August 31st, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians,

My name is Ashley Barrington and I am really looking forward to being your child’s grade four/five teacher this year! We will have many exciting learning experiences and activities and I am going to enjoy getting to know your children. We have begun our school year establishing classroom routines and expectations, and having the students get to know their classmates.

Students will be using duotangs and notebooks this year, and will be organizing all of their work based on subject using these materials. Students are expected to maintain these items, keeping work for each subject in the respective duotang/notebook. Students also have a bin in the classroom that they can use to store their extra materials such as pencils, erasers, glue sticks, etc. Students have the option of using a binder to help organize day-to-day work if they wish.

Student agendas are an excellent way to help keep students organized and to also help keep parents aware of homework, student activities, and upcoming events. Students will be responsible to copy down important dates and homework into their agenda each day. Also, we have a classroom website at <http://missbtimberlea.edublogs.org> which is updated with homework and class activities on a daily basis. This is the best place for parents to check the dates of assigned work, activities, and upcoming events.

I have sent home a letter requesting email addresses. If you have not received one, ask your child and I will ensure that it reaches you promptly.

My expectations for the class are straight forward. I expect students to be prepared for class and on time. They need to be responsible for their belongings, keep their desk and personal space tidy, have the materials needed for class, finish homework, and return it as requested. I also expect students to follow the 3 Rs of our classroom: respect yourself, respect others, and respect the environment. We will continue to explore these areas in the upcoming weeks.

Home reading will be assessed using monthly book reports assigned to each student. These book reports will focus on reading strategies such as making predictions, connections, etc. Starting next week, students are expected to complete the assigned twenty minutes of nightly reading.

I will be teaching all subjects except Music (Mrs. Balfour), Grade 5 Math (Mr. Dykstra), and Phys. Ed (Mr. Dykstra).

We will be starting our year with the following units:

Science: Weather Watch (Grade 5), Waste in Our World (Grade 4)

Social Studies: Mapping Skills and Concepts

Math: Data Analysis

Language Arts: First Steps Reading Strategies (Predicting), Home Reading, Paragraphing, and Grammar (Capitalization, Proper Nouns)

It’s going to be a busy year and I’m looking forward to meeting you all. If you have any questions please feel free to email me or call the school and I will get back to you promptly.

Thanks,

Ashley Barrington

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<http://missbtimberlea.edublogs.org>