

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**Welcome** We are looking forward to working with you and your child to make this a productive and enjoyable year. Rooms 121 and 122 are a grade one group with students who are working at many different levels. They are encouraged to work, play, and cooperate with each other to build a sense of community of learners at **Sister MacNamara School**. We believe in building relationships in the classroom and we will spend a good part of the first few days getting to know one another and forming new relationships. We will keep you informed of classroom happenings. We are continuing to use Seesaw (a digital platform) to keep you connected. More information to come.

## Assessment

Throughout the school year, your child will be assessed in a variety of ways (daily work, observations, checklists, conversations about their learning with others, projects, participation, effort, etc.).

## Language Arts

The Language Arts program will concentrate on reading, writing, listening, viewing and representing experiences. Reading will be taught on a daily basis focusing on a balanced literacy approach of: Read-Alouds, Shared Reading, Guided Reading and Independent Reading. In Writing, we will be building a foundation for writing. To start we will focus on pictures and early representations of letters/words and progress to ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and presentation. Spelling (often referred to as invented spelling) will be accepted in many writing activities. Conventional spelling of words will be introduced throughout the year.

## Math

Building upon the knowledge and skills learned, students will be exposed to the following curriculum strands: Number Sense, Pattern and Relations, Shapes and Space. The curriculum, hands-on manipulative, worksheets, game activities form the basis of our math program. Some essential questions such as: How do numbers represent and define value? How do addition and subtraction relate to each other? What are the relationships between numbers? will help students understand that:

- a) There are many ways to represent a number.
- b) Quantities can be counted and compared;
- c) Computing becomes more efficient when using combinations of 10.

A question often asked will be - How do you know? Communication of the students' thoughts will be a focus.

## Science and Social Studies

The following are the curriculum components to be explored:

### Social Studies

1. I Belong
2. My Environment
3. Connecting with Others

### Science

1. Characteristics of Living Things
2. The Five Senses
3. Characteristics of Objects and Materials
4. Daily and Seasonal Changes

These concepts will be integrated with other subjects during our thematic studies. Students will learn to predict, observe and communicate while developing their thinking and research skills.

## Art

Students will explore and demonstrate awareness of the elements of art: line, colour, texture, shape, form and space. Students will use several mediums throughout the year. They will also participate in dance and drama integrated with other subjects.

## Health

Students will learn about nutrition, active living, dental health, safety, and personal & social management.

Students are expected to “Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Ready to Learn”. We discuss and review often what these expectations mean. They are given many reminders to help them be successful.

## Supporting your child at home

Parents can support their children at home by reading with them every night. Point out environmental signs while going for a walk. Talk about what they learned in school everyday. Practice skip counting, make lists together and many other things you can do together. Attendance is key in a student’s success. Please help them get to school everyday unless sick.

Student fees (\$30) cover class supplies and projects throughout the year. We thank you in advance for your continued support throughout this school year. We look forward to this new school year.

Ms. Forsyth/Ms. Oladele (Room 122)

Mr. Klassen-Wiebe (Room 121)