

Grade 3/4
Classroom
Information
Handbook
2019 - 2020



Welcome Back to CCA!

Welcome back to Cochrane Christian Academy!! For those of you new to CCA, welcome! I am so excited for this brand new school year. If I was your child's Grade 1 teacher, I want you to know that I am absolutely thrilled to have them again. If this is your first time with me, I am really looking forward to getting to know you and your child. I believe God has some very exciting things in store for us all in this coming school year, and I can't wait to get started!

I will be teaching 4 days a week this year, and I have the privilege of partnering with Patricia Hisey who will be in the classroom on Wednesdays.



A Little Bit About Me

My name is Stacey Simpson. I am a wife and mother of three children. My family has lived in Cochrane for a little over six years, and we just love our community! I taught from 2002 to 2012 in Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan. I have taught every level from Grade 1 to Middle School, but I've spent most of my career in Grades 1 and 6. This is my fourth year teaching at Cochrane Christian Academy. I am very excited to be teaching the Grade 3/4 class, and look forward to sharing a fun and engaging curriculum with your children. I have always worked in Christian schools, and I love the freedom I have to share about God, pray with my students, and take an active interest in their spiritual well-being. Teaching is my passion, and I'm committed to making a difference in the lives of my students.



COMMUNICATING WITH ME

If you have questions please feel free to send me an email at the following address: stsimpson@rockyview.ab.ca. Also, the school phone number is 403-932-5177. I always suggest all emails be brief. If your question or concern is more complicated, call to arrange for a meeting. If possible I always try to return phone calls and emails on the same day. I do not check my work email over the weekend.

Please understand that when school commences it is very difficult to have a conversation with me. Your child's agenda is another wonderful communication tool. If you write a brief note in the agenda I will see it right away, as I check agendas first

thing every morning. **Please remember to check and sign your child's agenda every day, as it will highlight important events and reminders.**

A classroom is a busy place. In an effort to ensure you receive timely information and understand what your child is learning, I will be sending out newsletters by email containing class information. Some of it is repetitive from the monthly CCA newsletter however, our lives are busy and this is just one more way to ensure you know what is happening. The updates will also be posted to my CCA teacher website. This year I am going to send out the updates at the beginning of each month, or as needed through email. **Please remember to check spam because sometimes it gets sent there.**

WEBSITE NAVIGATION

Please check out the Cochrane Christian Academy (CCA) website. The web address is cca.rockyview.ab.ca.

Steps to getting onto my site:

1. Go to cca.rockyview.ab.ca/
2. Click on Elementary and then Mrs. Simpson.
3. You can now go to my site to view our class calendar, educational links, and copies of the Grade 3/4 Handbook, newsletters, and field trip forms.

How I Run My Love and Logic Classroom

On the first day of school, the students and I will create "Our Classroom Promise." I wanted to involve the children in establishing our classroom culture and expectations, because I find they "buy into" it more. In general, I have found that if children understand the behavior expectations from the beginning of the school year, and I consistently reinforce them, it minimizes many difficulties.

Love and Logic is an approach I use in the classroom to create a safe and caring environment. It guides and empowers children to develop positive relationships, empathy, respect, and accountability. It also fosters the ability to gain independence and become a problem solver.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- I will treat you with respect, so you will know how to treat me.
- Feel free to do anything that doesn't cause a problem for anyone else.
- If you cause a problem, I will ask you to solve it.
- If you can't solve the problem, or choose not to, I will do something.
- What I do will depend on the special person and the special situation.
- If you feel something is unfair, whisper to me "I'm not sure that's fair," and we will talk.

For more information, go to www.loveandlogic.com.

LUNCHES AND WATERBOTTLES

The children will be eating their snack and lunch in their classroom. They will not have access to a microwave, so if they have warm food it must be sent in a thermos. In health, we discuss healthy choices and what the human body needs, therefore I encourage students to eat their main dish first at lunch and then they can have their treats. I encourage you to pack healthy snacks for your child, such as fruit, cheese, crackers, veggies, and granola bars. After lunch I will have daily helpers to clean up with me, which will rotate.



last.

We are continuing with the Boomerang lunch program this year. This means that what students “pack in,” they also “pack out.” Any garbage, juice boxes, or ziplocks need to be put back into their lunch kits and taken home. As a school, we are now producing 3 times less the amount of garbage that we used to. That’s pretty amazing!

Please be sure to send a labelled water bottle with your child each day. I recommend water bottles with auto seal or auto spout to minimize spills or leaks in your child’s back pack. I have had great luck with Contigo brand water bottles as a parent. I will send home water bottles daily for cleaning.



VOLUNTEERING

I am looking for one parent to volunteer to be the classroom coordinator for all parent volunteering. Once our permanent schedule is completed I will email all families and let them know what days are available for volunteering and who our New Classroom Coordinator is. This person will also assist me in coordinating help for special events. I really appreciate parent volunteers. You can expect to do photocopying and collating of mini-books, bulletin board work, reading with students, helping prepare materials for art projects, and things of this nature. Please note ALL classroom and field trip volunteers must have the Police Check and security clearance forms completed and approved before volunteering. If you require a security clearance, please see the CCA secretary, Angie Watts, for forms and information.

LEARNING COMMONS AND READING INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The students will get to go to the Learning Commons/Library each week on Wednesday and be allowed to take two books out. I like for students to take one book home, and leave one book at school in their books box. This ensures that students can still check out a book on library day if their book is forgotten at home.

As an educator, I want to fuel a love and excitement for reading in my students. I provide a literacy rich environment in my classroom through my personal classroom library that can be accessed every day. I will be implementing a home reading incentive program to encourage your child to be reading at home daily. Please support them by carving out time that they can be cuddling up at home with a good book. I will also be planning other fun reading events like Book Tastings and Book Bistros. Stay tuned to learn more about how we will be transforming into a classroom full of avid readers this year!

FIELD TRIPS

Generally, the Grades 3 and 4 classes will attend approximately 4 field trips during the school year that will require entrance fees and busing costs. In the past these field trips have been the Calgary Corn Maze, Telus Spark Science Centre, Cochrane Gymnastics, Calgary Zoo, and Calaway Park. In addition, there will be a couple of field trips that only require busing. CCA always tries to keep these costs reasonable and coordinate with other classes to spread out the busing costs.



BIBLE MEMORY

The children will be provided with a series of Bible verses that relate to the topics of study in their Bible program. In Grade 3/4 this year, the students will work on a verse each week. There will be a few “catch up” weeks planned into our Bible Memory schedule as well, to help keep students on track. At the end of the year, children who are successful in their bible memory will be rewarded with a scripture memory medal. I will email and send home a hard copy of our bible memory verses in the coming weeks.

DAILY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

I believe in the importance of moving your body, and daily physical activity is mandated in Alberta classrooms. I have seen that physical exercise fuels the learning process in children. Your children will participate in daily recesses, gym time, SPARK, active living walks, and fun body breaks in the classroom. The students get lots of physical movement during the day.

PERSONAL HEAD-PHONES, KLEENEX, PAINT SHIRTS

This year I am asking each child to bring in a set of good quality headphones for computer (i-pad) use in a large labelled ziplock bag, one box of Kleenex, and a labelled paint shirt (one of dad's old shirts will work perfect).

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS

Each month the children will be given the opportunity to purchase books from the Scholastic brochure. Generally, the books are inexpensive, and seasonal. They make great special occasion gifts. A percentage of the sales goes to the classroom teacher and is used to expand the classroom library and purchase classroom materials.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays are a special time for the students and I recognize each child on their birthday. If you would like to do something special for your child on their birthday please email me. I can let you know if there are any food allergies or dietary needs. Summer birthdays will be celebrated within the month of June.

PRAYER

Please keep us in prayer this year. We are so blessed to be covered in prayer as a school, and I truly believe it makes a huge difference in the classroom.



We are excited for a great year of learning with this wonderful group of students. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. If there is something of importance on a Wednesday, please remember to contact Mrs. Hisey. Thank you for your support and prayers.

In Christ's Service,

Mrs. Simpson
Grade 3/4 Teacher

