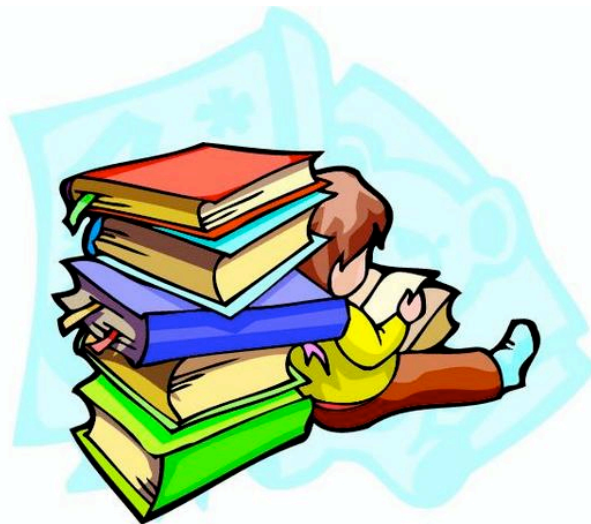


Welcome to Grade One

A package of information for parents



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Assistants:
Classroom:
Email:

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*Welcome to Grade One for the 2012-2013 school year!
We intend to make your child's year a fun and exciting one.*

GRADE 1 UNITS OF INQUIRY

This year we will be continuing our work on the IB PYP (International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme). This is a concept-driven inquiry based programme. The children will begin to ask question and learn how to gather information and find the answers to their questions. We will study six different units throughout the year. This programme integrates with our maths, language, and specialist programmes. Information about each Unit of Inquiry will be posted on the class blog. These are the six units of inquiry covered in Grade 1:

- Who we are
- How we express ourselves
- How we organise ourselves
- How the world works
- How we share the planet
- Where we are in place and time

P.E

Children in Grade 1 have two P.E sessions per week. On those days please ensure that your child attends school wearing the P.E uniform. Please see class timetable.

ART

Please send an old shirt for Art and label it with your child's name. Art shirts are kept at school and sent home for a wash as needed.

LIBRARY

The grade 1 classes will go to the library once a week. Your child will be able to borrow two books from the library and return them the following week. They may also change their books before and after school throughout the week. Please see class timetable.

SNACK AND LUNCHES

"Snack time" 9.35-9.50 "Play time" 9.50-10.05

Please provide a **nutritious** snack which may include fruit, raw vegetables, sandwiches, cheese, crackers, rice balls, granola, etc. and also something to drink like water, juice or milk (NO fizzy cool drinks please). We also prefer that chocolate is not a regular part of snacks or lunch. Please label the food containers as snack and lunch so that your child knows which food is for snack and which is for lunch. Please provide a labeled, refillable bottle for your child to use.

"Lunch Time" 12:00-12:20 "Play time" 12:20-12:50

Lunch orders are purchased on a monthly basis. A menu will go out on a monthly basis. Instructions will be included.

SHOWTIME

In order to encourage confidence in oral language, your child will be involved in a once weekly presentation of approximately two minutes in length. The schedule for presentations will be sent home outlining the discussion topic. Our discussion topics are linked to our class inquiries. Please help your child to prepare their response to our discussion topic. At home practice prior to the presentation will help your child's confidence and fluency with their presentation. This program begins in Week 4.

STAR OF THE WEEK

Each child will get a turn to be a "Star". A letter will be sent home before it is your child's turn. Photos, books, favourite toys, etc. may be brought to school. Photos will be displayed and then returned at the end of the week. During this time your child will be "extra special" in the classroom. This program begins in Week 4.

ASSEMBLY

Assembly will take place on Fridays at 1pm in the Multi-purpose Room (level 3). Each class presents in a Sharing Assembly once a year, showcasing recent learning. One child per class will be recognized each week with an award.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are celebrated in the classroom by singing "Happy Birthday" and making your child feel extra special on the day. If you would like to send cupcakes for your child to share with the class, please contact us in advance to make arrangements. We are happy to send out invitations to birthday parties through the classroom if EVERY CHILD is invited. If there is not an invitation for every child, please use the class list for contact details.

HOMEWORK

Homework helps children to practice the skills learned in class. On top of this, it is an opportunity for them to gain confidence in their ability to work independently. In grade 1 your child is expected to do no more than 15 to 20 minutes of homework a day. A reading book of your child's choice will be sent home for you to share together. On a Monday the spelling and phonics words for the week will be sent home.

Raz Kids is an online reading program, which your child can access at home. This program is not mandatory, but we encourage you to use it because it allows your child to practice reading with audio and visual support. Login information will be made available through the blue Communication Book.

IXL Maths is an online maths program, which your child can access at home. This program is also not mandatory, but we encourage you to use it because it provides additional practice of mathematical skills. Login information will be made available through the blue Communication Book.

Reading is essential for language development and we highly recommend that you read your child a bedtime story every night. This reading may be in your home language, as it is important to maintain literacy development in the mother tongue.

COMMUNICATION BOOKS

The blue Communication Book is for important daily messages between home and school. Feel free to discuss any questions, queries, or changes to your child's routine, explanations of absences or general comments with us by email.

TRAVEL

It is important that if travel arrangements from school are changed, a note is sent on that day in the blue Communication Book, or by telephone to the front office before 2pm @ 62356205. Children however are not permitted to go on a different bus to a friend's house.

CLASS CONTACT LIST

Every year we send out a class contact list. On this list we put your child's name, your name, telephone details and email address. This information is invaluable when arranging play dates for your child at school.

PARENT CLASSROOM REPRESENTATIVE

We invite a parent volunteer to serve as a class representative. This role includes supporting your class teacher in the organization of special events. Please contact your class teacher if you are interested.

PTA- PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The aim of the PTA is to help families to settle into school and enjoy the school community. They meet for education, social and fundraising purposes. Feel free to contact them if you would like to support the committee.

EXPECTATIONS

Together as a school we have student expectations. We use the International Baccalaureate Learner Profile to encourage children to be:

Inquirers	Thinkers	Communicators
Risk-takers	Caring	Knowledgeable
Principled	Reflective	Open-minded
Balanced		

The children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own actions and behaviour. They all assist in looking after their classroom. Try to encourage your child to share in jobs at home and in organising their own school bag.

We explore the following attitudes and encourage the children to develop these:

Appreciation	Commitment	Curiosity
Confidence	Cooperation	Creativity
Empathy	Enthusiasm	Independence
Integrity	Respect	Tolerance

In addition to the Learner Profile and Attitudes, ISS Elementary uses a system called the 4 Be's. This is a positive approach to ensure that we are Safe, Respectful, Honest, and Responsible in our behaviour at school.

Be Safe	Be Honest
Be Respectful	Be Responsible

Once again...Welcome! We hope you and your child enjoy the year.

Yvonne, Charlene and Alison