

Open House Thursday September 10th, 2013



Welcome to the turtle class! This does not mean we are the slowest but rather that we are willing to stick our necks out to help one another. Here is a brief description of the important elements of our daily routine and a brief overview of activities throughout the year.

A short tour of the classroom by one of the “turtles” will also help you get acquainted with our classroom. Please feel free to ask questions! The turtles and I will be pleased to answer.

My approach to teaching

My guiding pedagogical principle is that students learn most deeply and retain concepts most completely when they participate actively in the learning process and engage with the subject material. I encourage my students to construct as much knowledge as they can on their own, then help them progress when they have reached their limits. I also help them learn how they can construct knowledge that is new to them.

Developing social skills, respect and caring for others are also important to me. We are embarking on a new project called Mind Up this year to help calm ourselves and be open to learning.

I also strongly believe in a positive, active and ongoing partnership with parents. You are a very valuable part of your child’s learning. To ensure communication, I will update the classroom website outlining the main curricular goals for the month, important information and special events. I will also communicate through e-mail and if this does not suit you, please advise me and I can send home hard copies.

Agendas

Once again at Whitehorse Elementary this year every student from Grade 4-7 has the same agenda. This is a great organizational tool for students and should be used on a daily basis. I do not require that it be signed but I check it periodically to ensure proper use.

Reading Buddies

We will be reading buddies with Madame Geneviève’s Grade 2 class. We will meet on a weekly basis to help students in the beginning stages of reading in French. This is a valuable experience for your child to become a positive role model to these young children.

Homework information and class web site

Our class has it's own homework information site. You will find it at <http://yesnet.yk.ca/schools/wes> (School web site) or <http://mmejuliebourdeau.weebly.com>. I will be assigning weekly homework on Mondays to be handed in on Fridays. It is your child's responsibility to update their agenda and hand in homework on time. The homework is comprised of tasks that your child should be able to do independently, but I encourage them to take a look at it early in the week to ask questions if anything is unclear. They are also expected to read 30 minutes per day at home. During novel studies they will be expected to read the assigned book, otherwise they may choose what they read.

Canada Games Centre

We will be going up to the CGC two times for skating and three times for swimming as well as four days of swim lessons. The total cost is **33.25\$** for all activities including buses. I also ask for a **25.00\$** activity fee for the year for plays and special outings. Total cost is **58.25\$** for the year. The dates for all activities will be updated on the website calendar shortly but here they are:

Swimming

Friday Dec 6 (1:00-1:45)
Wednesday Feb 5 (1:45-2:30)
Tuesday Apr 8 (1:00-1:45)

Swim Patrol

Tuesday Jan 21 to Friday Jan 24 (9:00-9:45)

Skating

Friday Nov 1 (1:45-2:30)
Thursday Dec 19 (1:00-1:45)

Curriculum

I have attached a weekly schedule. As you know, many subjects are cross-curricular and will be integrated in language arts and other subject areas.

Parent volunteers

I may ask for your help during the year with outings, special activities, etc. If you have anything that you would like to help with or something you might like to share with the class, let me know!

Questions/ comments

Please feel free to call me at school (667-8083) or write an e-mail (julie.bourdeau@yesnet.yk.ca) if you have any questions or concerns. I strongly believe communication with parents creates greater success for the child. My door is always open. But I ask that you schedule meetings in advance to ensure my availability.

Thank you,
Julie Bourdeau