

September 15, 2009

Dear Parents,

This letter will help you learn about routines and procedures in B9. I look forward to working with you and your child this year.



CLASS SCHEDULE

Arrival to school is 8:40 - 8:55 am. Children must stay in the main foyer until the 8:40 am bell rings. If your child will be buying breakfast, he/she can go straight to the cafeteria upon arrival and bring the breakfast tray to the classroom. Also, during this time children are able to visit the library to exchange books before the morning bell. School officially starts at 8:55 am.

Our class will have specials at 10:30-11:10. **Physical Education (P.E.)** on **A & C** days, **Art** on **B** days and **Music** on **D** days. On days we have **P.E.** please remind your child to wear sneakers. Please see the calendar enclosed in the Winslow Newsletter that will be sent home the beginning of each month -this will show the letter day schedule.

Lunch is 11:54 - 12:24. You are welcome to schedule lunch dates with your child. Please sign in at the front desk and then meet your child in the cafeteria.

We have the Mobile Computer Lab Tuesdays 1:20-2:00. We go to the Library on Fridays 1:45-2:15.

Dismissal is at 2:55 pm. If you are picking up your child early, you must sign your child out in the main office. Children who walk home or are picked up from school will be dismissed after the buses have left the building.



CLASS RULES & CONSEQUENCES

This year at Winslow there are common expectations for student behavior called "Bee Your Best". The expectations focus on being respectful, being responsible, being ready to learn, being caring, and being trustworthy throughout the school. We will use the "Bee Your Best" classroom matrix as our class rules.

My warnings and consequences routine: Each student has a set of cards in a chart. Students start the day with a Green grade = good day. If during the day a child has trouble with a rule I will first give a reminder with yellow card, first warning. If the child continues to disregard a rule s/he will receive a Pink card and lose 5 minutes of recess. Any further warning and the child will receive a Blue card, parents will be contacted along with losing 10 minutes of recess. More serious problems (i.e. getting physical with another person) will require a more serious consequence such a visit to the Office and parents will be called. Students with green cards all week will have the chance to eat lunch with me in the classroom.

Marble Cup: To recognize the class's good efforts we have a Marble Cup. When the class works together as a team they will earn marbles. After the class earns a certain number of marbles they will receive a special treat.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

It is difficult to keep track of all the items children bring to school. In an effort to assist, please mark all of your child's belongings with his/her full name. Please give your child a change purse, wallet, or baggy with his/her name on it to carry money to and from the cafeteria. **Please discourage** your child from bringing toys to school, often children are distracted by these or lose them and become upset.



BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are very special to 1st graders and as a class we will recognize each student's. You are welcome to send in treats to help the class celebrate your child's birthday as per the RH guidelines stated in the Parent Handbook. Please when sending in the treat, make sure it is easy to pass out and include napkins, plates and spoons if necessary. Birthday celebrations are held either at recess (12:30) or late afternoon (approximately 2:30 pm). You are invited to assist with your child's celebration if you are available. If your child's birthday falls during summer months, we will celebrate their birthday when you and child choose. Please let me know in advance when you are sending in treats so I can adjust my lesson plans.



BOOK ORDERS

Occasionally I will send home Scholastic book order forms. The book orders offer inexpensive books appropriate for 1st graders. It is an easy and relatively inexpensive way to help your child build their own personal library. You are welcome to send in orders, but are under **NO OBLIGATION** to do so. If you choose to order, send in the order form(s) by the due date slip attached to the forms with the money or a check made out to the book order company. Please do not make checks out to me. Also, please make sure your child's name is on the order form. Orders generally take two weeks.



HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

The **GREEN** take home folder should come home everyday and come back to school each morning. In this folder you will find homework, completed work, school work that needs to be corrected or completed at home, along with daily mail, i.e. flyers from recreation, school lunch menu, Winslow newsletters, etc. Please check and review the contents of this folder with your child DAILY and assist your child in finishing any incomplete work. I am encouraging the students to be responsible for the items in the green folder so it is important that your child brings it back to school everyday. You are welcome to send notes to me using the folder.

Newsletters-I will be putting the newsletter on my web page. This newsletter will help keep you informed about what students are going to be learning and upcoming events. If you **DO NOT** have internet access please let me know so I can print a copy of my newsletter.

Class Web Page: <http://www.rhnet.org/webpages/mmullin/> This web page is another place for you to see what is going on in B-9. I will update it weekly.



HOMEWORK

Reading-Each student will be required to read (child's choice of book) for 15 minutes at home, daily, Monday through Thursday. Please help your child record the title of the books read on a Reading Log. If you need assistance providing "just right" books for your child to read at home please let me know and I will be happy to supply books for independent reading. The Reading Log will be sent home on Mondays and should be kept in the green take home folder so I can check it daily.

Sight Words-Starting the week of Sept. 21 sight words will be introduced to the class. A list will be introduced each Monday and will be sent home. Words should be studied nightly, in addition to reviewing previously introduced sight words.

Math-Math homework will be sent home as needed. The Math homework will consist of worksheets and games reviewing concepts taught in school.



VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is another way for parents to participate in their child's educational experience. I strongly believe in the advantages of having parents assist with classroom activities and needs. I realize some parents are unable to come into the classroom to help so I provide opportunities for parents to contribute in other ways. I will pass out a volunteer survey at Curriculum Night. I will then contact the parent volunteer.

Room parents are selected by the P.T.O. I utilize my room parents to organize, plan, and make contact with other parents concerning class celebrations, projects, and special events. If you are interested, please respond to the P.T.O. survey.

I look forward to meeting you in the next few weeks. I have lots to share with you at our Curriculum Night, Thursday, October 1st from 6:30-7:30. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 359-5090 during school hours or send me an e-mail at mmullin@rhnet.org. You can also leave me a voice mail message by calling 359-5183, mailbox 1970.

Sincerely,
Mary Mullin