

BIENVENUE

# à la 2<sup>ème</sup> année

Hello families!

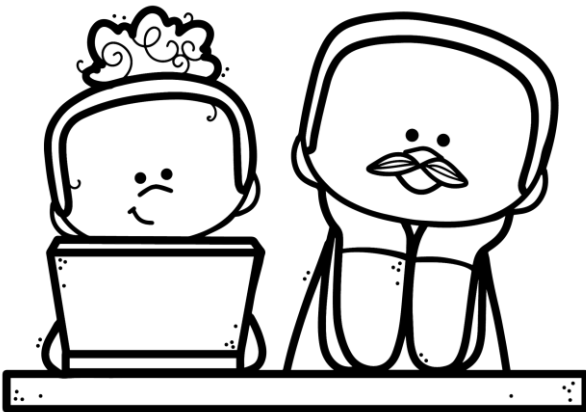
Bienvenue à la deuxième année! My name is Alex Westwood, and I am so thrilled to be teaching your child this year!

Please make sure that you are familiar with the following information and let me know if you have any questions at all. My top priority is to ensure your child's safety and happiness so that they can enjoy school and get the most out of their learning experiences in my class!

To help streamline our first day, I am hoping that you could take a moment to fill out the following form. This information will help me ensure that your child is safe at school and that they also have a safe transition into and out of school each day.

[The form can be found by clicking here.](#)

The rest of this document will serve as an information resource about your child's year in Grade 2. Please read through carefully and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have on our Meet the Teacher night on the evening of Thursday September 8<sup>th</sup>.



Mille mercis,

*Madame  
Westwood*

# Important information

This year, our school is doing a staggered entry. Grade 2 students with **last names A-K will come to school on Tuesday, September 6th**. Grade 2 students with **last names L-Z will come to school on Wednesday, September 7th**. On Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, we will welcome all students into class!

On their first day of school, I will meet your child in the far east field of the school ground. All of the teachers will be outside and I will be sure to display my name so that you can find me.

This school year, our class will be entering and exiting the building at **Entrance 8** (on the tarmac, near the playground). I will meet them outside each morning to greet them and accompany them into the school when the welcome bells rings at 8:40am. Attendance is taken before 9:00am each day. Please use the Safe Arrival system if your child will be late or absent.



If your child arrives after the doors have been locked, they will need to enter the building at the front of the school and stop by the office for a late slip. To ensure the safety of all of the children, we ask that you do not use the parking lot for drop off or pick up but instead use the community streets. Students can then walk safely behind the fence to reach our doors.

At the end of each day, our class also exits at **Entrance 8** and we will congregate on the pavement. Students will wait in line to be picked up or will be sent to their designated area (for BLAST, school busses, etc.).

# Meet the teacher night

Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup> 7-8 pm

Our Parent Information Night will begin with a meeting in the gym. Mme Leggatt will address the parents and introduce all of the teachers in our school. She will be able to provide you with general information about the school, answer any questions you may have, and address any of your concerns. The teachers will then proceed to their classrooms. At this time, you are invited to come and take a better look around your child's classroom. I will also be able to answer any general questions about Grade Two and our classroom routine.

Please refrain from asking specific questions in regards to your child's progress at the Parent Information Night. Any discussions about your child should be at a scheduled, mutually convenient time, which I would be happy to schedule.

Before coming to the Parent Information Night, **please ensure that you have read this back to school information package**. If there is something you need clarified or explained in greater detail, please come to the Parent Information Night. It's also a good opportunity for you to come and see your child's classroom, meet me and other Grade Two parents.

## SCHOOL schedule

Welcome bell 8:40

School begins at 8:45.

Students arriving between 8:30 and 8:40

**remain outside in a supervised area in the field or playground.**

Recess is at 10:15, 12:21 and 2:15.

Students must enter the school by their designated door.

Lunch is from 12:00-12:21.

Dismissal is **3:45** Monday thru Thursday and Friday at **12:45**.

# parent+communication

I will be communicating by ClassDojo and email for news, special day reminders and classroom activity updates. Please remember to check your ClassDojo on a regular basis and check your inbox on a regular basis. **Please use email or ClassDojo as main form of communication** to me about your child. Any pertinent information sent home will also be accessible from our class website:

[mmewestwood.schoolsites.ca](http://mmewestwood.schoolsites.ca)

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like to arrange a meeting time to discuss your child's progress this year! I am always happy to connect to ensure your child's continued growth and happiness at school!



If you need to pick your child up early for an appointment, please call the school to let the office staff know, so that they can get the message to me as promptly as possible or pass the message along if there is a substitute teacher in our class.

***school phone #: 403-328- 5153***

***my school email address: alex.westwood@lethsd.ab.ca***

# Volun+eering

## parent involvement

You are an integral part of your child's learning. Please know that you are welcome and encouraged to participate in scheduled classroom events and activities. If you are interested in general volunteering in the classroom during centers or have some time to help with French reading, please let me know via e-mail and I would love to have you in our room!

# homework



A limited amount of homework will be assigned throughout the year. To help develop your child's literacy, I will assign weekly home reading. For more information about program please refer to the information sheet provided inside your child's Home Reading duotang.

Once our early literacy and beginning phonemic awareness has been reviewed in the classroom and at home, I will also be assigning a weekly spelling list to be practiced at home. To help ensure your child has a strong foundation in spelling, reading and oral communication, it important that you practice the home reading and spelling tests regularly with your child.

# Student+supplies

This year at Agnes Davidson, teachers have ordered student supplies and will have them ready for the first day of school, aside from a few personal items Your child's supplies will be kept at school and will be used when needed. Resources have been pooled and shared to help reduce item waste, cost and promote community and responsibility.

There are three personal items your child will need to bring from home this year:

**Indoor shoes, which will remain at the school, a water bottle, and headphones.**

Please ensure your child can take their shoes on and off independently, without adult assistance tying them up.

Please also provide your child with a change of clothes that they can keep in their backpack, just in case. I recommend keeping this clothing in a ziplock bag to prevent them getting wet if your child's backpack gets wet.

I understand that even the most inexpensive toy has value to a child. To prevent heart break from loss or damage of these precious objects, toys are not allowed at school. Sometimes toys are placed in backpacks for after school care or activities. If your child needs to transport a toy to school, it must stay in their backpack throughout the day and your child will be responsible for looking after any items they bring to school.

# Agenda bag

Your child must bring his/her agenda to school each day in their Agenda Bag. Messages, spelling and reading practice in your child's agenda will occur daily. Please take the time to empty your child's agenda bag and check for notes and completed schoolwork.

Students will also be expected to keep their homereading duotangs in their agenda, so that they may be switched out as regularly as possible. Please keep the agenda, homereading and library books in the agenda bag to help keep it clean and dry.

# Assessment

I will be collecting anecdotal and physical evidence of your child's participation and learning through various methods:

- Observation during group visits
- Pictures/videos of your child engaging in various learning activities at home
- Collecting evidence of written work assigned
- Conversations with parents and guardians regarding your child's learning
- Recording your child's progress on online learning tools

There will be three reporting periods this year. The first one will involve a parent/teacher interview before the report card goes home in November. The second reporting period will be in March and will coincide with our student celebration of learning. The last report card will go home on the last day of school in June. Specific dates are listed in the agenda. If you ever have any questions concerning how your child is progressing, please give me a call and I would be happy to sit down with you or give you a call at a convenient time.





# French immersion

## philosophy and practice

As a former French immersion student and bilingual citizen, I am passionate about French language acquisition and am so excited to be a part of your child's learning!

In the early years of French Immersion, students are building a foundation in French so that they can learn to read, understand, speak and write in French. In later years, these foundations will help them expand their understanding in other subjects, such as math, science, social studies, the fine arts, etc.

As such, in grade 2, instruction of all subjects happens in French. To support your child's comprehension, I use a variety of visuals, actions, songs, rhymes, and lots of repetition so that students become accustomed to French vocabulary and gain confidence in their ability to speak French. In grade 2, the goal is not that students can speak French perfectly, but that they learn the basics and become comfortable taking risks in a second language.

## Time Table

### subject breakdown

Alberta Education recommends that students spend 30% of instructional time on Language Arts, 15% on Mathematics, and 10% each on Science, Social Studies, Art / Music, Physical Education / Wellness. This leaves a recommended 15% of instructional time for "other" subjects (such as Makerspace, options in older grades, etc.).

As such, students spend each morning at school engaged primarily in French Language Arts and Math. The afternoons, and occasional blocks on Friday, are reserved for the other subjects – Science, Social Studies, Gym, Health, Music and Art. Additionally, students are spending much more than 30% of their day engaged in FLA, as all subjects are taught in French.

# Snacks & lunch time



Students have two 10-minute snack periods each day, both taking place either before or after morning and afternoon recess. They also have a 20-minute lunch period at noon. Please ensure that your child packs enough to eat during the day by checking in with them regularly to see if they had what they needed. We also have multiple students with allergies in our class this year, so please do not send your child with nuts, including peanut butter or Nutella. Likewise, students are not permitted to share food that they have brought in their lunches. Finally, students do not have access to a microwave.

I know that on their birthdays or other special occasions, some families like to provide a treat to the class. This is absolutely no problem at all! Just please let me know a day or two before so that I know it is coming.

# Merci !

Thank you so much for taking the time to read through this information. Please feel free to send me an e-mail at [alex.westwood@lethsdab.ca](mailto:alex.westwood@lethsdab.ca) if you have any questions or concerns at all throughout the school year. I am so excited to meet your child later this week and to see you at our Meet the Teacher Night on September 8<sup>th</sup>!

Merci,

Mme Westwood