Tuesday, September 1, 2015.

Welcome back parents and students!

I am so excited to be back at Carseland School this year. As some of you may know I took last year off to welcome our daughter Ella into the world. The last year has been so wonderful watching our little one grow into a beautiful little girl. I know some of the students in our class from teaching their older brothers or sisters two years ago. I also see some new families in our room. I’m eager to get to know all of the students and their families this year. We are very fortunate to have Miss Laura working with our Grade 1 and 2 students this year to help out with Math, Language Arts, Social and Art. I will outline in the subjects below what subjects will be taught by Miss Laura and what subjects will be taught by me.

**Communication**

I am a true believer that learning occurs not just at school, but at home as well. I hope to work with you in order to provide the best opportunities for your young learner. My door is always open to parents and I urge you to come in, phone or send me an email at any time. My main mode of communication with you will be through your child’s **daytimer**. I will be checking these daily and I urge you to do the same. Carseland School also utilizes **Facebook** and Twitter. I (and the other teachers) will be updating the Facebook page with updates and student showcasing throughout the year. I have a classroom **website** where I will posting resources, pictures, videos and copies of newsletters that pertain to only our class. This is a place where we will showcase our work to families that may not be able to make it into the school as often. I will send home a monthly class newsletter letting you know what is going on in our classroom.

Each student will bring home a **red folder** on Wednesdays. This will contain any notes from me or the school. Please sign and return the folder on Thursday.

**Snack and Lunch**

We eat our morning snack before morning recess (around 10:35). I urge parents to send healthy snacks to keep young minds ready to learn. Lunch is eaten at 12:30 in our classroom. Please do not send any food that needs to be heated up in the microwave as we do not have one in our classroom. Students may purchase items from the canteen for lunch.

**Parent Involvement**

 A primary classroom is a busy place. We are always looking for Parent (or Grandparent) Volunteers to read with students, play games or help in other forms in the classroom. If you would be interested in helping out please indicate your availability on the sheet I have attached.

**Math**

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| Your child will be learning 4 strands of Math this year. I will be teaching the entire grade 1 and 2 students Patterning and Relations, Space and Shape, as well as Statistics and Probability. |
| Miss Laura will be teaching the Grade 1’s number concepts and I will be teaching Number to the Grade 2 students.  |

**Language Arts**

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| Reading- Reading is such an important part of every child’s education. In order to develop a love of reading at a young age I encourage students to read at home **every night**. Students will be taking home 1-2 library books a week. Grade one/two students will be visiting the library on Wednesday afternoons. Please have your child’s books back at school by then. Please read to your child and allow him or her read to you. Beginning in October we will be completing a classroom home reading program. Your child will be bringing home a book at their own level each night that they are expected to practice with a family member. Remember that early readers use many clues in a book to create understanding. Looking at pictures is a great way for students to make connections between words and meaning. I will send out more information regarding our reading program and how you can help your child later in the month.  |
| Writing- Grade one writing can take many shapes and forms, what may look like scribbling is a vital step in the writing continuum. If you cannot read what your child has written, ask them. The most important thing is that they are putting their ideas on paper. Grade two writing develops a great deal throughout the year. Grade twos begin to play with genres, sounds and words to breathe life into their story writing. |
| Phonics- Grade one and two is a great time to play with words, songs and rhymes. In class we will be doing a lot of word play through songs and poems. I encourage you to do the same at home.  |
| Sight Words- In September your child will be bringing a small package of sight words. He or she will need to practice at home and at school.  |
| Words Their Way- this year I will not be sending home a traditional spelling list. Instead we will be examining and manipulating groups of words in groups. From experience, students do not remember spelling words that are memorized from week to week. Instead they will learn patterns through inquiry which has been shown to be far more beneficial that traditional spelling lists.  |
| Our language arts time will be spent with me for the majority of the time but the Grade 2 students will be learning phonics, some words their way and some reading time with Miss Laura.  |

**Science-**

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| This year I will be teaching grade one and two science together. We will be studying: |
| * Hot and Cold Temperatures, Exploring Liquids, Boats and Buoyancy, Magnets, Small Crawling and Flying Animals
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**Social-**

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| **Grade One Social Studies** examines a person’s role within their community. With Miss Laura the Grade One students will focus on:* My World: Home, School and Community
* Moving Forward with the Past: My Family, My History, My Community.
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| **Grade Two Social Studies** examines Canada’s Dynamic communities along with Communities in the Past. I will guide the Grade 2’s through an adventure around 3 of Canada’s Dynamic communities:* Meteghan, Nova Scotia
* Iqaluit, Nunavut
* Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
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| If any families have connection to any of these three communities I would love to hear from you! (The students may come home saying that they are leaving on a trip to one of these places-we will be **pretending** to travel to each community) |

Please come in and say hi or feel free to call me at the school 403 934 4161 or email me at Jennifer.Lazaruk@ghsd75.ca if you have any questions, concerns or comments about your child’s education. Our classroom website is [www.lazarukclassroomsite.weebly.com](http://www.lazarukclassroomsite.weebly.com)

I am excited for the year ahead, and I hope you are too!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lazaruk

\*I have included a Parent Goal sheet with this letter. Please fill out and return within the first few weeks of school.

Parent Goals

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| Student |  |
| Parent(s) |  |
| Date |  |

Please list below the goals you would like to see for your child. Include such things as subjects you would like to see improvement in, skills your child could be better at, and attitudes that could be changed. **Feel free to be as brief or as lengthy as you wish.**

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What do you think are your child’s learning strengths?

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What do you think are you child’s learning difficulties?

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What is your child’s self-concept like?

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Describe your child’s relationships with his/her friends and/or brothers and sisters.

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What are your child’s strengths and interests? Include involvement in activities and lessons and how busy he/she is during the week.

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What would you like to see from me as your child’s teacher?

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Any other important information

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Would you be available to volunteer with our class? Reading with students during the school day, putting together Scholastic orders, preparing items from home. If so what would you be interested in helping out with?

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