

Mrs. Braaksma’s Grade 2 Parent Handbook 2019-2020

**Dear families,**

**I look forward to partnering with you in your child’s learning and discovering ways they can experience personal success. This year our classroom theme is “Rooted”. I hope your child will develop a growth mindset, be excited about learning and improving, and develop a passion for service to others, realizing the impact they can make in the world. This is going to be a wonderful and exciting year! Please feel free to connect with me via email and keep your eyes open for our classroom newsletter coming soon!** 

**COMMUNICATION:**

I feel communication is key to a successful year. It is important that you are informed and that I am too! If there is anything you would like me to know in order to help your child succeed and thrive, please do not hesitate to reach out. Similarly, please stay informed and involved as a parent in your child’s learning and growth. When you are involved, they succeed. I strongly encourage you to visit or volunteer in the classroom as well. Your presence in the classroom not only shows your child how much you value their education but also provides them with the opportunity to see first hand the importance of working together for the betterment of their community. Please let me know if you would like to visit and if you have an area of expertise you’d like to share with the kids.

Every 2 weeks there will be a Classroom Snapshot (mini newsletter) that will be e-mailed. In the mini newsletter you will find news and topics your student is learning about in class so you can practice further at home. (Conversations go a long way or ask your child to teach concepts to you). If you have any questions, please connect by email or make a note in their agenda:

abraaksma@rockyview.ab.ca

For more sensitive issues I would prefer to meet in person to avoid miscommunication. Sometimes situations that happen at school can be misinterpreted or details are missing from your child’s point of view. A conversation first is always best, before emotion can get in the way. Remember, I want your child to do well and feel successful every day, so let’s make sure to work together as much as possible. Please call or email to arrange an appointment for us to meet, when needed.



**AGENDA:**

Student agendas will be used and filled out each day to build organizational skills and to communicate with you. Here are things to know:

* All the words should be spelled correctly (especially since students are copying straight from the homework board or white board)
* Agendas will be signed/checked before students leave at the end of the day, by teachers or a student leader.
* **A parent or guardian must review and sign the agenda every night**. Talk about the agenda daily and help to extend/support learning at home. **Please remember to send the signed agenda back to school the following day.**

**AT HOME READING PROGRAM:** 

**In order to best prepare your child for success, I recommend Grade 2 students spend approximately 15 - 20 minutes a day reading.**

In order to encourage reading at home, we will be launching our official home reading program in early October. More detailed information will follow in a separate letter to come later this month.

**FOOD/ WELLNESS BREA****K**

We do not have access to kettles or microwaves in our classroom. Lunches/snacks should be planned accordingly. Snack time is provided infrequently. Students are responsible for learning when they need a snack and asking for it or getting it mid-morning during our body break. Students will choose when they need to go to get a drink, go for a quick walk, or go to the washroom, and will sign out on a mini whiteboard by the door. Please pack a **spill proof water bottle** for them for the day - this helps them to stay hydrated and not have to line up for water fountains. Also, we are continuing the BOOMERANG lunch where students bring home all garbage/unwanted food in their lunch kits, this reduces classroom waste.

**PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

Studies show that children who are physically active are not only healthier and happier but also more confident and focused in their academic endeavors. In addition to their regular scheduled lunch recess, students will participate in at least one additional body break during the school day. I also incorporate physical activity into lesson material and daily routines such as skip counting and math centres.

***ALLERGY ALERT***

***Due to fatal allergies, my classroom will be a Tree Nut & Peanut-Free Zone. Please ensure your child does not bring any nut/peanut products or items that may contain them into the classroom.***

*\*For your child to do well in school, they need good routines for sleeping, learning and eating at home. They need to go to bed early, have limited screen time, conversations about learning and eat well-balanced meals. \**

**DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER & LUNCH RECESS:** 

We will be going outside and moving around a lot. Be sure to check the weather daily and ensure your child is dressed appropriately. **PLEASE bring a pair of indoor shoes for school, that stay at school. This helps our classroom and school stay clean from outside shoes.**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS:**

We will be focusing on building skills in reading, writing, listening, speaking, presenting and representing ideas. This will involve daily ELA routines and special projects throughout the year. **Please send in a pair of headphones** for use with computers and IPADs. Students will be using them periodically within the Daily (3) literacy program and they will be sent home with your child at the end of the year. 

**WORD WORK:** Through a spelling/phonics/grammar program called ‘Words Their Way’, students will have spelling skills evaluated and will be given lists tailored to their individual learning development.

The website called Spelling City can be used to help practice word sorts at home. More information will be provided when this program is launched with the students.

**MATH & MATHLETICS:**

During Math students will complete math assessments to determine strengths and areas for improvement. They will track their progress and set goals for growth. Students will have a math journal for their notes and practice. Students will also work with math centers (manipulatives, games, worksheets, etc.) once or twice a week, allowing for hands-on practice and authentic student learning.

Mathletics is an online math website for support, direct feedback, and provides steps to achieving the correct answer. The students will be sent home with a copy of their Mathletics code within the first two weeks of school. I will provide more information to anyone that needs it on this fabulous program. (<http://ca.mathletics.com/>)

**CLASSROOM SCHOOL SUPPLIES:**

Pencils, crayons, glue, notebooks and scissors will be provided. **Please send in:**

1. A set of good quality headphones
2. One box of tissues for classroom use

***Please label your child’s belongings!*** This includes jackets, mitts indoor and outdoor shoes, lunch boxes, backpacks ect…..



**BIRTHDAYS:**

We want to celebrate student birthdays! If you would like to do something special for your child on their birthday, please feel free to bring in nut/peanut free treats or snacks for the class. Currently, we have 24 students.

**POWER SCHOOL**: Power school allows you to access your child’s grades and attendance. This is a great way for you to check in on progress throughout the year.

All students will be given a username and login in September.

*I am looking forward to a wonderful year with you and your child*

* *Mrs. Braaksma*