

Mike Mountain Horse Elementary School
Principal: Mrs. Erin Hurkett
Vice Principal: Mr. David Nussbaumer
155 Jerry Potts Boulevard
Lethbridge Alberta T1K 6G8
Phone (403) 381-2211 Fax (403) 329-0547



Ms. Martin's Grade 3B Handbook

Welcome to the 3B Family!

I would like to welcome you and your child to a new year at Mike Mountain Horse Elementary School! I am so excited about what we will be doing in class over the next 10 months. Grade 3 is a truly fantastic time in your child's learning journey! Students will develop their independence, leadership skills, and overall sense of responsibility. A key priority for me will be to create a safe and caring classroom community where each student can achieve success in their own way.

As we settle into our daily classroom routines, there are a few things that you will need to know. I have outlined some of these initial thoughts in the letter below. However, should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Communication

I look forward to your participation and support through our journey of becoming better readers, writers, mathematicians, scientists, artists, and thinkers.

Agendas: We will be writing in our agendas daily so please take the time **every night to read it, sign it, and then send it back**. If you need to send notes to school please send them in the pocket at the front of your child's agenda. You may also write in the comments section under each date if you need. This year the agenda fee is \$10 and must be paid using School Cash Online.

Class Website: Class information and newsletters will be posted on our class website. This can be accessed at www.missmartin3b.weebly.com. Should you need specific newsletters in hardcopy, then please let me know and I will do my best to make that happen for you!

Class Dojo: Class Dojo is a super fun way for students to share their learning and success with you. As the year progresses, and we start to get settled in, students will learn how to send you tidbits about their day in the form of an online portfolio. Class Dojo also allows me to share with you about upcoming events, cool learning moments, and your child's behavior. Please see the **attached letter to join our class** and learn further about how this works!

Bell Times

The Mike Mountain Horse bell times are:

Monday –Thursday:

8:15	Warning Bell
8:20	School begins
10:00-10:15	Morning recess
11:45-12:25	Lunch recess
1:55-2:05	Afternoon recess
3:10	Home time

Friday:

8:15	Warning Bell
8:20 - 11:35	Morning

Please note: Students only attend a **half-day of school on Friday's with dismissal at 11:35*

Morning supervision begins at 8:00 am. Please do not drop students off before then. Students are to remain outside the building until the morning bell. Please encourage your child to dress for the weather.

Home Reading

- ❖ We will start our home reading program **in late September**. We will be joining Mrs. Moore's class for our **"I P.U.T. Reading First" challenge**. Stay tuned for more details in a couple weeks! In the mean time, I encourage you and your child to start getting back into the routine of reading at home. Taking the time to **listen to and to read with your child** is the foundation for supporting your child's reading progress. Should you ever have any questions about how best to support your child's reading then please contact me, I would love to help in any way that I can!

Spelling

- ❖ We will be doing a **differentiated spelling program** called "Words Their Way". This means that your child will be working on spelling words that are at their individual spelling level. Students will receive their new words on **Mondays** and then show their understanding of these words the **next Friday**. This will occur over a **two-week span** so that students have a chance to really delve into their individual lists.

Library

- ❖ The students will have Library once a week on **Mondays**. They will be allowed to take out **two books**. Please help your child look after the books by keeping them in a safe place at home until it is returned to school the following Monday.

Shoes

- ❖ It is important that each student has **a pair of indoor shoes** that they can change into at school. This helps keep our classroom and school clean. Indoor shoes should also be **useable for gym classes** so please choose something safe for students to be running in. Please make sure to label the shoes with your child's name.

Allergies and Medical Conditions

- ❖ Please let myself, and the office know if your child has an allergies or medical conditions **as soon as possible**.
- ❖ Should your child have any medical concerns throughout the year please keep me advised as to how I can best help. Please note that the school is not allowed to administer any medication without proper documentation. Should you have any questions about this then please contact the office.

Birthdays

- ❖ Should you wish to send special snacks with your child on the day of their birthday **please talk to me several days in advance**. Also, **please have a discussion with your child about birthday invitations**. By Grade 3, students have figured out what those little envelopes mean and this has become an issue in the past. Therefore, please talk to your child about etiquette when receiving or not receiving an invitation. Encourage your child to be quietly thankful by placing the invitation in their backpack and opening it at home. Encourage graciousness even if they did not receive an invite. Parties can be expensive and parents can't always afford to invite many children. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Water Bottles

- ❖ Please **send a water bottle** to school for your child to use in class. This helps prevent students from missing out on lessons while at the water fountain. The water bottles will be sent home on Fridays to be washed over the weekend and brought back on Mondays.

Weather

- ❖ We live in Alberta, and that means that the weather can be unpredictable. Make it your child's job to check the weather each morning and then pack accordingly. It is never a bad idea to keep a toque, and mittens in the backpack at all times. Remember your child spends at least 45 minutes outside each day and when they are not dressed properly this can be uncomfortable. Sometimes children are driven to the door and forget that they don't spend the day inside. **Please help your child dress for the weather.**

Show N' Teach

- ❖ Students will have several opportunities throughout the year to share something with the class. **On Friday's students will participate in a Show N' Teach led by one of their classmates.** Students may teach a special skill, share about their culture, teach about a special item, etc. These student led learning opportunities will help build our classroom community and develop our presenting and respectful listening skills. A schedule for your child and more explicit directions will be sent out once our classroom list has stabilized.
- ❖ Other than on their special day, I ask that you **discourage your child from bringing toys to school.** They can be very distracting and problems can occur if they are lost or broken. There will be opportunities throughout the year for the students to bring in specific items from home. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Scholastic Book Orders

- ❖ Each month **a book order will be sent home.** There is **no obligation to purchase** from the orders however, if you are interested, the purchases made earn us bonus books for our classroom library! The return date for the order will be written in our agendas. The order form must be returned with a cheque made out to Scholastic Canada or be prepaid online following the link on the order form. It usually takes 2-3 weeks for the orders to be delivered.



Setting Up Meetings

- ❖ One of my favourite parts about this job is building connections with students and their families. I truly believe that the partnership between school and home is crucial in fostering student success. I encourage you to contact me should you ever have any questions or concerns. With this said, I do request that you would phone me, email me, or use Class Dojo to schedule meetings to discuss your child's progress. Your child deserves my time and attention and it is hard to expect the children to learn and be on task if I am pulled out to do this during teaching time. In the same regard, please remember that if your child comes early to school they must stay outside until the bell. During the day if you need them, I ask out of courtesy, that parents knock before entering. It is less disruptive and models to the children etiquette for social situations in the daily world. Thanks in advance for your help on this!

Parent Volunteers

- ❖ Let me just say thank you in advance! Parent volunteers, you do amazing things for classrooms and for our school. We cannot thank you enough! There will be several occasions throughout the year where help from parents will be very appreciated. These include classroom parties, field trips, and special school days. There will be a **sign-up sheet with more information at Meet the Teacher night.**

UPCOMINGS EVENTS

September 12th:

Meet the Teacher 6:00-7:00pm

September 14th:

Picture Day

September 22nd:

Terry Fox Walk

September 26th:

Hot Lunch Gr. 1-3

September 29th:

Orange Shirt Day

I look forward to talking with you further at Meet the Teacher night.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Wishing you all the best,

Abby Martin

abby.martin@lethsd.ab.ca

403-381-2211

