If bringing in a food treat, please remember there are many children with not only nut allergies as well as others with dairy, wheat, etc. Please do not feel obligated to bring in anything as I make the day very special for the students. If sending in a treat like cupcakes, please send in napkins as well. Please let me know ahead of time if bringing in so I can notify parents of children with allergies to send in a special treat.

17. Classroom Directory – I would like to create a 2L Classroom Directory, which would consist of an email address for each student in the class. This would be a great way for parents to connect. This will be an option for parents who want to be in the directory.

18. Classroom Assistant – TBA

It is hoped that you find the information in this letter helpful and informative. More newsletters regarding instructional methods and the grade two curriculum will be sent home at different times throughout the school year. **You can also find this information on our school's website as well as much more information about Grade 2L.**

Lastly, please phone or drop a note to clear up any difficulties or misunderstandings that may arise. If you have a question, concern, or if your child is unhappy about school at any time, I would like to know right away. On the other hand, if there is something going on that you approve of, are impressed with, or notice that your child is excited about, I would like to know about that too!

Sincerely,
Ms. Lambie

P.S. Stay tuned for more information regarding our sight word program called, "Lollipop Words".

P.P.S. – Please note that all of this information is on the website under grade 2/Ms. Lambie/Classroom Information and will be there all year for you to refer back to when/if needed.

