

**South March Public School
Grade One EFI
Orma Courtenay**

Room 133- the last classroom on the first floor as you head out the back doors.

Dear Parents,

Welcome to grade one! I've tried to anticipate some of your immediate questions. Answers below.

Who are you?: I've been at South March since 2010, and teaching for over 20 years from K-8, but mostly primary French grades. I love teaching grade one and look forward to getting to know your children and you and having a "ONE"derful year.

What do you teach?: I teach French Language Arts, Physical Education and Health, the Arts (music, visual arts and drama), Science and Technology, and Social Studies. These subjects are taught in French.

Who teaches Math?: Mrs. Amy Kroeker teaches Math in English. I'm really happy to be working with Amy this year!

Communication: I update my blog on Sundays with learning goals, and I add relevant links and interesting information on a regular basis. I encourage you to subscribe to the blog to get email updates of new blog posts. I send a short email of reminders and weekly highlights on Monday mornings, and usually follow up on Thursday or Friday with a second email. I try to limit emails to one or two a week. I'll send out a test email the first week of school to ensure I have my distribution list set up properly. Please fill in the email slip attached and return tomorrow if possible.

I welcome your questions and encourage you to contact me via email as the first and most time efficient and reliable way to reach me. You may also send a message via your child's note tote or call the school.

Blog mmect.edublogs.org

Email orma.courtenay-taylor@ocdsb.ca

Balanced Day schedule-

9:00 to 9:15	Students and buses arrive at school
9:15	Classes begin
11:15 to 12:00	First Nutrition Break (lunch/outside play)
2:00 to 2:45	Second Nutrition Break (lunch/outside play)
3:45	Students are dismissed

Walkers are picked up at the back of the school **promptly at 3:45. Please understand that I walk bus children and daycare children to their locations as well and cannot wait in the playground.** If you are ever a little late arriving, don't worry, as your child will be brought to the office for you to pick up there. Parking can often be very difficult at the end of the day, so if you are driving please allow extra time. Dismissal will be by either me, or Mrs. Kroeker.

If you are late arriving to school in the morning bring your child to the office so that s/he can be signed in through the office. If you need to pick up your child during the day, please ensure you visit the office. I, in turn, will be notified to send your son or daughter to the office to meet you.

Library: Every Thursday.

Visitors: All visitors are required to report to the office via the front doors upon entry to the school and are expected to wear a visitor nametag while in the school.

Volunteers: I welcome volunteers on either a regular or occasional basis. Drop me a line if you are interested and we can chat.

Shoes: Please ensure your child has indoor and outdoor shoes. Both shoes need to be appropriate for physical activity as we have both indoor and outdoor gym.

Please turn over page....

Homework- I believe that homework, young children, and busy families make a challenging mix! I encourage you, whenever possible, to spend time daily reading in both your first language and French. As a working mum with three children, I understand that life gets busy and homework programs can create stress in your lives. As such, please just do your best and feel free to contact me if you have concerns or questions. I will send home a weekly homework package with reading booklets and suggestions for home discussions and activities **starting in October** (I like the children to ease into grade one routines). I'll explain more of the homework goals at that time. Homework will be sent home every Friday and returned the following Thursday. You can take a peek at my blog for homework suggestions if you want to start early or add to the program I send home.

Lunch: Grade ones may find it a bit difficult to decide what part of their lunch to eat first and how quickly they need to finish their lunches- I give them lots of time and support with this challenge. I remind the children to eat the nutritious part of their lunches first (e.g., half a sandwich, cheese, or other protein food).

Lunch programs: In the past we have had both pizza and Lunch Lady days on a weekly basis. I will let you know any information as soon as I have the info.

Note Totes: I will only send home note totes when there is a letter, schoolwork, or information to go home and ask that you return the note totes the next day.

Media Permission forms/ office forms: (sent home via note totes) I kindly ask that office forms are signed and returned as promptly as possible. I try to send an email reminder about forms as I know paper sometimes get lost in backpacks.

Birthday Party Invitations: I'm happy to discreetly distribute birthday invitations on your behalf if you wish. Just send them in with a note.

Supplies: This is the list that our school board uses. I stress the importance of personal responsibility and reinforce the importance of taking care of materials. I keep extra supplies in a labeled box and children are expected to ask me when they need something replaced. It's super helpful if you are able to send in a few extra glue sticks as the children use them frequently. Don't worry if you have not sent in supplies yet, I will ensure all children have access to supplies.

2 erasers (preferably white) 12 pencils 1 package of crayons (please label) 1 package of coloured pencils (label) 1 package of coloured markers (label)	1 metric ruler (label) 1 pair of blunt scissors (label) 2 large glue sticks (label) more if possible please indoor shoes (Velcro closures are the best for grade one-label)
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Bus Information: Please bookmark the following transportation site, as you will find the information posted here useful (especially on snowy days when you wonder if the buses are running). You can check if a bus is delayed and you can sign up to receive emails from transportation (I do this and find it very helpful as they inform you early in the morning via email.) <http://www.ottawaschoolbus.ca>

Outside play: Children have two outdoor play times at 30 minutes each, as well as daily physical activity (either in the gym, outside, or the classroom). Children should dress appropriately for playtime, activity time, and the weather.

School website: Please check this link for calendar updates, information about the school council, and lots more. <http://southmarchps.ocdsb.ca/>

School Council: Parents are warmly invited to join the school council. Please check the school blog for more information.

I'll be updating my blog and sending out an email to you all this week.
Here's to a great year!