September 8th, 2023

**Dear Grade 2 Parents and Guardians,**

Welcome to another exciting year of school at Dallas Elementary! This is my 11th year teaching at Dallas and I feel very lucky to be teaching at such an amazing school with fantastic students, parents and staff. I have been teaching for more than 20 years and have had a wide variety of teaching experiences (everything from teaching Kindergarten to Grade 11, teaching overseas, and even being the Head Teacher at a rural one-room school - teaching Kindergarten to Grade 5). Almost all of my teaching experience has been at the primary level. Above all else, I want you to know that I absolutely love teaching children and I really care about all of my student’s social, emotional and academic development and well-being. We will have a lot of fun in our class , but I have high expectations for behaviour (and effort) for my students and will work with you and the “school community” to help your child be successful.

Students will enter and exit the school via the blue doors near our classroom (directly in front of the Primary playground) at the rear of the school.

**Other Supplies**

Please ensure your child has...

* an extra pair of **indoor only** **athletic shoes** (with non-marking soles/**to leave at the school**)
* a backpack or bag large enough to carry a Home Binder, library book, lunch kit and **water bottle** etc.
* it may be a good idea to have an extra set of clothes to leave in a bag inside your child’s locker for accidents or spills that sometimes occur at school.
* \*optional “ a good quality sturdy 1.5 or 2 inch binder to use as a **“Home Binder”** that will go back and forth between school and home each day. ( I will give each student a HomeBinder, but having a rugged, “cool” binder fosters independence and the development organizational skills ) I will supply a **hard plastic pencil case**, but students may want to use their own from home, if they want. A small non-electric **pencil sharper** would be useful as well.

**Technology as Educational Tool**

I believe that technology is an incredibly useful tool in your chiId’s education, and will be an integral tool for learning this year. Most children are already familiar and comfortable with many forms of technology and using it to spark interest, motivation and excitement in learning, I have found, is a natural fit. We have a Smartboard (interactive whiteboard) in our classroom and a few laptops/Chromebooks for student use. Many of the resources that I use are websites or software based programs. The Dallas Elementary School websites (http://dallas.sd73.bc.ca) has a lot of great information as well as all of the important dates and events that will be taking place throughout the school year. I also have a website that you can access via the main page of the Dallas School Website (the link is on my name on the right hand side under Teacher’s Websites) or you can access it directly at [www.mrbodger.weebly.com](http://www.mrbodger.weebly.com). I update it periodically and you may find some useful information and resources there. I will post my classroom newsletters on my website.

**Positive Behaviour Reinforcement and Restitution**

Students will have the opportunity to earn small prizes in my class. I often reward students who produce good quality work, show improvement, put forth good effort, display a positive attitude or display good citizenship qualities etc. We will also be practicing Restitution in our class. Together we will establish a set of classroom beliefs (that will coincide with school beliefs) and make an agreement to work to ensure our actions, words and behaviour reflect those beliefs. Restitution is a very powerful program that many schools use to help students learn to better understand and manage their own behaviour.

**Welcome Back Barbecue**

Our school will be hosting an informal “Welcome Back” barbecue on the evening of Thursday, September 21 – further details will be sent out soon from our school’s office. I hope to be able to meet many of you there.

**Field Trips**

(to be announced at a later date)

**Good nutrition and sleep habits are essential to the growth and development of children. Experts recommend that school aged children get around 10 hours of sleep each night. Providing a healthy and nutritious lunch and snack each day is one of the best ways to help your child concentrate better and get the most out of his/her time at school.**

Information about Home Reading, the spelling program and other important topics to follow soon.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. (sbodger@sd73.bc.ca or 250-573-3261)

I am looking forward to a fun, exciting and successful 2023/2024 school year.

Thank you!

Mr. Shawn Bodger