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## 3.1 Homework

In the primary grades (1-3) formal homework assignments are not given. Each week they will have some memory work (a Psalm or Hymn) and they may have to review reading words, spelling words or math drills. It is important that if any of these students have any homework that it is done.

From grade 4 through 7 students will receive some homework from time to time. In the intermediate grades, students are expected to study for tests or reviews, and finish work not completed at school. As our children get older they should learn the self-discipline of homework responsibilities but in most cases that learning will not take place unless they are carefully monitored by their parents.

A few guidelines may help your children do their homework.

### 3.1.1 Suggestions for Homework

Many parents have found the following ideas work well:

- 1) Have a set time in the day for homework.
- 2) Provide a suitable place for children to do their homework;
  - good lighting
  - a flat working surface
  - a straight chair
  - privacy
- 3) Take an interest in their work by discussing an aspect of their work with them from time to time.
- 4) Create an atmosphere for homework by eliminating distracting noises and fostering a quiet environment for concentrated work and study.
- 5) If your child has trouble organizing his/her time, help him/her to set up a work schedule.

## 3.2 Emergencies

### 3.2.1 Medical

On occasion it happens that a child is involved in an accident at school or at a school-related activity and requires professional medical treatment. Normally such treatment will not be administered without parental consent. For this reason, we immediately call the injured child's home. The child's parent either comes to school and takes the child in for treatment or proceeds straight to the medical clinic where the child has already been brought by a staff member.

Under normal circumstances, this procedure works fine. However, the procedure goes awry when we cannot reach either of the child's parents. When this happens, the child is left waiting for treatment for what could be a very long time if no alternative way of getting parental consent is found. In order to prevent the possibility that children have to wait too long for medical treatment because their parents cannot be reached, we use medical consent forms. On these forms parents give advance consent to emergency medical treatment in the event that they cannot be reached.

During the first week of school in September, parents will receive medical consent forms. On these forms we would like you to fill in the required family information and whatever medical information about your children that you think is important for us to know (e.g. allergies: bee stings, penicillin). It should be well understood that these forms will only be used if parents cannot be reached at the time of an emergency.

The staff also dispenses tylenol tablets to children if necessary. If you feel your child should not receive these tablets please indicate this on the medical consent forms.

### **3.2.2 Fire Drills**

Government legislation requires all schools to practise fire drills on a regular basis (at least three drills in the Fall and three drills in the Spring). The first time we have a fire drill everyone is warned. Subsequent drills, however, are carried out without any warning. If your child does not wear the proper footwear, (s)he may balk at the door when (s)he notices that the gravel or pavement is wet. This could cause a lot of confusion and trouble. Don't forget, these drills are carried out for the safety of your children. Please help us by making sure that your children have proper indoor footwear.

### **3.2.3 Earthquake Drills**

Our school is in an earthquake zone. Therefore it is important that our students know about earthquakes and what they should do in an earthquake situation. Parents are encouraged to talk about these matters at home, and we will discuss them at school. Also, several times during the year we will have an earthquake drill.

## **3.3 First Day of School**

The first school day of the term is (usually) the first Tuesday after Labour Day, in September. Since this is a regular school day, your children should come to school equipped with their lunches and indoor shoes.

### **3.3.1 Opening Devotions**

First thing in the morning, we have an opening assembly to officially begin the new school year with the appropriate Christian devotions. The principal and the chairman of the Board will welcome the students and staff to school and wish them God's blessing in their work.

**Parents are welcome to attend this assembly.**

### **3.3.2 Supplies**

On the first day of school all students must have a pair of indoor shoes which will also be suitable for Phys. Ed. classes.

All students must have proper P.E. clothes (which includes shorts and T-shirt).

## **3.4 Bussing - Transportation -- Discipline** (See [Transportation Committee Section 6.2.1, p.](#) )

## **3.5 School Cancellation**

### **3.5.1 Before School (a.m.)**

In case of inclement weather, the Transportation Committee will authorize the cancellation of bus services. They will inform the bus drivers, principal and the radio stations to request public announcements on the air. Announcements will be made on: **107.1 & 98.3 Star FM, and CKNW AM 98**

The CTM will also initiate the calling of the parents on the bus routes in the order given on the bus route lists published at the beginning of each school year. Each family called will be asked to co-operate by phoning the next family on the list.

### **3.5.2 During School Hours**

If the weather becomes inclement during the school day, the principal will cancel school, inform the bus-drivers and initiate the telephone chain to contact parents. Please make the necessary arrangements to

provide your child(ren) with an address to go to if you are regularly away from home during the day.

## **3.6 Library**

### **3.6.1 Goals**

The Library in the John Calvin School has four important functions or goals:

- 1) to provide curriculum resource and support materials for student use in research and enrichment;
- 2) to provide students with fiction and non-fiction reading materials for enrichment and literature development, commensurate to the students' needs;
- 3) to provide teachers and resource personnel with reading support, and reading resource materials at student reading levels, relevant to all areas of the curriculum;
- 4) to provide the students with their teacher/librarian an appropriate environment for research, study and reflection, simply to enjoy and share good books and good reading.

Each class has a scheduled library class every week, during which students may sign out 2 books for a period of 2 weeks. Books may be taken home, but must be returned (or renewed) on or before the due date. If students have overdue books, they may not sign out any books. Books more than 2 weeks overdue are considered **lost**. A "lost book" fee of \$5.00 must be paid before the student's borrowing privileges are restored. If the book is subsequently found and returned, the \$5.00 is refunded.

## **3.7 Ladies' Aid**

The John Calvin Ladies' Aid Auxiliary is a group of volunteers who work together to raise money to purchase extra non-budgeted items for the staff and students of the John Calvin School. This group is made up from: Abbotsford and Chilliwack and Yarrow.

The ladies meet together once per month to discuss the various fund raisers and to share new ideas on how to raise money. The ladies host several different fund raisers throughout the year and together work on the annual bazaar. Our fund raisers include: selling tarts, apple pies, cakes, crafts, talent auction, pancake breakfast, school dinner and a bazaar. Membership is open to all ladies who are interested in our school.

## **3.8 Co-operation with Other Schools**

In the Fraser Valley our Canadian Reformed Schools are a small community and therefore in the interest of fellowship, learning and even to develop a Christian attitude to competition in sports or more academic pursuits, we have planned a number of inter-scholastic activities: soccer, basketball, public speaking contest and track and field. Most of these activities are on Saturdays or evenings, so you are more than welcome to come and support your children in these endeavours.

## **3.9 Calendar**

In September of each school year we publish a definitive calendar for the school year. We include statutory holidays, professional development days, and important school events. We will try very hard to stick to our dates once we have published them. Nevertheless, please keep in mind that our school serves over 100 families from 4 different congregations and therefore it is very difficult to avoid conflicts in setting dates. On occasion we need to be flexible. Please allow us that flexibility.

Finally, the publication of the school calendar will make it easier for you to plan ahead for family holidays, appointments, etc. Please use our calendar to our collective advantage.

### **3.9.1 Special Events**

Throughout the school year the staff organizes and prepares a number of special events to promote learning, promote home and school communication and which reflect the character of our school. Several of these special events are Christmas Concert, Talent night, grandparents' day, open house, field trips and graduation. (The above list may vary from year to year.)