

Grade One Shephard 2017-18

Welcome to Grade One!

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! Please complete and return the attached *What's the buzz on your child?* form. It is my hope that this information package will provide useful information for a smooth transition into grade one!

A little bit about me....This is my fourth year teaching grade one at Caledonia and my tenth year teaching in the primary grades. I love grade one! I love theme days and special projects at school so expect lots of that! I reside here in Leduc so it is not uncommon to see me out dog-walking in the community. I am looking forward to a great year!

1. **Agendas:** Agendas are sent home daily as a form of school-home communication. Please read your child's message and initial in the margins. I can also be contacted via email @ lindsey.shephard@gshare.blackgold.ca or by telephone 780-986-7888.
2. **Lunches:** Our classroom does have a microwave so you may send lunches that require heating, but keep in mind that depending on the number of students wishing to use it daily, it may cut down on eating time. Lunch is daily from 12:00-12:20, followed by recess outside (weather permitting) from 12:20-12:56. I dismiss grade ones 5 minutes early for lunch & 3:00 dismissal all year long to use the washroom/avoid the crowds.
3. **Hot Lunches:** Monthly hot lunches *must* be pre-purchased through Caledonia Park's online ordering system, which can be found on our website @ <http://cps.blackgold.ca/>
4. **Newsletters & Mail:** Along with daily agenda messages, students will bring home a classroom newsletter monthly. A school calendar can also be found online, though I try to include all important dates in newsletters. Students have personal mailboxes in the classroom for all other mail, birthday invitations, etc.
5. **Early dismissal:** The first Wednesday of every month is early dismissal. Students are dismissed at 2:20pm.
6. **Recesses:** Grade ones have two recesses daily (see attached bell schedule). They have recess on the grade 1-2-3 playground and are not permitted elsewhere. Grade ones have snack (in our classroom) prior to going outside for morning recess.

7. **Scholastic book orders:** Scholastic book orders are sent home monthly with classroom newsletters.
8. **Water bottles:** students are permitted to have them in the classroom and fill them up throughout the day.
9. **Absences:** Please notify myself, and/or the office of student absences/late arrivals/early pickups via telephone or email.

10. Grade one is a big transition and lots of learning will occur this year! It will be important to stay on top of spelling practice (program begins *October*) and home reading (program begins *November*). I will send home lots of resources throughout the year to make learning occur with ease! The attached *Grade one Helper* is a great summary of some grade one concepts that we will be learning this year! In the meantime, here are a few helpful tricks to kick off the year:

*Your child will learn to read this year! Pointing out environmental print (cereal boxes, street signs, magazine covers, etc.) whenever possible can be extremely helpful.

*Students are learning letter sounds/blends, and formations. While this can be a boring skill to practice, it can be made fun by printing/making letters and words in common household items like flour, with mini marshmallows, and shaving cream.

*Asking your child to recap their school day is a great idea! Have them summarize a concept they learned or practiced and an activity that they participated in!

Welcome again! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns!

Yours truly,

Lindsey Shephard

