

DIAMOND SCHOOL

GRADE ONE

September 8, 2017

Dear Grade One Parents,

I hope you have had a very enjoyable summer! My name is Joyce Solmerano and I am thrilled to be teaching your child in Grade 1 this year. It has been a pleasure getting to know all of you and our class has already had a great start to this school year! Throughout my eight years of formal teaching experience I have had the honour of teaching all ages, but I have always found a natural fit with the younger grades. I value their enthusiasm and inquisitive minds which bodes well with B.C.'s new curriculum. I feel both honoured and excited for the time that I will have with these delightful students.

I appreciate all of the support and trust that the parents have shown me so far. It has been so lovely to meet most of you during our drop off and pick up times! Thank you for your cooperation and willingness to get involved. Here are some additional ways for you to lend your support:

Stay-Tuned: Ask your child what he or she is studying and discuss any notes that are sent home regarding what is happening in the classroom and around the school. Also, check the homework bag for the daily homework that needs to be completed!

Snacks & Lunch: All students are requested to bring a healthy snack, lunch, and water bottle daily. We have some students with peanut allergies in our school so please refrain from sending anything with your child that contains nuts. Thank you!

Homework: You should expect that your child will have homework every day. The homework program will start on Monday, September 11th. This homework supports your child's learning in school and your help at home is needed to ensure that your child completes their homework giving it their best effort.

I encourage you to set up a scheduled time for homework each day with your child. Students may be able to do many assignments independently, but please help when required and check it over when completed. If you notice that your child is having difficulty with an assignment, please send a note with the homework.

Home Reading Program: Part of the homework component will be the Home Reading Program and it will begin on Monday, September 25th. Please ensure your child completes their daily reading and sign the Home Reading Log. It is extremely important for your child to read aloud when doing their home reading, and you can help by listening and supporting your child's reading.

Birthdays: Birthdays are acknowledged as important milestones in children's lives. You are welcome to bring in a special snack for the class on your child's special day. If you wish to do something outside of the school, please feel free to request a class list of names as you may find this helpful when planning. Hence, depending on the size of the birthday party, we ask that you try to include either all of the boys, all of the girls, or everyone in the class. This will help to ensure all students are included and viewed as valued members of our class.

Sharing time: This is a special time set aside to give students an opportunity to share their thoughts, ideas, and knowledge with their classmates. Sharing time helps to develop their listening and speaking skills. It also helps students develop good

manners as they are expected to be polite when their classmates are sharing. Some ideas for sharing include educational toys and games, favourite books, magazines or items related to the theme we are studying in class. Students can also share stories about their families or their lives outside of school. We try to limit the amount of toys that come in for sharing; however, a special toy from a birthday, grandparent, etc. is perfectly acceptable. Please note that the sharing schedule will start on Monday, September 11th and it is a Day 6. The schedule is as follows:

Mon. – Day 1	Tues. – Day 2	Wed. – Day 3	Thurs. – Day 4	Fri. – Day 5
Devin	Dev	Gia	Leeloo	Annabelle
Zoe	Nathan	Naaz	Alex	Guranjan
		Rylin		

Mon. – Day 6	Tues. – Day 7	Wed. – Day 8	Thurs. – Day 9	Fri. – Day 10
Olivia	Vance	Ela	Jett	Bella
Kavan	Charlotte	Ava	Chelsea	Zaid

Field Trips: We will have many interesting and educational field trips this year as part of our Grade 1 curriculum. Therefore, your assistance is needed at different times as a driver and supervisor on our trips. This helps our class as a whole and also provides you with the opportunity to engage in your child’s education. Notices will be sent home well in advance of every trip. Please note that we require a limited number of parent volunteers on field trips so you need to be prepared to drive, supervise and take responsibility for several students if you volunteer to assist. Unless indicated, no younger siblings are permitted on field trips as they are designed for Grade 1 students only and siblings can be a distraction for students and supervisors.

Creating Independence: Many of you have asked for tips on how to support your child’s transition from Kindergarten to Grade 1. The following skills will help our students feel more confident and comfortable in gaining their independence:

- Getting dressed on their own (they will need to use this skill for P.E.!)
 - Checking their own backpacks for their lunch and homework bags
 - Establishing a routine for personal hygiene (i.e. washing hands before eating)
 - Eating healthy items first and controlling their sugar intake
 - Tying shoelaces; doing up buttons and zippers

Your Special Skills: Please let me know if you have any special skills that you are able to share with our class. As part of our studies of careers, we would gladly welcome you as a guest speaker. Also, if you have any special knowledge or skills pertaining to cultural events or celebrations and would like to share that with the class, we would welcome your contributions!

Some Reminders: Please remember to have all of these items labelled and ready to use by next week:

- Dance shoes (each shoe needs to be labelled on the inside or outside)

- Gym bag with gym strip (this can be kept in their cubbies)
- Gym shoes (kept in the top shelf of the cubby or inside their gym bag)
- Water bottle

Ask Questions: If you have any questions or ideas, please feel free to call the school, email me at [\[redacted\]](#) or speak to me in person. I welcome all feedback that will help contribute to your child's success.

I look forward to the opportunities that I now have to encourage and inspire this class while also providing them with the utmost care. Though it hasn't been very long, I've already discovered so many precious and endearing things about these children! Thank you in advance for all of your support and interest! This is certainly going to be an amazing year!

All the best,

Joyce 😊