

September 1st, 2011

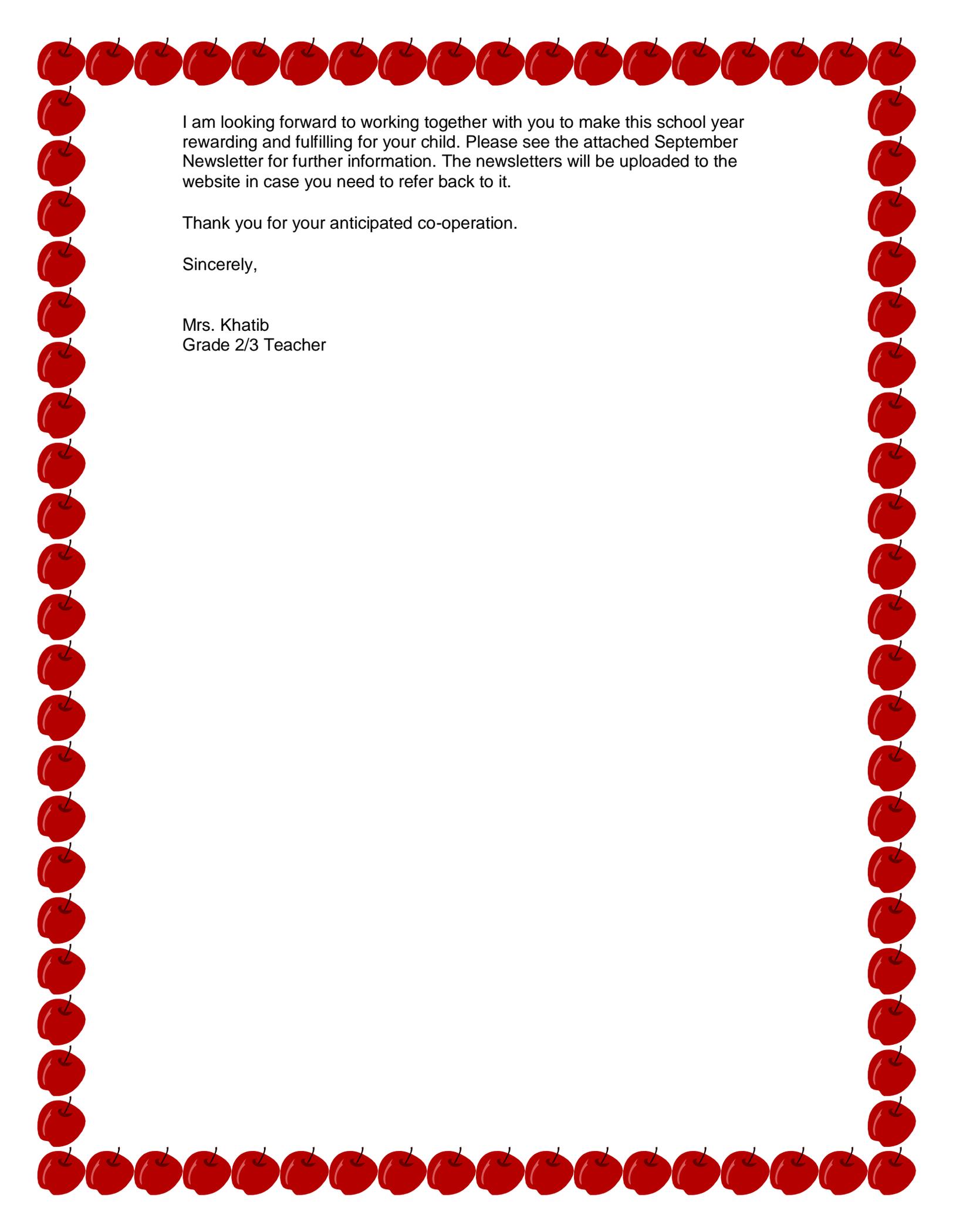
Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child back to Jessie Duncan School for another school year. For those who are new to the school community we would like to extend a special welcome. We hope you have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. The year ahead will be filled with many exciting challenges and wonderful learning opportunities.

This year, your child will be in a 2/3 blend class. This is good news. It means that your child will have the opportunity to develop stronger independent work skills, work cooperatively with others and will benefit from a wider range of learning opportunities. Children in grade two will have opportunities for more challenge and students in the upper grade will have the learning from their previous year reinforced and enriched. Older children will also be peer tutors – a win-win situation for children in both grades. By their very nature, combined classrooms are a little more flexible and enable children to work at different levels and to develop a wider range of interests.

A little bit about me, Michelle Khatib. I have been teaching for the past 22 years in a variety of teaching (K-9) and administrative roles such as Curriculum Coordination, Director of Educational Technology and Vice-Principal. I am very pleased to serve as Vice-Principal at Jessie Duncan and I am looking forward to a wonderful year! For a complete biography, to see homework or my blog, please visit our brand new website: [http://www.jessieduncan.ca/Staff.php?user\\_id=1504](http://www.jessieduncan.ca/Staff.php?user_id=1504) (Ask your child about the grade 2/3 website treasure hunt so that they can get their name into a draw for a special prize!).

It is my belief that we are working together as partners in the education of your child. As partners, we should all be fully aware of your child's progress. During this school year, I will be sending work and assignments home and ask that you sign the agenda (SOS) daily as an acknowledgement that you have seen it. Please feel free to comment in your child's agenda and to contact me at the school anytime. Students will be starting a Guided Reading program next week, so we ask that you read 20 minutes a night with your child and record it on the Reading Log that is attached to this letter.



I am looking forward to working together with you to make this school year rewarding and fulfilling for your child. Please see the attached September Newsletter for further information. The newsletters will be uploaded to the website in case you need to refer back to it.

Thank you for your anticipated co-operation.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Khatib  
Grade 2/3 Teacher

## September Newsletter



### *Important Dates:*

Sept 5th – Labour Day Holiday – no school  
Sept 14th – Monthly Assembly and Choir – 2:20 p.m.  
Sept 21st – School Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m.  
Sept 22nd – Terry Fox Run at the school  
Sept 23rd – Holiday - no school

### *Communication*

As mentioned above, teachers and parents can communicate together through the agenda (SOS) book as this is read daily by the teacher. There are times when I would like to show you your child's work or to send you a quick note. If you could fill out the form information on the last page indicating your current email it would be greatly appreciated. Parents will receive three report cards (Nov, March and June), and student led conferences are in March. If you have any questions or concerns please send me a note in the SOS and we can set up a mutually convenient time to meet.

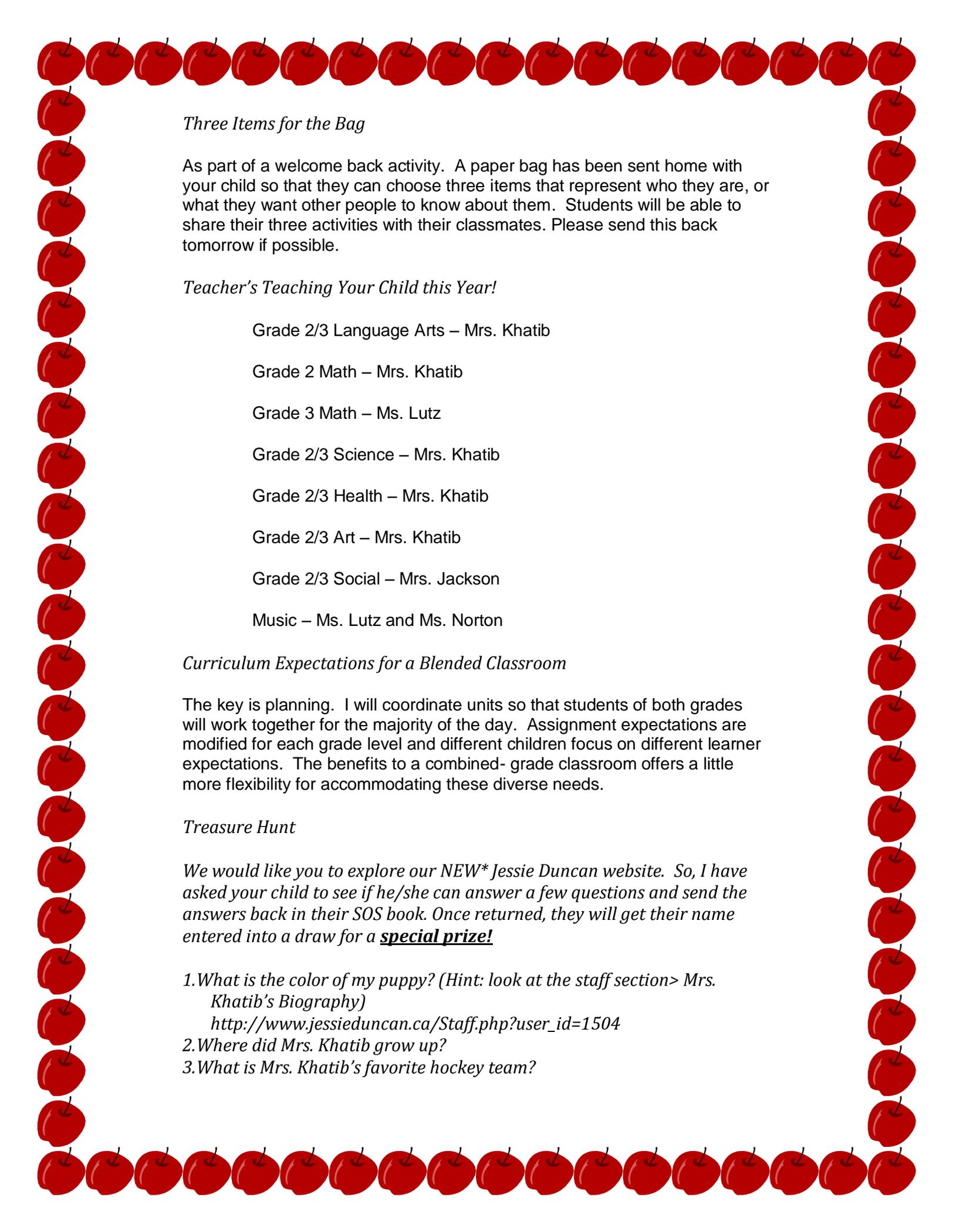
Jessie Duncan has created a new school webpage. Teacher's biographies are posted as well as homework (attachments that might be useful), and links to grade information. School newsletters will also be posted here. Please sign up to receive these by going to the bottom of the home website - <http://www.jessieduncan.ca/index.php>

### *Neighborhood Walk*

There are times throughout the year when I would like to take the children on a community walk to look at leaves, changes in the neighborhood (science/social), buildings and structures that are in our neighborhood etc.... Please sign the permission form on the last page to allow your child to partake in these activities.

### *Scholastic Books*

Book orders will be sent home on a monthly basis to promote excitement and love for reading. Please watch the deadline date indicated on the form so that you don't miss out!



### *Three Items for the Bag*

As part of a welcome back activity. A paper bag has been sent home with your child so that they can choose three items that represent who they are, or what they want other people to know about them. Students will be able to share their three activities with their classmates. Please send this back tomorrow if possible.

### *Teacher's Teaching Your Child this Year!*

Grade 2/3 Language Arts – Mrs. Khatib

Grade 2 Math – Mrs. Khatib

Grade 3 Math – Ms. Lutz

Grade 2/3 Science – Mrs. Khatib

Grade 2/3 Health – Mrs. Khatib

Grade 2/3 Art – Mrs. Khatib

Grade 2/3 Social – Mrs. Jackson

Music – Ms. Lutz and Ms. Norton

### *Curriculum Expectations for a Blended Classroom*

The key is planning. I will coordinate units so that students of both grades will work together for the majority of the day. Assignment expectations are modified for each grade level and different children focus on different learner expectations. The benefits to a combined- grade classroom offers a little more flexibility for accommodating these diverse needs.

### *Treasure Hunt*

*We would like you to explore our NEW\* Jessie Duncan website. So, I have asked your child to see if he/she can answer a few questions and send the answers back in their SOS book. Once returned, they will get their name entered into a draw for a **special prize!***

- 1. What is the color of my puppy? (Hint: look at the staff section > Mrs. Khatib's Biography)  
[http://www.jessieduncan.ca/Staff.php?user\\_id=1504](http://www.jessieduncan.ca/Staff.php?user_id=1504)*
- 2. Where did Mrs. Khatib grow up?*
- 3. What is Mrs. Khatib's favorite hockey team?*



### *Lunches/Peanuts*

Parents please note that we do not have a microwave or kettle, so please do not send anything that needs to be warmed up. We are also striving to be a nut free school due to the numerous peanut allergies. Please do not send any items containing nuts to school with your child.

### *Guided Reading Books*

Mrs. Miller has been so kind to donate her Guided Reading books to our 2/3 classroom. Students will be allowed to take one book home starting next week. We ask that you reinforce with your child the importance of looking after the book with care. We understand that sometimes things do go missing. If the student does lose a book, we ask that you send in \$5.00 as a replacement fee. If you find the book later in the year, we will return your money. 😊

If you have any books/games at home that your child no longer reads and would like to donate this to the classroom it would be graciously appreciated.

### *Recess*

There are three recesses a day so please make sure that your child is appropriately dressed for the weather.

### *Afterschool*

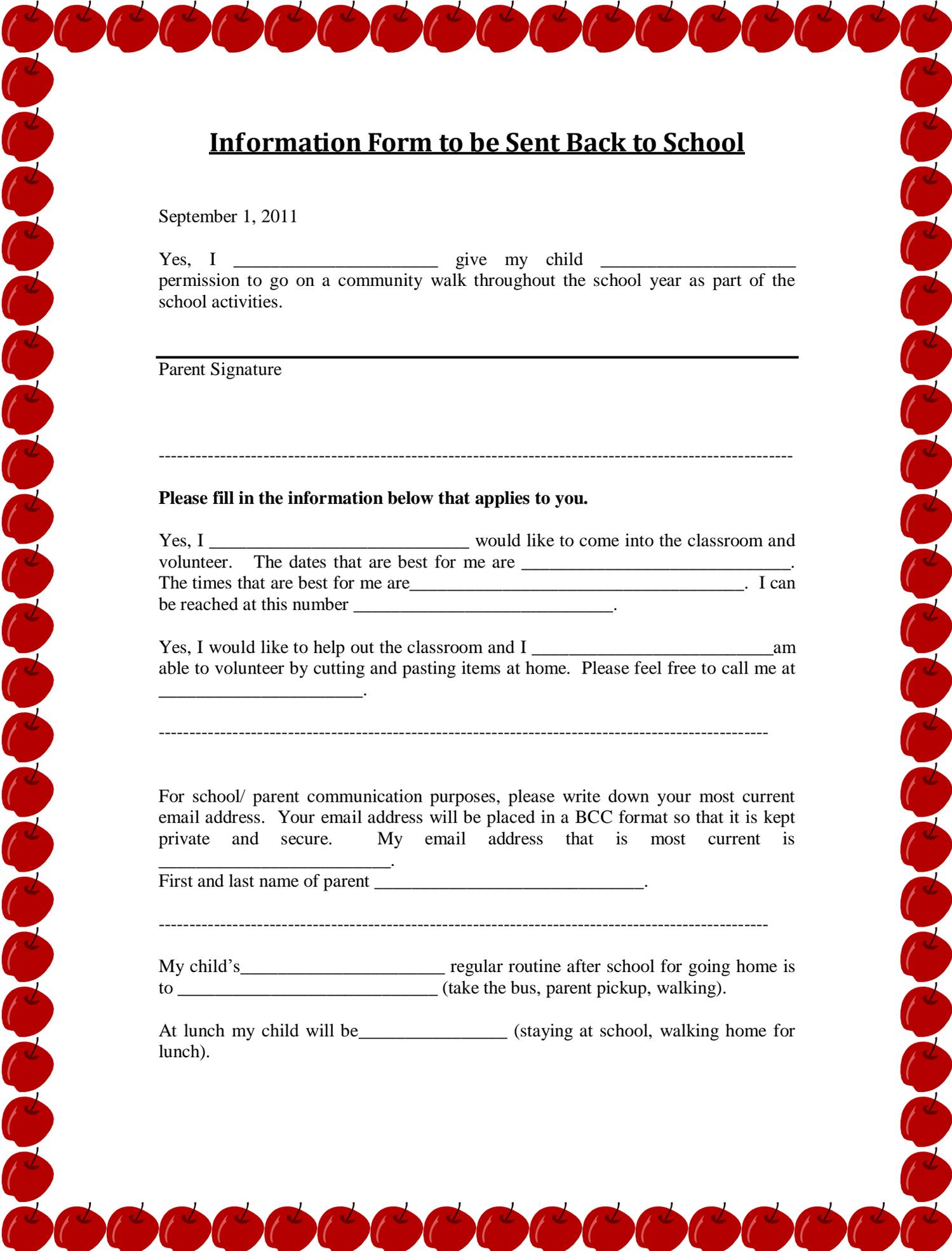
Please let me know your regular plans for your child going home after school. Please indicate on the form if they are a bus student, parent picks them up, or if they walk. It is also very important that your child knows their plan for going home each day as well. If the regular routine should change please let me know by writing this in the SOS book.

### *Student of the Week*

Your child will be given the opportunity throughout the year to become the student of the week. A special poster will be sent home next week to all students so that they can start to put together their information to share with others. Please help your child with this activity as pictures and other family information can be added. When you are done with the poster, you can send it back to school even if it isn't their week yet.

### *Volunteers Needed*

If you are able to volunteer in the school, please fill out the form below indicating the times that would be best for you. When I am in need of a volunteer for specific activities, I will draw on this list. Thanks so much!



## Information Form to be Sent Back to School

September 1, 2011

Yes, I \_\_\_\_\_ give my child \_\_\_\_\_ permission to go on a community walk throughout the school year as part of the school activities.

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Parent Signature

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**Please fill in the information below that applies to you.**

Yes, I \_\_\_\_\_ would like to come into the classroom and volunteer. The dates that are best for me are \_\_\_\_\_. The times that are best for me are \_\_\_\_\_. I can be reached at this number \_\_\_\_\_.

Yes, I would like to help out the classroom and I \_\_\_\_\_ am able to volunteer by cutting and pasting items at home. Please feel free to call me at \_\_\_\_\_.

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For school/ parent communication purposes, please write down your most current email address. Your email address will be placed in a BCC format so that it is kept private and secure. My email address that is most current is \_\_\_\_\_.

First and last name of parent \_\_\_\_\_.

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My child's \_\_\_\_\_ regular routine after school for going home is to \_\_\_\_\_ (take the bus, parent pickup, walking).

At lunch my child will be \_\_\_\_\_ (staying at school, walking home for lunch).