

Dear Parents,

Welcome back everyone! I hope you enjoyed your summer with your friends and family as much as I did!! Enjoyable as summer always is, it's wonderful to be back. I'm Nicole Milner and I'll be your child's teacher for the year. This is my fourteenth year of teaching and my tenth at Caledonia; six of these have been at Caledonia teaching grade one. I'm very excited to be teaching my fourth year of grade two as well as having the opportunity to teach your child. Last year I was the victim of a hit and run and I am returning from a medical leave this year. My leave was covered by a wonderful teacher by the name of Mrs. Watkins. This year, I have been advised by my doctor that I am to return to work part time until I am re-assessed in November. Mrs. Watkins has graciously agreed to help me once again and will be job sharing with me and covering the afternoon time periods. To ensure that we have a successful year, I feel it's very important that we establish the following routines:

Agenda

An agenda will be sent home with your child on the first day of school and this is an important routine we will do each day. Please have your child bring the agenda to school each day. The agenda will need to be checked daily by a parent and initialled once it has been read. Notes will be sent home in the agendas and if you'd prefer to communicate with me through the agenda, feel free to do so. I'll be sending the agendas home in a Ziploc bag so they will last until the end of the year. However, if your child has a Kanga pouch, the agendas and any notes will be sent home in that. We will be starting our home reading program shortly. To monitor your child's reading, a monthly log sheet will be attached to the front inside cover of the agenda.

Star of the Week Student

Each student in our class will have an opportunity to be our Star of the Week. A new student will be chosen each Friday. In order that we can learn more about your child, they'll be asked to complete a handout that's all about them. I encourage you to help your child complete this handout as it will be posted

in our classroom. Your child will also be asked to bring **no more** than five photos of themselves. Lastly, your child will be asked to fill a paper lunch bag of items they'll want to share with the class. The handout and paper bag will outline in more detail what your child is required to do when it's their turn to be the Star of the Week.

Journals

On Fridays, your child will be writing to you in their journals and you will be required to **write them back and send the journal with them to school on Monday**. This is an activity that I'm looking forward to doing as it was thoroughly enjoyed by both the students and parents in the past. This is also a wonderful way to see the progressions your child has made in spelling and writing. We'll be starting this activity later in the month and when we do, more information will be sent home.

Home Reading

We will be starting our home reading program at the beginning of October. A note explaining the program will be sent home at that time.

Birthdays

Birthday celebrations will not be held in class but you're more than welcome to send in a treat for your child to share with the class for the first recess at 10:25 am. If your child has a birthday in July or August, please feel free to choose a day in September to celebrate and just check with me to see that it doesn't coincide with another student's September birthday. All foods that are sent in need to be **nut-free**.

Lunch

The students are given twenty minutes to eat their lunches. They will be expected to remain in their seats so they can finish their lunch in the time allotted. The students will have access to a microwave but please only send pre-cooked items that take no longer than a minute to re-heat. Please send healthy snacks for your child to eat during their first recess. Until I'm aware

of the potential allergies in our class, please do not send anything in your child's lunch that contains nuts or peanuts. I have a severe tree nut allergy (not peanuts). However, my allergic reaction is only set off if I touch or eat any tree nuts so I've never had any issues with students eating food containing nuts in the past. Once I'm aware of the potential allergies in our class, I'll be sure to let the parents know.

Phys. Ed, Music and Library

According to the current schedule, Phys-Ed at this point in time will be taught by all the grade two teachers, Mrs. Krahn, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Watkins and myself on Days 1, 2 and 3, Music will be taught by Ms. Larson on Days 4 and 5. We have Library on Day 1. The students will be allowed to take two books and one of these books will always be kept at school in their desks. Library books will need to be returned on this day (Day 1) in order for your child to be able to take out new books. If changes are made to the schedule, I'll notify the parents via email.

Student Information Sheet

Please find attached the student information sheets. It would be greatly appreciated if these sheets were completed and returned to me as soon as possible.

Other

In Grade Two, it is expected that your child is able to tie shoes with shoelaces by themselves by the end of September. If they're not able to do this, a new pair of shoes will be requested. If your child is struggling to tie their shoes on their own, please practice with them at home.

I want to stress to the parents that I have an open door policy where I strongly encourage you to come to me about any concerns, issues and/or questions you may have. You may contact me through your child's agenda, through email at Nicole.milner@blackgold.ca or you may phone me at the school at (780) 986-7888. I communicate with parents regularly through email and will be sending home pertinent information that needs to be

brought to your attention as well as a monthly newsletter. This letter as well as my newsletters will be posted on the school website.

***Please note that this will be the only paper copy of our class newsletter that will be sent home this year. As an environmentally friendly initiative, we will be posting all class and school newsletters on our school website.**

(<http://content.blackgold.ca/Schools1/Schools/Leduc/caledonia/index.html>).

I do believe in maintaining some consistency through the great routines the amazing grade one teachers established. However, teachers will have differing teaching styles and disciplinary strategies. It may be an adjustment for your child but Mrs. Watkins and I will do our best to make the transition go as smoothly as possible.

I cannot stress enough how much I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and your children over the next year and seeing how much growth I know your children will show in their grade two year!!

Thanks very much,

Nicole Milner and Aurora Watkins