Welcome to Year 1/2 SB

Dear families,

Hello and welcome to the year 1/2 learning community at St. Martin de Porres School. I hope that you and your child have a happy and successful year.

I have created a learning space that is welcoming and supportive for you and your child. Our learning space is intended to promote inquiry-based learning while encouraging confidence and community building. It is important that children are provided with the opportunity to learn with and alongside others in an attractive environment in which they feel safe, happy and supported. In Year 1/2 SB you and your child will find that there will be even more emphasis on children taking responsibility for their own learning, independence, and organization. I encourage you to foster these skills at home by getting your child to organize themselves during our morning and afternoon routines.

I believe that strong partnerships are central to effective learning and while your child is in Year 1/2 SB you will see your child sharing learning experiences with the other Year one and Year two classes. My aim is to foster confidence, resilience, and a strong sense of community within our learning space.

School Hours
Classroom open: 8:45am
School Commences: 8:55am
Recess (eating time): 10:30am – 11:00am
Recess Play: 11:00 – 11:20am
Lunch (eating time): 12:50 – 1:00pm
Lunch Play: 1:00 – 1:40pm
Home Time: 3:20pm – 3:30pm on Tuesdays

Students are expected to arrive at school no later than 8:45 am. It is important that students are on time as students who arrive late miss out on important organizational activities and feel distressed on arriving late for class. Students late to school are required to be "signed in" in the front office of the school. Students who have not been called by 3:40 pm (3:20 pm on Tuesday) in the afternoon will automatically be placed in Out of School Hours Care.

On arriving at school
The time before the classroom open is an opportunity for students and parents to socialize with peers under the supervision of the teacher on duty. Please encourage your child to put their own bag on their hook along the side of our learning space and move to the courtyard where they will be expected to sit down and be supervised by the duty teacher from 8:30 am until 8:45 am. The classroom doors will open at 8:45 am. Please support your child's independence in organizing themselves by encouraging them to bring their own lunch, water bottle, and make a quick math activity for morning tasks.

I ask that you respect that students are getting organized for the day and beginning work so if you wish to have conversations with other parents that you do this outside the classroom. This is also an important time for me to greet students and other parents so while I am available for questions that require a quick answer, please see me after school or make an appointment if you have questions or concerns that require a longer length of time to answer.

School Office Hours
The front office is open from 8:30 am – 3:40 pm Monday to Friday for payment of fees and any queries. Any money transactions that are less than $5.00 may be via your child's class communication box.

Medication
Any medication (in its original container with dosage) is kept in the sick room in the office and is sent home each afternoon if necessary.

Morning Routine
Once the classroom door is open, your child will need to bring in their message folder and any communication from the office box. Children are then expected to get out their spelling contract book and begin their spelling tasks. Children will then have a quick math activity to complete and start with us in maintaining a calm and respectful learning environment in the morning.

Mathematics
In addition to students' mathematics lessons, this year students will be doing quick math activities to support them with their development of counting strategies. Some of these activities will be set as a homework activity. For this reason, I ask you to supply your child with a die and a deck of cards to keep at home supporting them with these tasks.
Home Reading and Spelling
Reading Book Covers:
Your child will need their Reading Book Cover from last year. Individual Spelling lists will be placed in the front of this book and it is also helpful to protect books sent home. Reading Book covers should be kept in your child's blue Message Bag.

Reading:
Students will be required to read to an adult each Monday to Friday at home. A book will come home in your child's Communication Folder on these nights. This is an important opportunity for students to practice the skills they have earned in our literacy time. Students are allocated 1-2 books at a time appropriate to his/her reading needs. Your child should be able to read these books independently with minimal amount of assistance from parents. (Please do not take more than 1-2 books for your child each night as the books are for the use of all children in the class). If you wish to read more than this, you may ask the teacher to pass free or borrowed books from home to an extension or "sharing" time with your child. There is a need for students to be re-read during the week to allow students to reinforce confidence, boost their vocabulary and practice reading strategies. Try to encourage this practice. At the start of the term, students will choose a new reader, with a guide and will be reminded to change their books after they have read 3 times. Please read the book each day and any comments in your child's Reading Record & Communication book each night. If you wish to discuss your child's reading progress, you may phone or e-mail your child's teacher.

Step 1:
Reminder

Step 2:
Isolated working in the classroom
Toys and their belongings. Ways they can achieve this are as follows:

Step 3: Time Out - working in another classroom - parents notified
Step 4: Time Out - working in the Office and parents notified

Students may skip some steps for excessive behaviour.

Positive choices will be acknowledged daily through the happy face reward chart.

Class expectations will be created daily and displayed in the classroom at all times so students are reminded of the agreed upon expectations of members of our learning community.

Water
Children are encouraged to keep up their water levels during the day so they will be given free access to their drink bottles. For this reason ask that you provide your child with TWO drink bottles each day. One drink bottle is for the drink basket in the classroom and one for keeping in the school bag. This ensures that they have access to water during indoor and outdoor learning times. If sending freshman water please wrap bottles in towel and a non slip cover to prevent it from getting wet. Card and fruit drinks are not permitted in the classroom but can be consumed at recess/lunch breaks. Children will be asked to bring water bottles into the classroom at the bell at 8.55am. Please name your child's water bottles.

Headphones
Can you please send to school as an labelled walking headphones suit the CaT use. They will need to be kept in a labelled and suitably sized bag (such as an odd bag) to keep them munt ang ed and protected. Your child will gain maximum benefit from the interactive programs if they are able to hear the computer. Minimal in the classroom we use either listening points, and I-POD, and the children will need headphones to access these pieces of equipment. Children are to keep these in their own tray.

Art Smock
Please send in an labelled art smock for your child. We will be painting on a regular basis and these help to keep your child's uniform clean.

Library
Each week your child will visit the library on Wednesday. Please encourage your child to bring their library bag to school on these days. It is important that students are encouraged to borrow from the school library (and other libraries) to increase their appreciation and enjoyment of books. Please remind your child to return their library books to the library as soon as they are finished reading them. This way we can maximise at books and make sure they make it back to the library daily. Ask that you provide your child with a clearly labelled library bag that can be kept in their school bag.

Hats
Please ensure that your child has a named hat each day (having an extra in the bag is also a good idea) to ensure that they are able to go out to play at recess and lunch. It is also a good idea to supply your child with sunscreen so they can reapply at recess and lunch times when needed.

Sharing Grids:
Each Wednesday (beginning in Week 5) your child will have the opportunity to practice speaking aloud to an audience in an appropriate manner. Your child will practice their listening and speaking skills in a small group setting. They will also have opportunities to talk on the class, letter and recorder during sharing time. Please encourage your child to participate by assisting the minis leding appropriate materials and planning what they intend to say. Your child will also be given the opportunity to speak to the whole class once a term and a competition. And with Sharing Grid Top 3 will be sent home each term and displayed on the window of the classroom.

Student Responsibility:
One of the most valuable ways you can support your child in their learning is to take responsibility for their clothes and belongings. Ways they can achieve this are as follows:

- Any notes, letters, forms, bank books, etc should be brought into the classroom by the student and placed in the box in the morning.
- If you have written a note in the Communication Book then your child needs to put it in the communication basket in the morning.
- Students should hang up their own bags and remove their Communication Bag and water bottle before entering the classroom and placing their message bag in their book tray and their water bottle in the wet area. Please encourage students to be responsible for remembering lunch boxes, hats, jumpers, library bags, readers and folders. This is much easier if items are labelled.

Family Photographs:
Each student is asked to bring in a family photograph which will be added to the display. Photographs will be returned to you at the end of the year.

Toys
Please ensure your child does not bring any toys etc to school under any circumstances unless they are to be used for the “sharing time” topic of that week.

**Forms**
Please ensure that the forms sent home regarding internet use and personal details etc. are sent back to me as soon as possible.

**Parental Involvement**
Children learn best when there is a clear partnership between home and school. I encourage you to feel welcome and to participate in your child’s schooling. Please feel free to join us for prayer in the mornings, beginning in week 2, and if you wish to stay to provide support during literacy time in the mornings. Please feel free to speak to me. Similarly, if you have expertise that you feel might be appropriate to share with the children, please let me know.

**Canteen**
The canteen will now be available to the children on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. You will be provided with further information regarding this shortly.

There are several ways to communicate with me. You can write a letter in your child’s communication book, call the school, and I will endeavour to call you back as soon as I can, as well as email. I find email a little easier and quicker to respond to if it is a question or you just need to let me know something but as I am busy teaching, I do not have time to respond to emails during the day, so please consider this if you choose to communicate via email. My email address is rhamood@smdp.ca (note: this is not my personal email). If you have any further questions, please feel free to come and speak to me after school. I am looking forward to an exciting year with your child and look forward to the times ahead.

Kind regards,
Sarah Bull

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**To Do:**
- Art Smock
- Library Bag
- Dice
- Message Folder
- 2 drink bottles
- Deck of cards
- Headphones
- Reading folder
- Sunblock
- Return forms
Child's Name: __________________________________________________________

Parent's/Carer's names and contact numbers

____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________

Email contact(s)

___________________________________________
___________________________________________
___________________________________________

I have a current Police Check ☐ YES ☐ NO

Expiry Date ______________________________

**CLASSROOM HELP**

I am able to help with spelling and reading on the following day ☐YES ☐ NO

Please tick one of the boxes below on the day you would like to help

(This will involve listening to reading and/or testing 3 spelling words for children.)

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