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Welcome Message from Ms. Ro

Dear Families,

Welcome to Grade 1! As we settle into Term 1, I want to take a moment to share how excited I am to be part of your child's Grade 1 journey. Grade 1 is such a special year, filled with new experiences, growing independence, and many opportunities to learn, explore, and build confidence.

One of my biggest priorities is creating a classroom where every student feels safe, valued, and included. I believe that a strong sense of belonging helps children thrive academically, socially, and spiritually. As we learn our classroom routines and expectations together, my hope is that each child feels supported and encouraged to try new things, learn from mistakes, and celebrate their growth along the way.

I'm looking forward to all that this term will bring as we learn, grow, and build our classroom community together. Thank you for your support and partnership as we begin this year. I hope Term 1 is filled with growth, discovery, and many joyful moments of learning.

Written with care,

Ms. Hannah Ro

hro@cispg.ca

Outlined are some information about our class and our daily routines. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the school office or reach out to me by email at hro@cispg.ca. Please visit the school website on a regular basis to stay up to date on school-wide information and announcements.

Notre Dame School is an Allergy-Aware Environment!

At Notre Dame, we are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for all students, including those with food allergies.

For safety reasons, all snacks and lunches must be eaten in the classroom. Eating during recess or on the playground is not permitted. Additionally, students are reminded not to share food with one another.



Here are some of the everyday practices we follow to help make our school a safe and welcoming place for everyone:

- We wash our hands before and after eating.
- Allergy Alert signs are posted at the entrance of each classroom as a helpful reminder.
- We do not share food, containers, or utensils.
- We only eat the food we brought from home.
- Our desks are wiped down twice a day to help keep surfaces clean.
- We stay informed about allergies through newsletters and SPACES EDU updates.

Please refer to CISPG policy 329, "*Student: Anaphylaxis*", for more information.

Home to School Communication



Maintaining strong communication between home and school is very important to me. In Grade 1, we will use **Spaces EDU** to share classroom learning, friendly reminders, and important updates. Students will also use their **Back-and-Forth Bag** to bring notices, home practice, and completed work between home and school.

Please check your child's Back-and-Forth Bag daily and return it to school each day. Any forms, notes, or other items that need to be returned to school can be placed inside the bag.

You are always welcome to contact me directly with any questions, comments, or concerns. I do my best to respond promptly and thoughtfully.

To stay informed about school-wide news and events, I encourage families to visit the school website regularly.

Please make sure you have accepted your invitation to join our class on Spaces EDU. If you have not received an invitation or are having trouble accessing our class, please feel free to reach out so I can double-check the email address we have on file.

As a friendly reminder, photos shared through Spaces EDU are intended for our classroom community and **should not be shared or posted on social media**.

Lates, Absences, and Early Pick-Ups



Please inform our school secretary, Mrs. Gen Cabrera, or me if your child will be absent or needs to be picked up early. If your child is going to arrive late to school, they must check in at the office before coming to class.

Weather Preparedness and Extra Clothing

As we prepare for changing weather conditions, students are welcome to bring a complete change of clothes (shirt, pants, socks, and underwear) in a plastic bag to keep in their cubbies. Unless there are severe weather conditions, students will go outside for recess in all types of weather. Please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing, such as rain or snow jackets, boots, pants, gloves, hats, and so on. If your child's extra clothes are sent home wet or soiled, kindly send a fresh set for the following day.



Water is Best!



We have water bottle refill stations at school so students can refill their bottles throughout the day. Please send a water bottle with your child every day to help them stay hydrated and ready to learn!

Birthdays

We love celebrating student birthdays in fun and inclusive ways! If your family would like to send in food treats for the class, please contact me in advance to check for allergy information and to ensure all students are included. You're also welcome to send a special treat just for your child to enjoy during snack or lunchtime on their birthday.



Families may also prepare goody bags (wrapped candies, small toys, stickers, etc.) for the whole class to take home. The birthday student can hand these out at the end of the day. Please let me know ahead of time if you plan to prepare goody bags.

Scholastic Book Orders

Each month, **Scholastic flyers** will be sent home in your child's **Back-and-Forth Bag**. For an even larger selection of books, families can also browse the Scholastic website (www.scholastic.ca). Flyers are typically sent home at the beginning of the week, and orders are due by the **indicated deadline**. Orders can be placed and paid for directly online through the Scholastic website.

When ordering, families can choose to have books **shipped directly to their home or delivered to the school**. If you choose school delivery, your child will receive their order at school and bring it home in their backpack.

Please enter our **classroom code** when placing your order so we can collect points as a class and earn new books for our classroom library!

Our classroom code: **RC278056**.



Class Promises

Creating a safe, kind, and welcoming classroom community is an important part of our Grade 1 year. Through stories, conversations, and class discussions, we worked together to create our Class Promises. These promises will guide us throughout the year as we learn to care for one another, make positive choices, and develop a Growth Mindset.



- **We promise to be kind:** Use gentle hands, kind words, and include everyone in games.
- **We promise to be safe:** Walk in the hallways, keep our hands and feet to ourselves, and use classroom tools correctly.
- **We promise to be respectful:** Listen when others are speaking, take turns, and raise our hands before sharing.
- **We promise to try our best:** Make mistakes, learn new things, and never give up when work is hard.
- **We promise to take care of our classroom:** Clean up our messes, put supplies away, and treat our classroom like a family.

Addressing Repeated Unexpected Behaviour



In Grade 1, students are still learning classroom routines, expectations, and how to manage their emotions and choices throughout the school day. When unexpected behaviours happen repeatedly, my goal is to help students understand what happened, practise more appropriate choices, and move forward successfully.

Step One: I begin with a gentle reminder or redirection and review the classroom promise or expectation with the student.

Step Two: If the behaviour continues, I will have a conversation with the student to better understand what may be contributing to it. Together, we may practise a classroom routine, talk through a problem, or identify a strategy they can use next time.

Step Three: If another student or adult has been affected, I will support the student in repairing the situation in an age-appropriate way. This may include an apology, a conversation, or another meaningful way to make things right.

Step Four: If a behaviour continues or additional support is needed, I may involve Mrs. Richards or another member of our school support team. I will also connect with families when appropriate so that we can work together to support your child.

Every situation and every child is different, so the support provided may look a little different depending on the circumstances. Our goal is always to help students learn from their choices while maintaining a safe, kind, and respectful classroom for everyone.

Home Reading



As part of our Grade 1 literacy learning, students will bring home a **Home Reading Book** to practise and enjoy with their families. Books will be sent home after students have read them twice at school and may stay home for more than one night before being exchanged for a new book. Rereading familiar books helps students build confidence and fluency.

Home Reading should be a positive and enjoyable experience. Students may read to you, read together with you, or listen as you read to them. Reading aloud to your child is just as valuable, as it allows them to hear what fluent reading sounds like and enjoy books that may be above their independent reading level. Most importantly, our goal is to help students develop confidence and a love of reading.

Please keep the Home Reading Book in your child's **Back-and-Forth Bag** and return it to school so it can be exchanged when your child is ready for a new book. If a Home Reading Book is lost or misplaced, there is a **\$10 replacement fee**.

Thank you for supporting your child's reading journey at home. I hope Home Reading becomes an enjoyable time for your child to share their growing reading skills with you!

UFLI Home Practice

As part of our phonics learning, students will participate in **UFLI** lessons at school. Each UFLI unit includes Home Practice activities that families can use to reinforce the phonics skills and reading patterns we are learning in class.

A **UFLI Home Practice booklet** will be sent home in your child's Back-and-Forth Bag. A Home Support Guide is included at the beginning of the booklet, and a video explaining how to complete the activities will be shared on Spaces EDU.

Home Practice can be completed at your convenience and is meant to provide additional practice and support at home. Some families may choose to use the activities before progress monitoring, while others may use them afterwards if their child would benefit from some extra practice. The booklet **does not need to be returned to school** and can remain at home.



I understand that evenings and family schedules can be busy, so please do not feel pressured to complete every activity. These materials are there as a resource to support your child's learning when time and space allow.

Shared Reading

Each week, our class will explore a new **Jill Eggleton poem** during Shared Reading. Throughout the week, we will revisit the same poem in different ways to strengthen students' comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, phonics, and phonemic awareness.



Our Shared Reading learning will generally follow this weekly structure:

- **Monday – Comprehension:** Discuss characters and setting, ask and answer questions, make predictions, and make personal connections.
- **Tuesday – Vocabulary:** Find new or interesting words and discuss their meanings.
- **Wednesday – Reading with Fluency:** Practise reading with expression and explore how punctuation helps us know how a text should sound.
- **Thursday – Phonics & Phonemic Awareness:** Explore rhyming words, contractions, sounds, and word patterns such as short and long vowels, vowel teams, and digraphs.
- **Friday – Creating:** Have some fun with the poem by clapping out the rhythm, illustrating it, creating actions, or acting it out.

Students will have a **Reading Duotang** that includes our Jill Eggleton poems as well as **UFLI Decodable Texts** connected to the phonics skills we are learning in class. New poems and decodable texts will be added as they are learned. Rereading these familiar texts at home is a wonderful way to reinforce classroom learning while building comprehension, fluency, and reading confidence.

The Reading Duotang will travel in your child's **Back-and-Forth Bag** and should return to school each day so new learning can be added. At home, I encourage you to look through the duotang together and give your child an opportunity to share and practise some of the reading we have been doing at school. This is a great way for them to celebrate their learning with you!

Important Dates for Our Class

September 9 – Meet the Teacher

September 15 – Reading Testing

September 18 – Terry Fox Run

September 22 – DIBELS Screening

September 25 – Picture Day

September 29 – Orange Shirt Day

September 30 – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation – No School

October 5-9 – School Wide Write

October 12 – Thanksgiving Day – No School



October 22 – Ms. Ro away

October 23 – Non-Instructional Day – No School

October 26 – Photo Retakes

November 11 – Remembrance Day – No School

November 18 & 19 – Student Led Conferences – Early Dismissal at 1:45pm

November 30 – Non-Instructional Day – No School

December 4 – End of Term 1

December 17 – Christmas Concert

December 18 – Last Day before Winter Break

Please see the School Newsletter for the full School Calendar.



Our Learning Intentions for Term 1



Reading:

- I can use illustrations and prior knowledge to make predictions about what I am reading.
- I can share my ideas about what I am reading.
- I can retell what has happened in a story.
- I can make a personal connection to what I am reading.

Writing:

- I can use proper letter formation in my writing.
 - small letters small, tall letters tall and fall letters fall
- I can use proper spacing in my writing.
 - meatball and spaghetti
- I can start my sentence with a capital letter and end my sentence with a period.

Speaking & Listening:

- I can share my ideas with others.
- I can be a respectful audience member.
- I can ask questions that are related to the topic.
- I can make personal connections to others.

Math:

- I can arrange, recognize, compare, and order numbers to 20.
- I can subitize numbers within 10.
- I can skip count by 2 and 5.
- I can count on and count back within 20.
- I can relate numbers to benchmarks from 5, 10, and 20.

Science:

- I can identify common objects in the sky.
- I can observe local patterns that occur on Earth and in the sky.
- I can observe the behavioural adaptations of animals in the local environment.
- I can observe the structural features of living things in the local environment.

Social Studies:

- I can describe how the environment gives us food and resources we need.
- I can describe and respect different cultures and traditions in my community.
- I can share and compare traditions from different cultures.
- I can explain how people and communities change with the seasons.

Careers:

- I can share ideas, information, personal feelings, and knowledge with others.
- I can work respectfully and constructively with others to achieve common goals.
- I can recognize the importance of learning in my life.
- I can set and achieve realistic learning goals.