September 7th, 2018

**Dear Grade 2 Parents and Guardians,**

Welcome to another exciting year of school at Dallas Elementary School. This is my sixth 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 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 academics) for my students and will work with you and the “school community” to help your child be successful.

**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 pair of headphones (large over the ear models work best and can double as an “ear muff” when a student is having trouble concentrating). Dollar store headphones will also work.
* a painting smock or old shirt (Dad’s old button up shirt works well for this)
* a backpack or bag large enough to carry a Home Binder, library book, lunch kit etc.
* 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 do have some extra at school but having a “cool” binder fosters independence and organizational skills )

**Technology as Educational Tool**

I believe that technology is an incredibly useful tool in your chiId’s education and is an integral tool for learning. 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 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 I will also leave extra copies in the hallway outside my classroom door.

**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. Many parents find it very worthwhile to apply the principles of Restitution at home as well. I will also be using Class Dojo this year and will provide more information soon.

**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.**

Please feel free to contact me at the school to discuss your child’s progress at any point in the school year.

I am looking forward to a fun, exciting and successful 2018/2019 school year.

That’s it for now!

Thank you!

Mr. Shawn Bodger