



September 5, 2023

Welcome to Our Grade 1 Class

My name is Rod Peterson, and I am very happy to be your child's teacher this year. Grade 1 is a time of new beginnings, of making friends, and of learning new concepts each and every day. It is a time to have fun while learning and a time for growth and success for each student. Our days and weeks will be filled with many wonderful experiences and opportunities for learning and growing. This is my twenty first year of teaching and I am looking forward to another great year. I have lived in the Onoway/Rich Valley area for over 47 years and attended Onoway Jr./Sr. High School from grade 7 to 12. I have a wife, three children, all of which are married, and I have seven grandchildren. Our family enjoys camping and spending time together.

Our classroom will consist of a safe environment where students will have the opportunity to be risk takers. It will be a classroom where students respect themselves and others. We will have rules for both in the classroom and outside the classroom. These rules have been discussed during class today. Our classroom encourages children to see themselves as readers, writers, problem solvers and critical thinkers. We value the process as well as the product, and understand that all children are unique individuals.

Our daily literacy lessons will consist of the following:

Read Aloud - Teacher reads stories / poems that are at or above the students' independent and guided reading levels. This familiarizes students with book language, story structure, descriptions, plot development, concepts of print, phonics and phonemic awareness, and the love of literature.

Shared Reading - Provides the beginning support that enables children to read independently. The teacher reads a story to the whole group or class. During rereading, the children participate, reading more and more of the text.

Guided Reading - A small group, teacher-directed process that helps the children to develop the reading strategies they need to become independent readers.

Independent Reading - Provides opportunities during the day for children to practice and internalize strategies learned during shared and guided reading, using many different types of text.

Write Aloud / Modeled Writing - The teacher models the processes an author uses in planning and writing a story or other product, for the whole class or a small group.

Shared Writing - The teacher and the children work together through the processes that occur in writing: concepts and conventions of print, sound/symbol relations, phonics, and spelling.

Guided Writing - The children write with or for the teacher, following the same processes as Shared Writing.

Independent Writing - Children learn to write by writing for their own purposes and from their own experiences. They learn to think of themselves as authors, making good writing decisions while employing the entire Writing Process (from first draft through editing to "published" product). Additional practice of discrete skills may be in the form of directed writing involving short writing assignments.

It is my firm belief that reading is of the utmost importance and it is my goal to ensure that each student is reading to the best of his or her ability.

In science, we will investigate colour, seasonal changes, building things, senses and the needs of plants and animals.

In social, we will explore "My World: Home, School and Community" and "Moving Forward with the Past: My Family, My History, My Community".

In math, we will build on skills learned in Kindergarten. We will focus on number and what number is, as well as build on important math concepts including sorting, counting, classifying, patterns, measurement, and addition and subtraction.

Your child has brought home an agenda today; please check the date in your child's agenda every day for any messages. In addition, could you please sign your child's agenda every day. If the agenda is signed then I know you have seen any important messages. Feel free to comment on the dates if there is any information that I need to know. **If you could please move the ruler/page marker to the next page once that page is completed that would be great!**

We will begin the year by reviewing the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they make. Each day I will be asking the students to bring one word from home for each letter that we have reviewed.

I will post a weekly newsletter on our school website, as well, a monthly digital version will be available to keep you informed as to the happenings within our classroom and school. Our school website address is <http://richvalleyschool.ca/>

I will be sending out reminders of events happening in our classroom and within our school using the **Remind App**. It is a great and simple communication tool to help you stay up to date with the school's events. **You will find a sheet attached that will explain how to join Remind and stay informed throughout the year.**

If you have any concerns now or throughout the year, please do not hesitate to call me. Our number at the school is 967-5754.

Have a great day!

Rod Peterson