

## Welcome to Grade 3 with Ms. E!

### About Me

It is my pleasure to welcome you to another year of school. My name is Jessica Erickson, and I am thrilled to be your child's grade 3 teacher! I was born and raised in Prince George, where I obtained both my Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Education at UNBC. Other than teaching, you may also see me around the community coaching soccer for youth, doing yoga, mountain biking, and enjoying the great outdoors! With this letter, I hope to establish an open-ended communication line with you and inform you of what to expect this upcoming year.



### My Philosophy

Albert Einstein once said, "Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing its stupid." I often use this quote to represent my philosophy, as I believe that every learner is different and has their own strengths. As your child's teacher, it is my responsibility to find and build on your child's strengths while also challenging them in their areas for growth. By doing this, I believe that every learner in my class will reach success in their own way.

### Communication

Planners and a student communication folder will be sent home on a daily basis. Any important notes will be made in your child's planner, and take-home work, field trip forms, and other documents will be sent home in your child's communication package. You can let me know that you've received and went over your child's planner and communication package by initialing their planner each day. Email is the best way to reach me, however, you can also communicate with me via *FreshGrade* or your child's communication folder and planner, which I check every morning.

### Success in the Classroom

I expect my students to take accountability of their learning in order to succeed in my classroom. One of the biggest drivers of success in this classroom is to honour our classroom values, which are respect, responsibility, and honesty. In addition, a healthy means of communication is important to success, which is why I encourage you or your child to come talk to me at any time needed.

### Plan for This Year

During our school year, we will be placing an emphasis on place-based learning. Essentially, we will be taking advantage of our geographical surroundings to help us learn in an authentic, engaging manner. We will also be incorporating hands-on learning to help us reach success in Science, Math, Social Studies, Language Arts, and many other subject areas. I would like you as parents and guardians to see what place-based learning looks like, which is why I've organized a cooperative place-based learning field trip at Lheidli T'enneh Memorial Park on September 27<sup>th</sup>. All parents/guardians are invited to this event, and permission forms will be sent home this week.

## Welcome to Grade 3 with Ms. E!

### Grading and Homework

Most of our classwork is done during school hours, however, if there happens to be take-home work this will be communicated in your child's planner. Assignments are expected to be handed in on time, but I am very flexible in terms of due dates as long as there is open communication with me regarding extensions. Sometime next week, you will be receiving access to a website called *FreshGrade*, which I will use to communicate your child's progress and grades throughout the year.

### Support

At \_\_\_\_\_ Elementary, we pride ourselves in our support systems. I am more than happy to support you or your child in any way I can. In addition to my help, I can direct you to support from the Educational Assistants, School Counsellor, Aboriginal Education worker, resource teacher, and our Principal.

### Community

In this classroom, we value our sense of community. Our community extends out to you as parents and guardians, so there will be many opportunities for you to attend classroom events with your child. Nobody knows your child better than you, which is why I would also like to invite you to respond to this letter telling me about your child. You can include topics such as strengths, areas for growth, fears, interests, and past school experiences. Please include anything you would like me to keep in mind during the upcoming year. You can take full advantage of involvement in your child's education by using your child's daily communication folder, attending meet-the-teacher nights and student-led conferences, and coming to organized school events when you are available. I'll also be communicating what topics our class is covering regularly, so feel free to ask your child about these topics, children love to share their learning.

### Contact Info

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I'm looking forward to working with you and your child this upcoming year! Please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or comments.

School Phone: 250-563-3333  
Email: jeerickson@sd57.bc.ca