Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Grade 3! We have a busy and exciting year ahead of us! My name is Heather Standish and I look forward to getting to know you and your child this year. I have taught with the Calgary Board of Education as well as Red Deer Catholic Regional Schools. I have been at St. Patrick’s Community School for almost two years and absolutely love our fabulous school!

One of my goals is to make your child’s learning experience a fun and exciting one, and to instill a love of learning that will last throughout your child’s years of schooling. I will be communicating with you on a regular basis – through your child’s agenda, my website which is connected to the school’s website, monthly newsletters, notes, telephone calls, emails and parent-teacher conferences. Please ensure that you attend your scheduled parent meetings so that we can discuss your child’s progress. I also encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at any time. You can write a note in the agenda, send me an email at heather.standish@rdcrs.ca or call the school at 403.343.3238.

It is very beneficial for a parent to be involved in the education of their child. It does lead to greater success for students. Here are some ways that you can help to ensure your child is reaching their full potential:

-Celebrate your child’s success, no matter how small it may seem. This will keep your child enthusiastic about learning and proud of their work!

-If possible, read to and with your child every day. The more your child is exposed to language, the easier it will be for him or her to incorporate new skills in reading and writing in the classroom.

-Practice basic facts.

-Look for and read your child’s daily agenda message and monthly letter.

**Here are some important notes that will help our year run smoothly:**

**DROP OFF AND PICK UP**:

Students are not permitted in the classroom before class begins. When you are picking up your child after school, please be prompt. Late pickups and early drop offs leave teachers without adequate time for preparation.

**AGENDA:**

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!! Please check your child’s agenda on a daily basis and sign your child’s agenda every evening after reading any information it contains. This will be used as our biggest form of communication. It will let you know of any homework or upcoming assignments your child may have, upcoming school events, important information regarding your child in the classroom and is used to carry any newsletters, permission forms, etc.

**SNACKS:**

We will have scheduled snack time each day. Please include a healthy snack and water. Water is preferable because it does not contain sugar and is very easy to clean when spills happen. Please keep in mind that we strive to be a nut free school.

**VOLUNTEERING AT THE SCHOOL/ATTENDING FIELD TRIPS:**

Parents/Guardians are always welcome in the school! If you wish to volunteer in the classroom, please let me know which day you would like to come in and I will ensure that there are prepared tasks for you. Parents are always needed for school field trips! Prior to volunteering at the school or attending a field trip with your child, please keep in mind that our district requires all volunteers to complete a criminal record check through the RCMP. The cost for this service is $5.00. Once these are complete they are valid for a three year period and will not have to be completed again until the three years expire. Please ensure your criminal record check is up to date before volunteering in the classroom or attending a field trip. Forms can be found at the school office and will need to be dropped off there as well, once the RCMP has completed their check (which can take up to three weeks).

**TOYS/VALUABLE ITEMS:**

Please do not send toys or items of value (monetary or personal) to school with your child. Toys can get broken, are difficult to share and may get misplaced. Your child will have a chance to share a special time during his or her turn as Student of the Week – this is the only time toys or items of value should be sent to school with your child.

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK:**

Next week, we will begin our Student of the Week program. You will be provided with a year schedule of when your child will be Student of the Week. Please ensure you keep up to date on when it is your child’s turn. A poster board will be sent home with your child in case they choose to create a poster about themselves. This program gives each child an opportunity to share things about himself or herself, be the teacher’s helper, enjoy special privileges, bring a show and tell item, create a poster about themselves (poster paper will be provided) and feel extra special!

Please watch for upcoming agenda messages regarding Raz Kids.

I feel honored to have the opportunity to work with your child. I am looking forward to a wonderful school year! Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Heather Standish