



September 2019 Kinderchatter

Psalm 139:14 "I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made..."

Welcome to Kindergarten at Calgary Christian School! This month we will be focusing on the topic of "God Made Me". We want each student to see themselves as gifted individuals created in the image of God. This month will be a time to build community, establish routines and explore all that Kindergarten has to offer. I am thankful for this opportunity to teach and for the wonderful staff and the families that make up the Calgary Christian School community. God has many exciting things in store for us this year. With Him everything is possible!

*Our "Kinderchatter" newsletter will be posted on my e-teacher page at the beginning of each month with pertinent information for the upcoming month. This will be the main source of communication about classroom needs, important dates and give an overview of the theme for the month.

* Daily work, school wide notices, art projects, etc will be sent home in a laminated envelope with your child's name on it. Please check this after each school day and return the envelope in your child's backpack on the next school day.



Communicating with one another:

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns! I can best be reached by e-mail at: joylaine.degroot-jonker@pallisersd.ab.ca or call me at the school at 403-242-2896. If there is something more urgent- please call the office.

Room Mom

Our 'Room Parent' this year in KJ is Kelly Bouwman. She is going to be helping me out with the communication between home & school. You will likely receive emails from her with reminders, requests, etc. Thank you Kelly for taking on this important role!

Volunteering:

Next week I will send home a *Volunteer Availability Form*. Please fill it out and return it to school as soon as possible. **Volunteering will start in October**, which gives the children and myself adequate time to become familiar with each other and with the routines of the class. A volunteer schedule will be made and posted on my e-teacher page. (I will send an email notifying you when this schedule is

available.) If you are unable to make the day you are scheduled for I kindly ask that you **find a replacement**, as we often have activities planned that we are unable to do without your presence. Your time in the classroom is so appreciated!
☺ Thank-you!

Eating at school:

At school, your child will be given the opportunity to **eat two times** a day - a snack in the morning at 10:15am, lunch at 12:30pm. Your child is given 15-20 minutes to eat their snacks and 20 minutes to eat their lunch. *Please be advised that Calgary Christian School is a **nut-free school**.*

* We do have a **microwave** if you'd like to send some leftovers for lunch!

Absences/Lates:

If you know you will be away in advance, please send me an email or write me a note and call the office to let them know. If your child is sick or they will not be coming into school that day- please call the office so we do not worry. There is a link on the CCS website where you can enter when your child is late or absent. If you are late, please go to the office right away to get a late slip and then you may send your child to class.

Birthdays:

Birthdays are very exciting times for your child! If you would like to send in a birthday treat to share with the class- please feel free to do so as long as: there is enough for the whole class (17 students, 2 teachers) and it is nut free. This is not expected, so please do not feel pressure. :) Many families chose not to do this.

*If you'd like to invite students in the class to your child's birthday party, please hand them to me directly. I will place them in the appropriate **Take Home Envelope**. Please don't have your child hand them out, as some children may feel left out.

Sharing:

Sharing is a big part of Kindergarten; we encourage sharing so that your child is comfortable speaking in front of his/her peers and so that he/she has time to practice answering questions. Your child is allowed to bring something in to share with the class that is interesting to them or related to the theme of the month. Girls are welcome to bring in something to share on *Mondays*. Boys can do this on *Wednesdays*.

Homework:

We do not give daily homework in Kindergarten. :) We do however have an activity and skills package that will go home at the beginning of each month. In this package will be fine motor and gross motor activities, as well as some basic literacy and math skills to work on. The goal is that you get through all activities by the end of the month, and then return the completed package to school. Thank you for

your participation in this. Extra review at home has a big impact on student growth!

"Helper of the Day"

Your child will take turns being the "**Citizen of the Day**" in class! His/her responsibilities include: being the line leader, helping others if they need help, passing things out etc. The students love the opportunity to show leadership in the classroom! ☺

Library:

Students will travel to the library where our librarian Mrs. Thiesen will read them a story and allow them to take out a picture book. Your child may borrow this book for the week until their next *library time*. Your child's Library Day is on Wednesday afternoons.

Scholastic Book Orders

Scholastic Canada offers books for sale at very reasonable prices. New book order forms will be sent home at the start of each new month. There will be a "return by" date stamped on the front to let you know when orders are due back to school, *if* you choose to purchase. * This is totally optional! *

Dates to Remember

KJ Friday School Days - September 20th and 27th - please check the link attached to this email to confirm our Friday schedule for this year.

Picture Day - Wednesday, September 18th

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- Some information about "TFT"

What is Teaching for Transformation (TFT)?

The biblical truth that resounds in our Christian school's curriculum is that all things in the world belong to God. It is important that we not presume that this truth is obvious or apparent to all. The task of a Christian school teacher is to help **reveal God's grand story** in all things. Thus, a teacher's task is one of Christian-story telling, of seeking out and helping students to "See The Story" in all areas of study.

We do this by teaching under the principle of all things. God created all things. It is into this story the Teaching for Transformation Throughlines, as developed by The Prairie Centre for Christian Education (PCCE) region, provides a framework for the development of authentic and integral Christian learning experiences that are grounded in a transformational worldview with a focus on the Biblical story.

The **BIBLICAL THROUGH LINES** help us all, teachers and students, to understand what our roles are, what our calling is. These characteristics weave through the Bible, and describe a calling to "be", not simply to "do". And what does God call us to "be?" He calls us to be **Servant-Workers**, to be **Justice-Seekers**, to be **Earth-Keepers**, to be **Community-Builders**. He calls us to be **Creation-Enjoyers**, **Idolatry-Discerners**, **Order-Discoverers**, **Beauty-Creators**. And in all of these He calls us to be **God-Worshippers** and **Image-Reflectors**.

We call these "Biblical Throughlines," and describing our roles or calling in these terms helps us understand who God wants us to be and what He wants us to do in the **restoration of His Kingdom**. They describe, exactly and profoundly, what students (and teachers) should "be" as a result of Christian schooling. ~ TFT Handbook

I pray that this new school year is a blessing for you and your child. Please do not hesitate to come and talk with me if have any questions.

Blessings to you and your family,

Joylaine deGroot-Jonker

