

August 2018

Dear Families of Grade One,

Welcome to Grade One at The Village School! I hope this letter is finding you well and savoring the last days of a summer full of adventures and joy. In addition to enjoying the sunny summer days and star-filled nights, I have been busy preparing stories, songs, games and other activities for the coming school year. I am excited for the opportunity to share them with your child. I am looking forward to meeting all of you very soon.

In our work in Grade One at The Village School, we strive to honor the wonder and imagination of childhood. This year will be full of stories and beautiful images, movement and song to enrich and live in the child's imagination. Our academic work will be grounded in this approach: using storytelling, the visual arts, drama, movement, and music to teach abstract concepts like writing, reading and arithmetic.

Before we meet next I have a few announcements and policies to share with you. Please read these over carefully and contact me with any questions. Thank you for becoming a part of this class community.

### ***Arrivals and Departures***

The school day begins at 8:25 a.m. The beginning of our day is an important time for movement, music and community building activities. These activities provide an essential foundation for all our work at school. They also form a core part of our academic instruction. For example, this time is used to practice mental math and multiplication tables. Thank you for helping your child to arrive at school on time each day.

In the lower grades, families arriving at the classroom door later than 8:25 are asked to sign in at the office and then wait in the breezeway with your student. I will open the door and welcome your child when it is time to enter.

School ends at 2:45. Thank you for arriving to pick your child up promptly at the classroom door.

### ***Clothing and Footwear***

Movement, both indoors and outdoors, is essential to our way of learning. Each day please help your child to dress in layers and snug fitting comfortable shoes. In addition, please make certain your child has the following at school daily.

- **Extra Clothes-** Please send a cloth bag containing a full set of extra clothing (including underwear and socks).

- **Rain gear-** Rain pants, a hooded rain coat and waterproof boots are required when the rainy weather begins. During the muddy season, children will need clean street shoes to wear in the classroom, gym and other parts of campus.

Please label all extra clothes and rain gear clearly with your child's name.

### ***Lunch and Snacks***

In addition to lunch, our class will be eating two snacks at school: a healthy morning snack that you send with your child every day and a healthy, communal afternoon snack that you contribute to once a month. Breakfast is served in the cafeteria beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Please send nourishing foods for your child – sweets are for home or for very special occasions in our class tradition. Please do not send gummy snacks, cookies, sodas, or large juices to school. Please include all utensils with your child's snack and lunch. Your child will need a napkin for his or her lap each day.

*Communal Afternoon Snack:* Once or twice a month, as you are able, please contribute a healthy, easy to serve snack to our shared afternoon snack supplies. Please make sure to contribute enough for 23 hungry children and label ingredients as needed. There will be a sign-up on the bulletin board outside the classroom door. I often serve herbal tea to the children, so a periodic donation of herbal tea is appreciated.

### ***Birthdays***

On your child's birthday, you are invited to join us at school (typically at the beginning of the day) to share a story that classmates may not know from the past year, as well as a story from your child's earlier life. We sing a song and offer a simple gift to the child. We do not have a tradition of bringing in foods to share on birthdays. Summer birthdays are typically celebrated in the final weeks of school, but we can make other arrangements as you prefer. Please let me know if your family does not observe birthday celebrations.

To protect children's feelings, please distribute birthday party invitations at school only when all children in the class are invited to the celebration. If you are inviting only a few classmates, the preferred method of sending invitations is by email or regular post. Thank you for your cooperation.

### ***Treasures***

Please help your child leave any special belongings at home. Toys and trinkets can create hurt feelings and can be a distraction from our daily work

and play. The children may bring an item from nature to add to the seasons table.

### ***For Your Calendar***

- **Home Visits:** in the coming weeks, I will set aside time to visit with your child in your home, or if you prefer, in a park or other familiar or special place. This is a chance for me to connect with your child in his or her own “kingdom” to play a game, look through a photo album, have a tea party or enjoy whatever special activity your child has in mind. We will have 20 - 30 minutes to visit. Email me ([abyas@eugenevillageschool.org](mailto:abyas@eugenevillageschool.org)) with one or two of the following times that would work for my visit with your child:
  - **Friday 8/24:** 9:00a.m., 9:45a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11:15a.m., 12:00p.m., 12:45p.m., 1:30p.m., 2:15p.m., 3:00p.m., 3:45p.m., 4:30p.m., 5:15p.m.
  - **Monday 8/27:** 9:00a.m., 9:45a.m., 10:30a.m., 11:15a.m., 12:00p.m., 12:45p.m., 1:30p.m., 2:15p.m., 3:00p.m., 3:45p.m., 4:30p.m., 5:15p.m.

It is ideal to arrange home visits before the school year begins but it is also possible to request a time for after the year has commenced. If you have many questions or need to communicate important information about your child, please arrange a separate appointment for our conversation.

- **Grade One Work Party, Thursday, 8/23, 9:00-11:00a.m.:** You and your child are invited to help prepare the classroom for the coming year. Please RSVP to [abyas@eugenevillageschool.org](mailto:abyas@eugenevillageschool.org) if you can attend.
- **Grade One Potluck, Thursday, 8/30, 6:00-7:00p.m. at Tugman Park.** Please join us for a simple pot luck gathering. Please bring plates, napkins, cups, and silverware for your family. A picnic blanket is also helpful. Please label all dishes with ingredients.
- **First Day of School, Tuesday, 9/4, 8:25-11:45a.m.:** Our first day of school will be a half day. We will not eat lunch at school that day, but each child will need a morning snack. Please also remember your child’s change of clothing and a warm layer for any early morning outdoor activities.

### ***Communication***

It is important for us to keep the lines of communication open with each other. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions and thoughts. The best way to reach me is either by email ([abyas@eugenevillageschool.org](mailto:abyas@eugenevillageschool.org)) or by calling me at school (541-345-7285). I will do my best to respond to all

communications in a timely manner. Always feel free to make an appointment to meet afterschool.

Over the next few years your child will grow in ways that will delight and surprise us both. I believe that his or her education will be richer, more meaningful and more beautiful because it will take place in this loving community. Thank you for choosing The Village School. I am very much looking forward to this journey with you and your child.

Warm Regards,

Ms. Alyson

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