

**Calgary Christian Elementary School
Grade 2SB Parent Handbook
2018-2019**

Ms. Sharon Bolink

School Motto: "At Calgary Christian School, students Learn, to Shape God's World"

"Blessed by God to Be a Blessing!"



Community Builders God Worshippers Justice Seeker Servant Workers
Beauty Creators Creation Enjoyers Order Discovers Earth Keepers
Idolatry Discerners Image Reflectors

**"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."**

Genesis 12:2



Dear 2SB Parents,

Welcome to a new school year! Hi, my name is Sharon Bolink, and I am excited to be a part of your child's life this year! God has blessed my life in so many ways as I have learned with and aided hundreds of children on their intellectual, spiritual, physical, social, emotional, and artistic development journeys. I will continue to pray for your child and your family and that the Lord will bless each of us throughout the year. He has great things in store for us in experiences, challenges, learning, and growth!

A little about me: I celebrate having the pleasure of teaching for almost thirty years in Christian Schools in British Columbia, Alberta, and West Africa, at the Grades Two, Three, Five, and Six levels.

Some of my favourite activities are singing, playing piano, reading, chatting and learning with children, beauty creating, baking, photography, walking, quilting, listening to music, and visiting family and friends.

In the community of learners, my greatest joy is seeing God reveal matters of faith through daily life and for us to act by incorporating our learning, gifts, and skills into God's service. This falls in line with our School Motto: "**At Calgary Christian School, students Learn, to Shape God's World**". As God reveals Himself to us in all creation, we have unique opportunities to learn about Him through the various subjects of study. We identify as being **Community Builders, God Worshippers, Justice Seekers, Servant Workers, Beauty Creators, Creation Enjoyers, Order Discoverers, Earth Keepers, Idolatry Discerners, and Image Reflectors**. We thus take what we have learned and employ our gifts and skills to further God's Kingdom here on earth.

I am looking forward to the special first few days with your children, and in helping them build community within our classroom. I believe in the mission of this school, and in the partnership we have between home and school. I endeavor to do my best to model Christ-likeness and to teach your child in every part of their development. We currently have 22 students in Grade 2SB for this school year.

"**Blessed by God to be a blessing**" is our School Theme derived from Genesis 12:2, which states: "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing," I endeavor to lead the students to discover how they are blessed by God with the gifts of the The Holy Spirit, which will nurture their relationships with God. In turn, these blessings and gifts bear fruit when God's people put to use this equipping to bless others and creation. Every subject we study will reflect this and lead the students to respond to this challenge using our 10 Throughlines.

I am excited to see what God has in store for each of us this year at C.C.E.S. I am looking forward to getting to know each of you and want you to feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns. The best way to reach me is by email, or a quick note in your child's mail pouch. My email address is sharon.bolink@pallisersd.ab.ca. Please note that Calgary Christian School will send information home, such as forms, occasional assignments/projects and important dates from school via student mail pouches, e-mail, and the school website: <http://calgarychristianschool.com>. Should you need to talk with me, please e-mail or call after school hours, or pop in after school hours. If there is an **urgent message** for your child **during the school day, please call the office**, as I am working with the children and I am not able to check e-mail during class.

Your support for what happens at school is invaluable. A modeled positive attitude towards school and a commitment to setting aside time for a few academic activities at home will yield lasting rewards. If your child doesn't LOVE reading yet, this is the year to fall in love with reading! I suggest setting aside time for Reading, Memory Work, Math Facts, and any additional assignments or projects that come up periodically. I look forward to being part of those plans and seeing your child mature and grow spiritually, academically and socially!

It's going to be a great year!

© In His Shalom, Ms. Sharon Bolink

Contact Information:

CCS Elementary Office (403) 242-2896, Ext. 1

E-mail CCESoffice@pallisersd.ab.ca for lates/absences

If you have mid-day or end of the day messages for your child please call the office before 2 p.m.

so there is sufficient time for the message to be passed on. Thank you!

Ms. Sharon Bolink (Grade 2SB)

E-mail: Sharon.Bolink@pallisersd.ab.ca

Phone: 403.242.2896, Ext. 378

Mr. Mark Heppner (P.E.)

E-mail: Mark.Heppner@pallisersd.ab.ca

Ms. Amy Gatus (Music)

E-mail: amy.gatus@pallisersd.ab.ca

Mrs. Monique Wagner (Vice Principal)

E-mail: monique.wagner@pallisersd.ab.ca

Mr. Mike Thiesen (Principal)

E-mail: mike.thiesen@pallisersd.ab.ca

Website and Electronic Communication: www.calgarychristianschool.com

Please click on the 'e-Teachers' tab, select 'Ms. Bolink' to view future newsletters, Scholastic on-line payments, and other important documents for the remainder of the school year.

I will update the website with our class newsletter and calendar of events/class dates at the beginning of each month. It will be posted on our Grade 2SB page on the website under 'e-Teachers'.

School Start Time

THE SCHOOL BELL RINGS AT 8:25 a.m.

Children will be dismissed at 3:30 p.m.*

Please do not drop your child off before 8:20 a.m.

Classes begin in the homeroom at 8:35 a.m.

Please help your child be on time daily. Please do not schedule weekly extra curricular events during the school day so that your child's education will not be disrupted.

*Please note: The Palliser Board states that students may not be at school 15 minutes before start time, or stay longer than 15 minutes after school unless their parents/guardians are with them.

Grade 2 ACADEMICS



Quiet Time/Devotions

CCES is committed to devoting time minutes each day in Devotions. This year I will encourage students to use their journals to write thoughts, prayers, and memory verses/scriptures to the Lord. They may draw and colour pictures about the memory verse and what he/she would like to talk to God about. During quiet time your child will also have the option to read his/her Bible, various children's Bible stories, and pray silently. Several days a week we will sing and worship and use a daily devotional for kids. Friday mornings the children will also do a fill-in-the-blanks memory verse quiz.

Reading



We use an assortment of reading programs and tools at CCS including Literacy Place: Guided/Shared Reading, Paired Passages, Making Words, Month-by-Month Phonics, Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark System, Take- Home Reading (see below), and others. There are various methods I will use to teach/reinforce extremely valuable reading and word skills, and part of each day will be devoted to reading individually, in small groups, and with me.

Daily Home Reading should be done in a variety of forms: parent reads aloud, parent reads to child while child points to the words, parent and child take turns reading, child reads aloud while parent points to the words, use picture cues or parent hints to uncover context and new vocabulary, and child reads silently. As your child reads, please ask questions about the book to help reinforce his/her understanding of the material. Ask them to describe the characters, setting, and events. For example, ask your child to tell a sentence or two for the beginning, the ending, and three important things in the middle? Ask who, what, where, when, how, and why. Ask them to summarize what is happening in the story. Doing so will further assist in promoting comprehension and expression.

Set aside a comfortable, quiet reading space and work with your child to find a time that is appropriate. For some children, reading before bed works; however, another time might be better (e.g., before supper, after supper etc.). At the Grade Two level, students are reading picture books (which should be re-read at least three days in a row) and will begin reading short and then longer chapter books; please encourage your child to choose books that are at or slightly above his/her reading level (books that are they are fluent/near fluent and can comprehend). At this level, there are many simple chapter books that are fun and entertaining! Students can read aloud or silently. Thank you for monitoring carefully what your child is reading. Not only will your child become a better reader, but engaging in daily reading will dramatically improve his/her writing and spelling abilities. Moreover, through your interest and encouragement, you will be demonstrating to your child that reading is a skill worth developing.

Take Home Reading

This program will begin at the **end of September/early October**. Your child will receive a classroom story book/novel and a Reading Logbook in which to record which books he/she reads. Please use the Communication/Mail Bag in your child's backpack to store your child's book when it is not being used. Your child should read **15 - 20 minutes a day, 5 days a week**. He/she may be read to, or read to him or herself, silently or aloud. Either way, **please record the date the book was completed and send it back to school**. On the inside sheets, record the titles of the books they read. We want them to GROW as readers! Please assist me as much as possible by ensuring your child has completely read the book that is selected by him/her. If your child does not come home with a book to read from school, please use a book that is readily available in your home and record that. To build vocabulary, I expect that picture books are read three consecutive days at home, unless the child has no difficulty with any of the vocabulary.

Children will move systematically through their reading, and the Fountas and Pinnell program will benchmark their progress. **Please send your child's reading log to school daily in their Communication bag, along with the book that he/she brought home with him/her the last school day**. If it is a novel, please send it back and forth daily *even if it is not complete*. Your child can record page numbers or time read (i.e. 15 min.) on a daily basis. ****You will receive more information on Home Reading as it gets closer to the end of September. ☺** **Just a note:** *I realize that your schedule may be very busy, but **this reading program is vital** to your child growing as a reader. Please choose which two days of the week your child will **not** read. Of course, your child is free to read every night if he/she wishes! ☺*

Spelling

Grade 2SB will primarily use the 'Words Their Way' and 'Month by Month Phonics' Programs. These programs are hands-on, developmentally driven approaches to word study that combines the instruction of phonics, vocabulary, and spelling skills. Students will work to grow their individual knowledge of spelling (orthography) by manipulating letters and letter patterns to discover how they represent sound and meaning. Our overall goal is literacy! We want students to transfer spelling words to "real world" spelling in writing and develop essential skills that can be applied to all words. It helps students become confident spellers in their everyday writing. This program does not advocate weekly spelling lists, but rather focuses on spelling patterns in words. It intends to develop sustained recall and use of everyday words through the use of developmental Word Sorts, sentence building, skill practice/games, direct skill instruction, at home practice, and checkups. I have enclosed a list of Grade Two Core Spelling Words for your reference.

Grammar and Writing

We will be doing a series of grammar activities in the week. The activities will involve components and skills such as capitalization, punctuation, nouns, verbs, adjectives, and grammatical rules for structuring sentences. This year I will be developing students' writing focussing on ideas, sentence fluency, conventions, voice, word choice, and organization. We will also use components of a program that C.C.E.S. has adopted called "Empowering Writers" by Barbara Mariconda, which will teach your child how to effectively use and develop the components of a story. This program is used throughout the grades at C.C.E.S. Students will also write daily/weekly in their Journals on various and interesting topics!

Math

At C.C.E.S., grade 2 students use the "Math Focus" program by Nelson. It follows the Alberta math curriculum for grade 2. Our first unit is reviewing Patterning! Students are STRONGLY encouraged to practice basic addition and subtraction facts to 18 on an ongoing basis. Quick/instant and accurate recall of the basic facts will become increasingly important as our year progresses. I cannot emphasize this enough! ☺

Unit Studies

Unit Studies encompasses both Science and Social Studies. We will alternate between the two during the course of the year. Our first unit is Science: Exploring Liquids! The class will enjoy learning about God's intricately designed world and become 'Order Discoverers' as they learn the amazing ways God has organized water and liquids! This is a fun unit and very 'hands-on.'

Memory Work and Bible

The memorization of Bible verses is an important part of a child's spiritual development. We at Calgary Christian School recognize this and encourage you to take the time to teach your children fundamental scriptural truths. Each month a passage of scripture will be assigned. We will be memorizing a portion of Scripture each month, breaking it into weekly assigned segments. Students are required to learn Bible passages and fill in missing words weekly, with independence. By the end of each month the students are expected to know the whole passage. Students are able to earn bonus marks if they are able to recall more than the weekly requirement. If a student fills in all of the blanks correctly two weeks in a row, a Free Week will be awarded. A copy of the Bible verses will be provided shortly so that you may work on this with your child as the months progress. We will review the verses in class, BUT many students will need parent support to achieve this goal.

In Bible class we study the life of Jesus through the New Testament during our entire grade two year. I LOVE it! Our First unit will have us focusing on the Beginning of Jesus' Ministry!

Computers and iPads

Computer lab time will focus primarily on typing/keyboarding skills and reinforcing math concepts and math facts using Mathletics. The children will undertake occasional special projects on the computers. We also be using iPads centres in class for a variety of language, math, recording learning, and research skill development.

Art

Weekly art classes will focus on further development of art skills; projects will be integrated into Language, Social Studies, and Science areas throughout the year as much as possible.

Other Subjects

Ms. Amy Gatus will be teaching Gr. 2 **Music** classes twice a week.

Mr. Mark Heppner, will be teaching **P.E.** class three times a week. He will be assisted by Mr. Bird, Mrs. Makila, and myself on a rotating basis.

Grade 2B Details

Communication/Mail Bags!

Students will write important class info on a **half-size 'Organization' sheet** which will be sent home on the first school day of each week in their Communication/Mail Bag. **PLEASE look at it**; I appreciate if you would initial the page on Monday night so I know you have seen the info as needed. Students are responsible for taking their Communication/Mail Bag home each evening and **returning it to class each morning**. Thank you for your assistance in developing this habit. **If you need to send a note to me, place it inside the communication/mail bag** so it is visible for me see first thing in the morning. ☺



Birthdays

We enjoy celebrating birthdays! If you choose, you may send a birthday treat to school on, or near your child's special day, to share with the whole class. There are 22 children in our class. **NOTHING** should contain NUTS/PEANUTS, **not even traces**. *Please read labels* as we have children with severe allergies in our school.

If your child is planning to hand out invitations at school for his/her birthday party, please have him/her invite **all the girls or all the boys, OR the whole class** in order to avoid hurt feelings. If your child can only invite a couple of friends, please have him/her make plans outside of school time and do **NOT** send the invitations via the school. Please use e-mail instead. Contact information can be found in the C.C.S. Parent Directory, published approximately by Oct. 1, each year. Class lists are located at the back of the directories. We will celebrate August birthdays in September and July birthdays in June. ☺

Allergy Alert

There are students in our school with severe nut allergies. Please do not send any peanut butter sandwiches or other snacks with nuts in them. Even the smell of peanut butter can cause a reaction. **PLEASE: READ** labels on granola bars/cookies before you send them. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Forms for children with allergies and other medical conditions are to be acquired from the office and returned to the school immediately so the staff can care for your child appropriately.

Behaviour /Discipleship

At Calgary Christian School, students learn, to shape God's world. Our aim is to grow in Christ-like relationships with God, creation, others, and self, and then move forward to effect God's blessings in the world. Grade Two is an important year for students as they are learning new skills and building on the skills that were learned in Kindergarten and Grade One. At this stage, the students are becoming independent learners. We keep the Throughlines as a focus, especially *Community Building* in the first month of school. I use simple and various (as necessary) methods in my classroom to keep it a happy and safe place where routines are followed so that everyone may thrive, learn, and grow.

Grade 2SB Rules:

Here are the 2SB Class Rules...
each one helps us show love and respect for God, creation, and also for others.

2SB Class Rules

- A. Use respect,
- B. Use focussed attention and listen.
- C. Follow directions quickly.
- D. Take care of all supplies.
- E. Do your best to:
 - 1. Make smart choices: be ready, choose workspace wisely so you are not distracted...,
 - 2. Put effort into your work,
 - 3. Behave appropriately: be polite; raise your hand / take turns to speak; treat others kindly; hands/feet to self; ask permission to leave the room
- F. Make your dear teacher happy!!

Christian Discipleship

The Bible instructs us to, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." (Proverbs 22:6) At Calgary Christian School we implement a variety of strategies to follow God's directive. In 2SB, we look to **Fully Rely On God** to be inspired by His wisdom and to discern temptation. We seek to follow Jesus' example using the question: "**What Would Jesus Do?**" to help us make wise decisions. Positive reinforcement and encouragement is practiced and students are regularly praised for their positive choices, sustained effort, and appropriate behaviours. In Health classes we employ a school-wide program called "Second Step", which develops foundational learning skills, nurtures social-emotional competence, increases self-regulation, and develops a sense of safety and support. All of these promote success at school. I also use a simple colored stick system for *individual* behavior.

The Coloured Stick System

The goal is to encourage children to demonstrate positive choices, sustained effort and appropriate behaviour at school. Your child begins each day with four coloured craft sticks in his/her desk. If your child follows the classroom rules, makes positive choices, sustained effort and appropriate behaviour, then s/he will finish the day with all four sticks remaining. Each child who consistently **KEEPS** all four coloured sticks each day will receive a **treat** the last day of that month, and be **entered in a draw** to win a prize. at the end of the month.

Children who clearly disobey a class rule, make poor choices, demonstrate lack of sustained effort, and/or behaves inappropriately will be encouraged to correct their behaviour. For example, if s/he 'shouts out' and forgets to put up his/her hand before speaking during a lesson, I may quietly ask for their first stick (green) as a reminder to raise their hand next time. If this child breaks another rule then s/he will sit apart from the group for a few minutes, and a second stick is taken (yellow). If another infraction occurs, (red stick) then s/he will spend about ten minutes with me at recess to write up a 'ThinkSheet' and discuss how we can improve this together. If yet another infraction occurs, (orange stick) I will contact you as soon as I am able, and the child may need to visit the Principal. Other consequences may also be employed such as cleaning duty, writing apology notes, or missing out on fun class activities. This system is very simple and manageable!

In review, the goal is to encourage children to obey class rules, demonstrate positive choices, sustained effort, and appropriate behaviour at school. Students each have four coloured sticks to keep in their desk. As needed, they may be asked to return a stick to me for disobedience, poor choices, lack of effort, or inappropriate behavior that needs a gentle reminder. The colours are taken in this order:

- Green = reminder
- Yellow = second reminder for misbehaviours, etc., including a sit-apart time,
- Red = time out during recess: **TIME TO STOP...THINK SHEET...THIS IS SAD ☹**
- Orange = contact parents and possible visit to Principal. **OH DEAR!**
- ****At the end of the month, those who have kept all 4 sticks will get a treat and have their name placed in a draw for a prize.**

I have appended a visual for you and your child to refer to at home at the end of this document. Please look at it with your child so we can work together to make this discipling strategy effective at school. Thank you!

Corrective Discipline

There are times when a student may cause harm and need to be removed immediately from the class activity. This is reserved for extremely serious issues. I have rarely used this. ☺

I will always spend time talking with your child privately when/if they are having difficulty following classroom rules and guidelines. I hope to always bring them back to the 'Golden Rule' when relating to each other, and to think of how Christ would like them to act in every situation.

As God has called me to minister to children, I realize the importance of modeling and being an example. Children learn by my actions and not just by my words. Therefore, I will endeavour to model a calm and peaceful attitude and Christlike responses to all situations in my classroom. Please PRAY for me in this!

Corrections and Homework

Throughout the year, corrections and/or incomplete work *may* be sent with your child. Please have your child complete the work and bring it back to school **the next day**. Sometimes, your child will receive a special assignment to complete at home. You will be given plenty of notice and detailed instructions regarding the assignment. ☺

Water Bottles

Water bottles are encouraged in class. If your child brings a water bottle, please make sure it is a **short, plastic or metal bottle**, which does not tip easily, labelled with your child's name. Please send **only water** for in class use. I have asked students to take their bottle home each week so it can be cleaned. ☺ Juice/milk are permissible for lunch time only.

Snack Time

Before the morning recess the children will be given 5 minutes to eat a snack. Please ensure they are **SMALL** healthy snacks and again, a reminder of **NO PEANUT/NUT products of any kind**. Items labelled such as: 'Contains nuts/peanuts' are NOT allowed. Thank you for your attention to this important detail. ☺

Lunch and Recess

Lunch time is from 12:35-12:55 p.m., Mon-Thurs. On Fri. it will be 11:45-12:00. After prayer all children are asked to wash their hands with soap in the classroom or washroom sinks before opening their lunch containers. Your child will eat in our classroom under my supervision on Wednesdays. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday there will be **Lunch Room Monitors** provided, along with a **Teacher Supervisor** rotating through the three Grade 2 classrooms. Students have approximately 20 minutes of eating time. There is a **microwave** available in the room for heating up food. However, I have set up a schedule for this, and will be carefully training students to become independent in using this privilege. PLEASE send heat up foods (with a note saying how long it needs to be warmed) on your **child's designated day** only, to minimize lineups and wait times. If there is a holiday (primarily Mondays and Fridays) you may pick any other day of the week for your child to warm up a lunch. **PLEASE send** all of the needed items, such as **utensils**, for meals with your child's lunch. Thank you!

Microwave Use Schedule:

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Allie Alvina Amelia Annika Asher	Breanna Dylan Eric Hunter Jane Jayden	Anyone ☺ * <i>This is C.C.S. Hot Lunch day. (Hotdogs, Pizza,)</i>	Joaquim Kai Kaydence Landon Lochlan Makenna	Oliver Payton Sadie Sophie Vlad

Scholastic Book Orders

These will be sent home each month, with my discretion, and will have a due date stamp. Please return it quickly if you intend to purchase Scholastic materials. It is optional whether you want to purchase a book(s) for your child. All purchases help our 2SB class gain free books for our classroom shelf throughout the year. ☺ **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH.** Makes cheques payable to *Scholastic Canada Ltd* OR use the *ParentPay* online system. Go to my teacher page on the C.C.S. Website, where you can find out about it. Please do not process orders from another grade with your grade two book order. Thanks!

School Theme

“Blessed by God to be a blessing.”

Our School Theme is derived from *Genesis 12:2*, which states: “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”

This will be our first memory verse assignment in September.

This year we will learn that we are God has blessed us! Our Throughlines will keep us focused on how we can are blessed by God and what it means to live actively as blessings to God, creation, other people, and ourselves.

Volunteers, Volunteers, Volunteers!!! ☺
I NEED you!!

After the first several weeks of class, a parent volunteer schedule will be posted on Sign Up Genius, so if you are able, you can be involved with helping in our classroom or behind the scenes. Jobs will vary from working with children, clerical/organizational, and periodic work which can be done at home. I look forward to your assistance in our classroom! Children **LOVE** it when their parent comes in for part of the day to help and research shows it impacts their engagement and learning!

In Christ, *Sharon Bolink*

Grade 2 Coloured Stick System

Goal:

Demonstrate obedience, positive choices, strong effort, and appropriate behaviour at school and you will keep all of your sticks each day, get a treat at the end of the month, and be entered to win a prize at the end of the month.

Reminders:

If you need reminders to obey, make positive choices, give strong effort, or to behave appropriately, you will have to give the teacher a stick. Every time you give up a stick the teacher will use strategies to help you make improvements. Your parents and the principals may need to help you too.

1. Green stick = first warning

2. Yellow stick = second warning; 5 min. sit apart

3. Red stick = 10 min. at recess; Think Sheet

4. Orange stick = tell parents; possibly tell principal

