Mme Atkins Newsletter

Welcome back to ÉOES. I have been looking forward to another year of teaching and learning. I have been working on some interesting units and I hope that your child will enjoy them.

We will have a student teacher in our room from mid September to the beginning of December. His name is Mr. Drew Martin. It will be an excellent experience for all of us.

The students will be using an agenda for daily communication. I ask that you take the time to talk to your child about what is in the agenda each day. I would like you to add a positive comment about your child, as this boosts their confidence and encourages them to take their agendas to and from school. Students will be given a sticker if they bring in their agenda signed and with a comment. The stickers are a positive reinforcement tool I use for various tasks.

Incentives are used in my class to reward positive behaviours and actions. I give the students stickers and cards to indicate on task behaviours. These can then be used to choose simple incentives from a prize box. These rewards are earned on an individual basis to encourage the students to do their best. Each month we work towards a free time party which is gained by the students working as a class to maintain class points for up to 60 minutes of time to play games, view videos, or prepare and share special treats.

Every two weeks, I will be sending home a progress report. This will indicate how your child feels they are doing in their classes, as well as how I feel that they are doing. If you have concerns about anything from the progress report, please arrange a time when we can meet to discuss how to help your child. I would ask that you sign and return the progress report so that I know that you have seen them, and we will be placing them in a binder to see progress made throughout the year.

There will be a home reading program for English and French. They will be required to read one English booklet and one French booklet per week, as well as complete several activities to indicate their understanding of what they have read. I would ask that you sign the reading journal so that I know that you have had the child read to you from the booklet. This is an important part of the program so I hope that you can set aside time for this activity. This will begin around September 17.

Each week your child will be bringing home Math review activities. These are to help reinforce concepts taught in class. We use a variety of strategies to help students understand concepts, so feel free to show them how you figure things out as well. We have to find the way that it makes to most sense to your child. This will begin around September 10.

**French Language Arts (FLA)** - We will be doing basic review and vocabulary building for the first part of September so that I can understand the needs of your child. We will then work on comprehension and writing strategies. As oral French is an integral part of the program, the students will be required to make presentations to the class, individually or as a group. When these presentations are ready, we will write the times in the agendas so that you can be a part of the audience if you choose.

**English Language Arts (ELA)** – The Grade 3 students will be beginning their English Language Arts programming this year. The Grade 4 students will be continuing their English studies from last year. They will receive the equivalent of 30 minutes per day of English instruction. It is important that your child reads with you as much as possible.

**Math** – We will be doing basic review and moving forward into more advanced calculations based on your child’s ability level. We try to show a variety of strategies for solving problems, as well as increasing your child’s confidence in their mathematical abilities. As they do problems at home, ask them how they got the answer. The more they verbalize their strategies, the better the continued understanding.

**Science** – We will be starting off with safety and group responsibilities in science inquiry. Once we have these basics, the Grade 3 students will be working on Testing Materials and Designs. At times we may need items brought from home, which will be noted in the agenda. The Grade 4 students will be working on the Wheels and Levers unit. When the students have the basic concepts necessary, they will be given projects to complete. More information will be sent at that time.

**Social Studies** – We will be starting with general mapping and geographic understanding. Once the students can comfortably discuss their understanding, using appropriate terms in French, we will be moving into the studies of the regions of Alberta with the Grade 4 students. We will also be discovering where and why pioneers/first nations people settled in Alberta. The Grade 3 students will be starting a comparative study of the quality of life between Peru and Canada. Throughout the year, the Grade 3 students will be studying Peru, Ukraine, India and Tunisia and comparing life in the country to life in Canada.

**Health** – The students will be working through various concepts found in relationships. They will understand how to change to a more positive way of thinking and problem solving.

**Art** – We will be doing a variety of projects that will advance their skills in all areas. Some projects may require help from parents, which will be noted in the agenda.

Special dates to note: **Sept. 16** Meet the Teacher BBQ (crépe dessert in my room) **Sept. 29** – Pictures

I would ask that all students have a thumbdrive for saving important work that they have done on the computer. This way, the students can take this work home if necessary. These will be able to be used for numerous years by deleting unwanted or duplicate work. Please have your child’s name on the thumbdrive.

There will be a schedule set up for use of the microwave. If your child needs to bring lunch items that need to be heated, please do so on their scheduled day so that there is adequate time for them to eat.

***I anticipate a fantastic year as I already know I have unique students who want to learn in my class.***