



Caledonia Park School  
3206 Coady Blvd  
Leduc, AB T9E 7J8  
780-986-7888

August 26, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

My name is Pam Sims (she/her) and I am excited to be back with the Caledonia team this year. This will be my ninth year teaching grade six and my fourth year at Caledonia. I love teaching Grade 6! I enjoy the books we read, new math concepts, discussing democracy, and learning about space! I look forward to getting to know your child and helping them grow as they become responsible, active citizens.

### **Communication**

I believe that in order for students to have the most successful year possible, there must be effective parent-teacher communication. There are multiple ways we can communicate this year:

- ★ The primary source of communication will be through **Class Dojo**. It is a free app you can download or use on a browser. It allows me to communicate quickly and I can see who has read a message. I will send home a unique registration code. I will send **all** whole class messages through Dojo.
- ★ In addition to Dojo, we will be using **Google Classroom**. If your child forgets their agenda, you can view our agenda message there.
- ★ Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding your child. You may reach me at the school before or after school at (780) 986-7888, email me at [pamela.sims@gshare.blackgold.ca](mailto:pamela.sims@gshare.blackgold.ca), or send a note using Dojo.

### **Class Information**

#### Our Classroom

- ★ Our class will be in Room 168. It is the last room in the Div 2 hallway, facing the field.
- ★ Students will come in through the doors nearest the blue park. We are the first door on the left.
- ★ Our boot rack is just outside the classroom door. It will say 6S above it.

#### Agenda

- ★ Students will have daily agendas. They are expected to write in it each day before they leave. If they do not have their agenda, they will write it on a sticky note so they can still bring it home.
- ★ We will post an agenda message on Google Classroom each day. We will post 3 things we did or learned that day. This is how I will communicate our current learning goals.
- ★ If your child is absent or if they are unsure about upcoming dates (tests, assignments, etc.), you can view the message on Google Classroom

## Home Reading

- ★ I do not assign a lot of homework because I want students to be reading everyday.
- ★ Students should be reading 20 to 30 minutes per day.
- ★ Reading is the most important task a student can do to improve their overall achievement in school.
- ★ I encourage students to explore a variety of text types (both fiction and non-fiction).
- ★ Please let me know if you would like to talk about supporting your child with developing their reading skills or finding text that they will enjoy.

## Homework

I know it is challenging for families to find time to do homework with their busy schedules, therefore I will not often give homework. However:

- ★ Students who practice their basic facts (adding, subtraction, multiplying and dividing) are more efficient when completing complex math problems. Basic fact practice is encouraged. I am happy to share more basic fact games or websites that we can tailor to your child's needs.
- ★ Students are expected to practice and review for tests and quizzes. Occasionally, I will send home review packages. It is up to students to utilize them and ask questions.
- ★ If students choose not to use their class time wisely or need more time than most of their classmates (which is totally okay!) they may have incomplete work. They will be expected to finish on their own time.

## Devices

Students are strongly encouraged to bring their own Chromebook/computer. Although the school does have some on-site, we do not have a one to one ratio, and therefore, they will be shared amongst students. Cell phones are not allowed during class. If you need to communicate with your child during the day, please message me on Dojo or call the office.

## Lunch

- ★ Students will go out for recess first (11:50-12:15) and then eat lunch in the classroom (12:15-12:43).
- ★ We do have a microwave in the classroom. However, there is not enough time in the lunch hour for each student to use the microwave and still have time to eat. Please keep this in mind when planning lunches. Students are encouraged to bring lunches that do not need to be warmed up.

## Snack

- ★ Snacks are allowed to eat in my class during class-time.
- ★ Students will be allowed to pick 2 snack items from their lunches and keep it on their desks during the day.
  - Talk to your child about their food needs during the school day. The goal is for students to learn to listen to their bodies so each child's food needs will be different. Help them identify how many snacks they will need during the day.
- ★ All snacks during class-time must be food item such as fruit, vegetables, whole grain, or proteins like cheese or seeds. These foods will help fuel your child for learning.

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?		
Student A Reads	Student B Reads	Student C Reads
❖ 20 minutes per day.	❖ 5 minutes per day.	❖ 1 minute per day
❖ 3,600 minutes per school year.	❖ 900 minutes per school year.	❖ 180 minutes per school year.
❖ 1,800,000 words per year.	❖ 282,000 words per year.	❖ 8,000 words per year.
		
❖ Scores in the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.	❖ Scores in the 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardized tests.
If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6 <sup>th</sup> grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 schooldays, and Student C will have read for 3.		
WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.		

### Water Bottles

- ★ All students should bring a reusable water bottle to class. Please make sure it has a lid and their name on it. Visits to the water fountain are limited to times that will result in the least amount of missed learning time so it is important to bring a water bottle daily. Drinks, other than water, can be consumed at lunch.

### Lockers and Backpacks

- ★ Students will have access to their lockers this year!
- ★ Due to limited storage space, students will bring home the materials we will not use right away. Your child will then be responsible for replenishing their own supplies throughout the year. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to reach out.

### Phys. Ed.

- ★ We have PE on Day 1 and 5.
- ★ Students have the option to change for PE.
  - ❖ Your child is responsible for having the appropriate footwear for PE. This includes inside shoes (no black/marking soles) and outside shoes (depending on the activity/weather).
  - ❖ If they are going to be changing for PE they also need a gym strip (sweats or shorts, and a t-shirt). Gym strips need to be brought home at the end of each week and washed.
  - ❖ If they are not changing for PE then they need to ensure they are dressed appropriately on days we have PE.
- ★ Please speak with your child on the importance of hygiene and ensure deodorant is provided and used regularly when necessary. If you need support with this, please reach out. I am here to help!

### Library \*Mrs. Wurban will be with them for this block.

- ★ Our class has a library scheduled once a week on Day 1. Each student will be able to check out two books from the library. One book must be a chapter book for in-class reading and the other is their choice and can go home. The books must be returned on Day 1.

### Music

- ★ 6S will have 2 music classes per week taught by Mrs. Dobbin.

## **School Information**

### Schedule

- ★ We are on a DAY 1-5 schedule and our bell schedule can be found on our school website.  
<https://cps.blackgold.ca/>

### Absences

- ★ The first bell rings at 8:05 and students can enter the school. Classes begin at 8:10. If your child is to be absent, you can contact the office at 780-986-7888, or send an email to [cps.studentabsence@blackgold.ca](mailto:cps.studentabsence@blackgold.ca). It is also helpful for me to know when your child will be away, so a quick email would be appreciated. You can cc me on the email to the office or send me a note in Dojo. If your child is absent, they can check Google Classroom to see what we worked on and any upcoming due dates.

### Other

- ★ There are no more early dismissals.
- ★ Hot lunch will continue this year but we are waiting to hear about other special events like bake sales.

### Newsletters

- ★ All school newsletters will be uploaded to our school website and can be viewed at:  
<http://cps.blackgold.ca/parents/newsletters/> (school website) [www.blackgold.ca](http://www.blackgold.ca) (division website)

### Curriculum

- ★ To access more information regarding the Alberta curriculum, you may want to visit the following website: <http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildslearning/grade6.html>
- ★ We will share with you what we are working on in our agenda notes.

I look forward to partnering with you to help your child succeed this year!

Thank you,

Mrs. Pamela Sims