

September 16, 2019

Hello Families,

Your children are settling in very well! They are very excited to jump right in to care for themselves, each other, and our classroom. Our class is set up to support your children to be independent and excited learners in every way. At the beginning of each day, your child retrieves their Message Bag and finds their own name to velcro on our Message Bag bin. It was joyful to see some children find their name on their own on Friday, when only three days before they needed some help. Other children were excited to be able to open their own snack bags using scissors; our tools are easily accessible to your children and they know how to use them and put them away on their own. As you can imagine, our tables do get sticky and messy after snack and lunch. Your children know the importance of having a clean room, and some of them get out the vinegar/water spray bottle to clean the tables. If there is a mess on the floor from eating or painting or sand play, there is always a child ready with the brush and dustpan to help out. They have also been learning about the importance of recycling and sorting our garbage; children are starting to remember that all shiny snack packages go in the regular grey garbage. Other children have taken it upon themselves to be compost helpers, showing friends where to put their food garbage in the green bin down the hallway.

Why have we set up our classroom in this way? Your children are developing literacy skills, fine motor skills, and concern for each other and their environment by taking part in these small practical skills every day. We want your children to take pride and ownership over their learning and our learning environment. The smiles and sense of pride and responsibility will be supported in every aspect of our class, including Reading Workshop, Writing Workshop, Math, and Centres; you will hear more about those specific things later.

**-Please label everything** that comes in with your child, such as **coats** and **sweaters** (as the days get cooler), and even **food containers**. There is a small and growing collection of Tupperware lids and containers that were unclaimed starting from the first day of school; your child may not recognize their own containers even the same day! **Boots and shoes** can also be easily returned to your child if they are labeled with their name. Many children have the same shoes and sizes. We do not have cubbies in Grade Primary and our hooks are very cramped, things do get mixed up and pushed down the hallway on occasion.

-We would appreciate it if you send in a pair of **indoor/gym shoes** for your child. They will be kept in the classroom at all times. We change shoes six times each day! In order to set your child up for success and independence, please ensure that your child can change their shoes on their own; velcro or toggles are highly recommended instead of laces.

-Your child may bring in a labeled **water bottle** to keep in class. We will send them home on Fridays for a wash.

-A spare **change of clothes** to be kept at school would be much appreciated. Please send in a **labeled Ziploc bag**. We will keep them in class.

-your child will need a **daily snack and lunch**. Nut products and/or nut butters are not permitted at school. You may notice some food coming home in the coming week. We encourage children to take home any uneaten food so you can gauge how much of those healthy meals your child is eating!

-Please check your child's bag and **Communication Scribbler** every day and ensure it is **returned on a daily basis**. Thank you! You may also send us a message in the Communication Scribbler. If you have an **urgent message**, leaving a **telephone** message is another option 902-457-8422.

-As a school, we ask that birthday party invitations to be distributed outside of school. We would like to compile a **class list of phone numbers and emails for parents** to use as needed. Please return the sheet from last week, indicating whether or not you wish to be included on such list.

-It is very important and helpful to label any money you are requested to send to school. We recommend an envelope that includes your **child's name**, the **amount**, and **purpose of the money**. Thank you very much!

-Comfortable pants and a t-shirt are recommended for **Gym days**. We do not have time to make clothing changes in the washrooms and want to ensure we are all ready to go at the same time.

-Here is our **weekly schedule**:

Monday: Gym and Library  
Tuesday: Music  
Wednesday: Gym  
Thursday: Gym  
Friday: Music

-We have **class website**, which is a great way for you to view pictures of your children at work and play! We will also post our class newsletters, as well as send it home in the message bags. **\*\*If you selected 'No' on the Media Release form, your child's photo will not be on the website\*\***

-We are excited to go on **nature hikes** in Hemlock Ravine and **field trips** this year, but we need your help to take your children off-site! We require 6 adults to chaperone our class of 22 children. If you would like to be a parent volunteer at any time this year, the school requires a current **Criminal Record Check** and **Child Abuse Registry** background check. You will find links to those checks under the **Parents section** on our website: <http://gvw.hrsb.ca/our-school> .

We appreciate your time to read through this note, and your support with the items above. We look forward to building a partnership with you and learn with your child in the coming year. Stay tuned for more news about our classroom and program next week.

Thank you,  
Ms. Warren and Mrs. Klyne