



September 8, 2017

Dear Grade Two Parents,

Welcome to Grade Two! I am so happy to be teaching at Diamond School again this year and to have your child in my class. I look forward to getting to know you all so please feel free to come and chat with me. I would like to take this opportunity to let you know about some of our classroom routines for the year.

Sharing: We will begin each morning sitting together for attendance, calendar and sharing time. The purpose of sharing time is to help students become more comfortable speaking in front of their peers. It is also a time where students can share information about themselves with the class. While each student shares, the rest of the class practices their patience and good listening skills. They are expected to be polite and help their classmates to present by asking thoughtful questions and making kind comments.

On their sharing day, we would like to encourage students to talk about any special events, hobbies or activities they have participated in. Students are welcome to bring in any artifacts, pictures, collections or special mementos that go along with their sharing. They can also bring in a news clipping or current event that they found interesting or that connects with our current unit/theme. Students are discouraged from bringing in toys that aren't linked to a special event, theme or personal story.

Students have been assigned a specific sharing day every second week in order to provide them with lots of time to prepare and help reduce the stress of having to speak in front of their classmates. I have attached a copy of our sharing schedule, as well as the "5W's of Sharing Requirements" sheet outlining the questions students are expected to answer.

Home Reading: As part of our homework program, students will be doing home reading every evening. They are required to read for a minimum of 20 minutes out loud five days a week to an adult, and they will bring home books that have been selected to match their reading level. It is extremely important that oral reading be a part of their daily routine in order to develop their fluency, accuracy and decoding skills. Please make sure that you log what they have read in their homework books so that we may keep track of it. If you have any comments or concerns, please feel free to come and speak to me or send a note in your child's homework book. If your child has not finished reading their book, please keep the book at home until it is completed.

Star Student Responsibilities: Every week, a different child will get a chance to be our Grade Two Star Student. Along with some special class activities, star students will get to make a book recommendation and care for our 'Class Cat'.

Book Recommendation: Star Students are asked to bring a book from home that they would like to recommend to the class. They will fill out a page telling about their book and why they love it. Then the students may choose to read their story to the class or have the teacher read the story instead.

'Class Cat': As part of our Language Arts and Fine Arts Program, the Grade Two class will be taking care of our 'Class Cat', Petit Chat (a stuffed animal). Star students will be asked to take our 'Class Cat' home for the weekend. On his/her weekend, your child will be responsible for feeding, playing with and taking care of our animal friend. Star Students will also need to keep a journal about what they did to care for the 'Class Cat'. A journal notebook and further instructions will be sent home along with our 'Class Cat'.

I am so excited for the year ahead. It will be filled with countless fun and exciting learning experiences. I want every child to feel confident and successful in my class. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Teesha Wilkinson

