

September, 2016

Dear Parents;

I am thrilled to be your child's second grade teacher this year. My name is Amanda Pool and this is my first year of teaching at Sunrise Elementary School. I have lived in the Albany/Corvallis area for 15 years. I am married and have three kids. My kiddos are in kindergarten, first grade, and fourth grade. So, I know what it is like to have elementary age kids, and all of the questions that you may have about the upcoming school year.

I have had a wonderful time so far this year getting to know each of our students, and am so excited to see how much we are going to learn this year! Our first month of school has been focused on learning the rules and procedures in our classroom and school. The students were also tested in reading and math, so we know if they need extra assistance and how to help them meet the benchmarks for second grade.

Our class is currently reading Charlotte's Web and we are exploring the characters and how they fit into a community. In Math, we are learning the value of coins, doubling numbers, and working on story problems. I encourage you to give your child opportunities at home to practice these concepts.

The next page includes some information that will hopefully answer some of your questions. Please, keep this as a resource in case you need it throughout the year.

Sincerely;

Amanda Pool



We commemorated the 226th anniversary of the signing on the Constitution by learning about the Constitution, writing our own class constitution, and ringing bells!

Communication

If you need to contact me, you can email me at: Amanda.pool@Albany.k12.or.us or by phone at 541-967-4608. If you would like to speak in person, the best time would be after school. We can also set up an appointment to meet, if after school does not work for you.

Students will bring home purple folders every day with notes, announcements, newsletters, or other items. Make sure to check their backpack for these so that you are informed of any important information that you may need for the next week. Folders need to be returned the next day. The folder also contains a communication log. These will be blank pages for you to write notes to me. An example is letting me know that your child will be picked up by someone else that day, or questions that you have. I will, occasionally, write a note to you on their log. Thank you, to those parents that have already been using it!

I plan on sending out a monthly classroom newsletter for you to stay up to date with all that we are learning and exploring in second grade.

Volunteering

Family is very welcome to volunteer in our classroom and at Sunrise. If you are interested, you are welcome to contact me. Volunteer opportunities include chaperoning field trips, helping students in the classroom, reading to students, prepping classroom materials, etc. In order to be a volunteer, you will need to pass a background check. If you have done this in the past, it must be renewed every two years. This is a link for more information about volunteering:

http://albany.k12.or.us/media/2016/04/volunteer_guidelines_english.pdf

Thank you to those parents that have already signed up to volunteer. I plan on having some volunteer opportunities beginning in October.

Birthdays

I will provide an opportunity for each student to celebrate their birthday in the classroom, if they would like. If your child has an upcoming birthday and you would like to send a treat to be shared with the classroom, please, contact me at least two days in advance. Students are welcome to bring treats such as mini cupcakes, donut holes, granola bars, string cheese sticks, or other easy to eat finger foods that can be eaten in a short amount of time. The items need to be store bought and not homemade. Plan to bring enough for 17 students.

Library

Our library day is on Friday. Your student has already started bringing home library books. They are welcome to return them anytime throughout the week, but if they would like to check out a new one, their book must be returned by Friday morning. If your student wants to renew their book, it must be brought back to school to be renewed. Otherwise, it will be marked as overdue.

Snack

I understand that students can get hungry towards the end of the day; especially since we have an early lunch at 10:40. I give students an opportunity to have snack at 12:55, after recess. All of our snacks are donated, so if you are able to donate snack for the class, it will be much appreciated! Snacks should be store bought and a finger food. Good examples of snacks to donate are: goldfish, cheese sticks, crackers, gummy snacks, granola bars, etc. We also need coffee filters. (We use them to hold the snack.) If you would like to donate a snack, just send it to school with your child. Thank you so much for your donations! It makes a big difference with our students because they will be better able to focus on learning.

Classroom Supplies

Thank you for bringing supplies for your student this year! We have a community supply of pencils, crayons, glue, etc. for your student to use when they need it. I have also provided containers for each student to keep their own supplies in.

Throughout the year, you are welcome to donate school supplies to the classroom. Suggested donations are: Kleenex, sanitizer, Ziploc bags, erasers, dry erase markers, and healthy snacks.

Homework

Each Monday, I will send home a Reading Log for your student. I ask that they read or are read to for 20 minutes, five times a week. Reading Logs are due the next Monday. This is not required, but I strongly encourage it. Having your child practice reading 20 minutes a day will help them become better readers, writers, and learners. As I mentioned, it also counts if someone reads to them. I will occasionally have prizes for student who fill out their reading log and return it.

School News

This is the last week the school newsletter, Cougar News, will be sent home in a hard copy. Starting next week, they will be posted on the school website every Friday.

<http://sunrise.albany.k12.or.us/announcements/newsletter/>

The newsletter and other school flyers are also available on PeachJar. If you have not signed up for this app, I recommend signing up to keep up to date on important school information.

<https://www.peachjar.com/index.php?a=28&b=138®ion=107416>

If you would like a hard copy of the newsletter, the office will have them available to be picked up.