Septembre 2018

**Bienvenue and welcome to Grade 3! A big hello to parents and students,**

My name is Mme. Katharine Wittgruber (known as Mme. W) and I am thrilled to be your child’s teacher this year! This letter means that the new school year has started and I have already met our group of 25 students. I am very excited to embark on great new adventures and a year full of learning experiences.

I grew up in Winnipeg Manitoba and moved to Calgary in 1994. I had an amazing opportunity to travel and teach overseas in Europe for a year as a FSL teacher at the start of my teaching career. I have been with the Calgary Board of Education for 15 years. I enjoy traveling, hiking, skiing, and spending time with my family and friends. I look forward to sharing my love of travel and adventure with our class this year!

**Below is some important information that I’d like to share about the Grade 3 program.**

**Name labels:** Please ensure that your child’s name and room number (**PT2**) is in his/her lunch kit, backpack, indoor and outdoor shoes and outdoor clothing.

**Agenda:** This year students will not have an agenda. The daily messages, homework and letters will be posted on my blog at: https://mmekatharinewittgruber.weebly.com

It is recommended that you check the agenda post each day to continue being informed as to what is happening in room 10.

**Communication:** I will send most of my general communication through email “School Messenger”, so please make sure you are subscribed to that system. Please feel free to email with a questions or concerns and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

**Homework:** Students are encouraged to read for 15 minutes each night. Regular reading fosters improved reading skills and can take many forms including: silent reading, reading out loud or shared reading with a parent. Please alternate between French and English material (library books will be coming home soon). Other types of homework may include: preparing for quizes, practicing basic skills, or research on classroom topics. Parental interest in children’s learning can be valuable to your child’s growth and development, so please ask, “What did you learn in school today?”

**Curriculum:** The Grade 3 Curriculum-at-a-Glance can be viewed at **education**.**alberta**.ca/media/446187/Gr3frBroch.pdf. Please note that English Language Arts is introduced in Grade 3 for French Immersion students.

**Allergies and food**: Due to the wide range of food allergies that are within the school, students are not to share food at any time.  Please do not send food to be shared with the class for special occasions such as birthdays.  Any food sent to the school will not be given out.  We appreciate your support!

**Classroom Routines:** We are in the process of establishing classroom routines collectively, but I would like to point out two important items regarding bathrooms and lunch - Bathrooms: Students have access to the school when needed using two access “swipe” cards. Students are, however, encouraged to take a bathroom break during morning and lunch recess, as well as any other times we are in the school for things like Physical Education, Music, library or assemblies. This limits disruptions and helps students develop important life skills around planning and responsible decision-making. **Lunch:** Students will eat lunch in a designated space in the school at lunch tables.

**Earphones:** It is recommended that your child bring a set of their own earphones for hygiene purposes to school to use during activities such as listening to storybooks. The earphones will be kept in your child’s desk. Please provide a labelled Ziploc bag or pouch to store them.

**Library:** TBA - In Grade 3, students are allowed to borrow two French books and one English book at a time. Each student will have a set day in the six-day school cycle as their library / learning commons day.

**Music:** Days 1 & 5 with Mme. Zdrill or Mme. Edgett.

**Physical Education/Indoor shoes:** Indoor running shoes are required for Physical Education and safety throughout the school. Sandals, crocs, flip-flop, flats and roller shoes are unsafe. We will be participating in daily physical education / activities inside or outside in our schoolyard.

**Water Bottles/Snacks:** Please bring a filled water bottle to school each day as well as a nutritious snack to be eaten during morning recess. Please avoid sugary snacks as they impact learning and focus and aim for snacks that have minimal packaging as we are trying to decrease waste in the school.

**Field Trips:** The Grade 3 Teaching Team is currently planning this year’s field trip and special events schedule. More information about dates and costs will follow shortly about dates and costs.

**Volunteers:** Parent volunteers are an integral part of the Grade 3 program. Your involvement in classroom activities is welcomed and encouraged. Parent volunteers are needed for field trips, classroom duties, and special events. There will be an on-line sign up sheet at [www.volunteersignup.org](http://www.volunteersignup.org) that will be set up shortly for parents who are interesting in volunteering. It is very easy and on average takes about 10 minutes per month to complete. **Please note that you must have current security clearance to volunteer in the school. Please double check with the office regarding your status.**

**Classroom Supplies:** School supplies such as pencils, notebooks, agendas, paper, glue, scissors, pencil crayons, pencil sharpeners, markers, art supplies etc. are provided by the school.

I hope you find the information in this letter helpful and I thank you in advance for your support and cooperation in getting our school year off to a good start. I look forward to meeting you during parent/teacher conferences and working together in the best interest of your child.

**Mme W. School phone number**: 403-777 - 6090 ext. 2022.

**Email address:** kvwittgruber@cbe.ab.ca

**Keep me informed:** Please do not hesitate to contact me via email or telephone should you have any questions, comments or concerns and we can set up a time to meet. Additionally, many things can affect your child’s mood and behaviour in class. If something has happened on the bus, on the playground, at home, please contact me!

I am looking forward to a new school year with your children. I thank you for your cooperation and your support in your child’s learning.

Merci Beaucoup! ☺

*Katharine Wittgruber*