



September 26, 2025

Dear Empathetic Elephant Families,

What a wonderful start to the Grade 2 year. 😊 The children have been working hard to learn our classroom routines and beginning work in all curricular areas. I feel truly fortunate to be working with such a lovely group of children this year. They are kind, curious and eager for our lessons and I thank all of you for providing such amazing support to have them ready for their full days at school. I have noticed wonderful, healthy lunches and almost all children have a spare set of clothing to keep at school as well as appropriate indoor shoes for classroom and Gym times. If you have not yet sent a spare set of clothing in a labeled ziploc bag or indoor shoes, please do so. Please also feel free to send splash pants and any other rain gear that can be kept at school as that is an excellent option for when it is wet but still an outside play day.

Our schedules are now **finally** set.

Specific times to note are:

Library Book Exchange will be every Thursday afternoon.

We have time in the Gym on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; please be sure your child is dressed in clothing that will be appropriate for active play.

Music is on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and we have French on Monday and Thursday and Friday.

We will be using the ipads on a weekly basis. I have found that most children do not enjoy using ear buds as they do not fit children's ears in the same way as for adults. I have been able to add to our classroom collection each year with a few sets of headphones but purchasing a class set is not possible within our budget at

this time. I would like to respectfully ask that, *if at all possible*, if you have an extra set of headphones that your child finds comfortable, to please send them along to keep at school for the year. We will store them in a labelled, Ziploc bag for their sole use and then return at the end of the year and they can be sent home at anytime if needed for a trip/sleepover. 😊

First Term Subject Areas:

Writing - Journals and Personal Narrative Writing will be our focus this term. We are focusing on forming complete sentences, using capitals, adding some detail and variety to our sentences as well as appropriate punctuation to end our sentences. We are working on reviewing basic printing concepts and have already started our weekly Printing Practice. We have begun our "Word Work" with lessons that focus on high frequency sight words and sound patterns. There will soon be a weekly 'homework' page that will be sent with a special folder to keep at home - details will be included at that time.

Reading - we have begun, and will continue, to chart our daily *Read to Self* times which are already up to 15 minutes of sustained reading, with many children wishing for longer times! Our goal is to work up to 20-25 minutes of sustained reading by the end of the year, which allows for small group work to happen during that time. As the Term progresses, student will be working in groups on a variety of daily Reading tasks with a different group each day joining me during those times for small group, direct instruction. For these small groups to be successful, the remainder of the class needs to be clear on what their jobs are so that they can work independently on their own meaningful tasks. Such independent small group work might be a weekly poem, sight word practice, listening and responding to a recorded book etc. Each group will be working on different skills according to their own level.

Numeracy - This term, we will focus on building strong number sense skills by reviewing numbers and basic facts to 20, Place Value (ones, tens, hundreds), skip counting to 100 by 2's, 5's and 10's, daily calendar work and "Morning Math" work

which incorporates a variety of skills practice including time, money, number line work, even/odd numbers, expanded notation and ordinals. We will be learning new Math Games each week which your child will occasionally bring home to "teach" and play with you. Many manipulatives are used to help us with this important review work including Base 10 blocks, making and using digit pockets, counting rods, white boards, ten frames, dice and counters so that each child has a variety of tools to help them make and break numbers, estimate values, subitize as well as represent numbers and digits in traditional form.

Science - Grade 2 Science is all about Life Cycles! We will begin our Salmon Life Cycle unit which will tie into studying the Water Cycle.

Social Studies - our first unit of study is on Communities. We will look at our own community, as well as diverse communities, across Canada as we explore community needs, wants and relationship to the environment.

Sharing - the All About Me bags have been wonderful! It has helped us to learn so much about each other and introduce our Sharing time of "how" to present a item/idea, in a focused and interesting way, before taking "questions, comments or connections" from classmates. Our regular weekly Sharing times will begin in October and this early start allows your child to practice their public speaking in front of a safe audience. Our format will be for each child to present their Sharing item on their day each week. I will send the Sharing schedule out so families know which day their child is presenting. Our October theme is "something you have made" which could be Art, a model, Lego etc. Sending a photo in or emailing me a photo to share is wonderful as I can project that onto our screen for your child to reference. This works well for anything that is large or too delicate/precious to send to school. Lego creations or anything with many pieces should be sent in a box or bag to avoid any upset over lost pieces. Thank you for supporting your child to be ready for their Sharing time. It is a small part of our daily Class Meeting but so important in building oral language skills, vocabulary and confidence in how to speak in front of an audience.

Scholastic Book Orders - from time to time, Scholastic book orders will go home. Please do not feel pressured to purchase but if you do, it would be greatly

appreciated if you used our class code as this brings books back into our classroom with their 'bonus' point system. The class code will be on the flyer and is also on our class site for reference.

As always, please do not hesitate to email me with any questions or concerns or if you wish to book a time to come in for a chat.

Many thanks for reading this far! 😊

Warmly,

Mary MacKay