

## Dear Grade 2 Parents and Guardians,

We have had a busy start to the school year. The students are settling into their new classroom environment nicely and have been working hard to learn the routines and expectations for our class. I feel very fortunate to be working with such an amazing group of students. I have already met a number of parents before and after school, and I look forward to meeting the rest at our "Welcome Back BBQ" on September 21st. Our first Professional Development day is Monday September 25<sup>th</sup> (teachers will be attending workshops/seminars, while all students get a day off).

### Companion Reading Program

The students in our class will be doing the Companion Reading as part of our Language Arts Program. Your child will be introduced to new sight words (high frequency words), letter sound combinations and phonetic patterns (eg. ight, onk) for each new Companion Reading Unit. Your child will receive a Share Sheet at the end of each unit. **Reviewing the Unit Share Sheet regularly at home with an adult is an essential part of the program.** I will provide a Duo-Tang that students can keep the "Share Sheets" in. Please keep these in your child's Duo-Tang (along with the Home Reading Log) inside the Home Binder. Any other notices, permission slips or newsletters etc. will be brought home in the Home Binder as well.

### Spelling

Our class will be using Spelling City for the basis of our spelling program. The list words and activities/games to practice the list words are found on the website [www.spellingcity.com/mrbodger](http://www.spellingcity.com/mrbodger). The students will be given a pre-test on Monday and then have the spelling test on Friday – printed copies of these should come home with your child. Please have your child practice these words throughout the week so that they have them mastered by Friday. We will start the Spelling program next week, starting with List 1.

### Home Reading Program

As you probably already know there are numerous benefits realized from parents and students reading together. Reading together on a regular basis is one of the **most effective ways to help your child become a better reader** (and a more successful student overall, according to research). Students should be completing at least 50 minutes of home reading each week (approximately 10 to 15 minutes, 4 or 5 times a week). Students should read out loud to an adult or older sibling. There should be lots of dialogue about the story plot, characters, connections to personal experiences or other books, predictions, questions etc. Reading is an essential life skill but **most importantly, it should be fun.** Providing frequent praise and encouragement is critical to your child's success. You can help them to use the reading strategies (that they will be learning in class) when they encounter a difficult word or sentence while reading. Students should be choosing books that are **NOT** too challenging for them. They can use books from the class library, from home, from the school library or from the public library. They will learn how to do a "**5 Finger Check**" to help judge whether a book is suitable for them or not. Please help your child keep a log of each reading session and record the information on the student's Home Reading Log. Your child will receive a sticker for the Home Reading Log Class Chart (and prizes periodically) for each Home Reading Log sheet that you complete together. Our class goal is to have most of the Chart filled up by the end of June. Any students that fill their line on the class Home Reading Chart will earn a "*Super Prize*".

### Show & Tell

Every Friday students will have the opportunity to "show and tell" about something special from home. Please help your child prepare by having the "show and tell" item in a bag so that the other students are unable to see it. Also help them come up with 2 clues to give the rest of the class. Please encourage your child to bring something that is **interesting, special and/or important to them.**

Continued ...

## **Agendas**

Our class will be using agendas this year. These will be used on an almost daily basis to help students start to become a little more responsible and begin to take on a more active role in their learning. Students will sometimes write about something they did that day or write themselves a reminder of an upcoming event etc. I may not be able to check the agendas on a daily basis, so if you have a very important message for me (or the school), please send a separate note for your child to bring and/or phone the school.

## **Terry Fox Run**

Our school Terry Fox run will be held on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. If you wish to donate money to the Terry Fox Foundation, please send it to school with your child before the 21<sup>st</sup>. You can also make a donation online at <https://schools.terryfox.ca/33242> if you prefer.

**Consistent parental involvement is key to ensuring your child is successful at school. Please contact me at the school if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!**

Sincerely,

Mr. Shawn Bodger