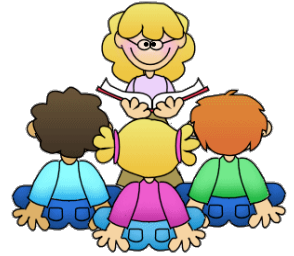


Welcome to Class 2/3G2 with Miss McVittie!

Let me begin by expressing my excitement with the upcoming year! I am thrilled to be a part of the Charles R. Beaudoin Community, as well as the gifted program, and can't wait to begin an engaging learning adventure with your child!



The year ahead will be filled with many opportunities for you child. Most of the activities and routines I plan to create with the class, allowing them to feel like the classroom is *their* space. However, there are a few routines I plan to put in place, which will help keep the classroom running smoothly and you (the parents!) in the loop!

Home Connections: Home Connection work will be brought home with your child every **Friday**. These activities will be related to what we are learning in class. This is a chance for you and your child to work together and collaborate. I ask that these are returned each **Wednesday**, however I understand schedules can be very busy, so please just write a note in the agenda if it has been "one of those" weeks. The Home Connection folder is the responsibility of your child and I will be encouraging them to take ownership for their work and remembering to bring it to school. In addition to the activities provided, the value and impact of reading with your child and discussing the text is an incredibly beneficial activity that really helps your child digest their reading. For suggestions of questions and conversation starters about reading, check out my class website.

Agendas & Boomerang Bags: Each morning agendas will be checked by the teacher. Students will write any reminders in the agenda at the end of each day. Please check your child's agenda each day afterschool and initial that you have read it. This is a great way to keep in touch with me. The agenda will go inside the Black Zippy bag to protect it from wet mittens or leaky juice boxes and "boomerang" back to school each day. Please put library or classroom books, permission slips, notes and other important information inside the Boomerang Bag.

E-mail, Website & Twitter: With everyone's busy schedule, I know technology can be a quick and easy way to stay connected. My class website will be growing as the year progresses. On it you will find website suggestions, special event information, and due dates. Check it out at: <http://chatt.hdsb.ca/~mcvittiet/>. You can also e-mail me at mcvittiet@hdsb.ca . E-mail is likely the quickest way to get in touch with me. If the topic isn't an e-mail type conversation, you are welcome to send me an e-mail with a phone number and preferred time for me to call you, I will try my best to reach you as soon as possible. I also have a Twitter feed which you can link directly to you Blackberry or iPhone. This will display similar messages to the agenda including reminders about materials to bring in, special events and due dates. Find me on Twitter "MissMcVittie".

Weekly Routines: I have included a "Weekly Reminder" strip in your parent package. This has some helpful reminders for your week including our library return time (Monday morning) and gym classes (Wed & Thurs mornings). Hopefully this will help you ensure your child is prepared with the appropriate materials. I have also provided a tentative weekly time-table. The schedule will change at times to accommodate assemblies, special events or enrichment activities that require large blocks of time, but it provides a guideline.

"Word Wizard" : Word Wizard is a word study program that puts kid in charge of their learning. More information about this will be provided as we begin, and each child will have a chance to be the "Weekly Word Wizard". Due dates will be written in agendas as well as posted on the website.

Vacationing Class 'Pet' Journals: This is another activity that will have more details after some class decisions are made, but each student will take home our "class pet" stuffed animal for a week and weekend. When they return on Monday they will present how they spent their time together and fill out the journal for their furry friend. Students enjoy reading the entries of their peers so encourage your child to write in the 'voice' of our four-legged friend and include pictures or souvenirs if possible.

Tuesday Newsday: Every Tuesday each student will receive a copy of *The Hamilton Spectator*. Inside there are weekly stories written for kids, as well as typical news articles. We will engage in a variety of fun activities while learning about newspapers and how to read them effectively. This will begin September 20th and continue until early June.

Literacy Centers & Guided Reading Groups: Once our start-up routines are in place, we will begin my *favourite* part of class- literacy centers and guided reading. This allows me to meet with your child in a small group and focus on reading strategies and skills at least once per week. I will share progress, strengths, and next steps with your child so feel free to ask your child about it! As I learn more about your child, the format of these weekly reading groups may change but I hope to conference weekly with each student. I will contact you with any concerns as soon as possible.

Coming soon: Our class is very lucky to be expecting an exciting new addition - our very own SMARTBOARD! Students will use this interactive touch technology as an integrated part of our daily activities. It has been ordered and should be arriving any day now!

Thank you so much for your support! I look forward to working with you and your child to have a memorable year. Welcome to class 2/3G2, we are in for a great year!

Sincerely,
Tina McVittie