



Millarville Community School

August 31, 2020

Dear Grade 2 Families,

Welcome back to a new school year! My name is Sarah Chamney and I will be your child's grade 2 teacher. This will be my 7th year of teaching with the Foothills School Division and I am very excited to be a part of the Millarville Community School team! I am committed to creating a classroom environment where every student feels a sense of belonging, safety, and is confident in their abilities as learners. I believe the connection between home and school is essential to your child's learning and your support is a large part of your child's success in school. As part of maintaining a strong home school connection I will be reaching out to each family throughout this month. In addition, I will be posting a weekly newsletter, on the school's website, about the learning the grade 2 class is doing throughout the year.

Our PYP units for the year will be:

Sharing the Planet

We will be exploring the role of insects in our environment and our human responsibility towards insects.

How We Organize Ourselves

We will be exploring how people use patterns every day.

How We Express Ourselves

We will be exploring how different kinds of literature help us express different messages.

Who We Are

We will be exploring how personal habits affect our daily health.

Where We Are in Place and Time

We will be exploring how different lifestyles and traditions influence play.

How the World Works

We will be exploring how and why people constructed floatation devices to help them explore the world.

Throughout these units the students will be developing the following **skills**:

- Communication Skills
- Research Skills
- Self-management Skills
- Social Skills
- Thinking Skills

PYP Attributes

During our learning we will also focus on the following characteristics:

- Balanced
- Caring
- Communicator
- Inquirer
- Knowledgeable
- Open Minded
- Principled
- Reflective
- Risk Taker
- Thinkers

Communication

Every week I will be posting information about what is happening in our classroom on the Millarville School website <https://millarville.fsd38.ab.ca/>. Also, each child will receive an **agenda**. The agenda is also an important communication tool. Please have your child bring their agenda to school every day. If there are any notices, they will be sent home in the pocket in the front of the agenda. Please read and initial the agenda every day. If you have any messages for me, please email me or send a note to me in your child's agenda.

Supplies

School supplies will be provided (the office will contact you with the cost). In the past, students shared supplies, however, due to new health protocols, each child will have their own supplies stored in a pencil box (provided by me) to keep with them at their desk.

Technology

This year the students will be using the **Raz -Kids** program on the school iPad as part of their daily literacy routine. Each child will need **head phones** for this program. You may either have your child bring in their own headphones or you may purchase a pair through the school for \$12. If you are purchasing your child's own headphones please have your child bring over the headphones. Please do not send earbuds to school. Please email me if you would like to purchase a pair for your child.

Snack and Lunch

Please send a few nutritious snacks as well as a healthy lunch for your child. The students will be having a morning snack at 10:25 and lunch at 12:10 every day. If you are sending any kind of containers or food cups please ensure that your child can independently open these containers on their own. Microwaves will not be available to heat up lunches.

Library

Our library class will be on **Wednesdays**. The children are allowed to take out two books for two weeks at a time. Students are more than welcome to bring back their library books if they finish reading them early.

Home Reading Program

On **Monday September 21st**, the students will be starting an at home reading program. For this program your child will be bringing home a bag with 2-3 books as well as books about our current unit of inquiry. I am encouraging all students to be reading every day as part of the grade 2 program. In addition to reading, I will occasionally be sending home sight words that I expect the students to be practicing throughout the week at home. Once the students can confidently read the words; they will be receiving new words. Student book bags will be due back every **Monday** for your child to receive their next book bag.

Classroom Volunteers

Throughout the year I will be asking for volunteers to come and help (reading with students, laminating, photocopying, cutting) within the classroom. Once the students have had the opportunity to settle into their new classroom, I will be contacting parents about signing up to volunteer. Due to new health protocols, all parent volunteers will be required to follow the guidelines as outlined in the Millarville Community School handbook online.

Daily Writing

In addition to our daily UOI writing and word work in the classroom, the students will also be engaging in writing Friday Letters. The purpose of these letters is for your child to write home to you and be reflective on topics or events that they engaged in throughout the week. I am asking parents to respond to their child's letter and return it every **Monday**. The reflections and letters will be a running record of your child's writing throughout the year. Your child will be so PROUD to share with you what they are doing at school and it is a great way for you to see your child's writing skills grow!

Mathematics

Throughout the year the students will be working on various topics in math that will align and go along with their unit of inquiry. Our focus throughout the year will be: (review of numbers, patterns and relations, 3D and 2D shapes, measurement, data analysis, and number sense.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Email: chamneys@fsd38.ab.ca

Phone: 403-938-7832

Sincerely,

Sarah Chamney
Millarville Community School- Grade 2