

A Parent's Guide to 5H



**Calgary
Christian
School**

*Blessed by God to be a blessing.
(from Genesis 12:2)*

2018-2019

Calgary Christian Elementary School
Mrs. R. Homann

Dear 5H Parents,

My name is Rachel Homann and I am excited to be your child's Grade 5 teacher this year. I have been teaching at Calgary Christian School for 7 years. The first 5 years were as part of the Secondary school where I taught mostly math and science to Grade 7, 8 and 10. Two years ago, I joined the Elementary teaching team. This is my second year teaching Grade 5 and I am very much looking forward to it.

I had an exciting summer as I got married on August 4. It was a wonderful day full of love and fun! I am originally from Edmonton and moved to Calgary about 9 years ago. Most of my family still live in Edmonton. However, my twin sister, who is also a teacher, and her husband live here in Calgary. I really enjoy living here in this fantastic city and exploring it and its beautiful surroundings whenever I can.

This year's theme verse is from Genesis 12:2: "Blessed by God to be a blessing". This verse is a great reminder that God has blessed us richly and He enables us to be a blessing to those around us. Also, I believe the students, teachers, and parents that God has brought together to be a part of 5B this year is not an accident. He has good things planned for us to do this year and we get to join with God to be a part of His plan. That plan may not be easy since learning and life in general can be challenging sometimes, but God has promised to be with us through it. One of my goals this year is to encourage students to trust in the Lord - in the good times and the tough times - and see what He can do. That being said, I am looking forward to a great year with each student in my class. We are a team and we get to work together to learn and grow.

I can't wait to get to know you and your child as we begin this school year. I value parent-teacher communication highly and believe that a positive relationship between a child's parents and their teacher greatly impacts the child's learning. If you want to drop by and say hi, my door is always open. If you have questions for me or want to get in touch anytime throughout the year, my email is rachel.bock@pallisersd.ab.ca (for now) or my classroom phone number is (403) 242-2986 ext. 337. Again, I am so excited to begin this year together and see what God has in store for us!

In Christ,
Rachel Homann

Email: rachel.bock@pallisersd.ab.ca

Phone: (403) 242-2896 ext. 337

School Phone: (403) 242-2896

School Day Times

The door opens and the first bell rings at 8:25. Students should enter the building at that time.

The second bell rings at 8:35, which is the start time for the day. Students should be in their desks, ready to start the day.

Recess times -

10:15 - 10:35 (Fridays 10:10 - 10:25)

12:35 - 12:55 lunch eating times (Fridays - 11:45 - 12:00)

12:55 - 1:25 outdoor recess time (Fridays - 12:00 - 12:20)

Children will be dismissed at 3:30 p.m. (Fridays at 1:45)

*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.

Absences/Lates

If your child will be late for school or away for an appointment or because of illness, please advise the school office ahead of time (either with a phone message or through the school website). You can also email me to let me know.

Please note that there is a new system being put in place this year. If your child is late for school, an automated call will be made to you that day.

Communication

The best form of communication is through **emailing**. Each day we fill in the agenda with important information and upcoming events. It is expected that you take a look at the agenda each evening and **initial it**. Students will be rewarded for consistency with using agendas. *If you send an email during the day, please be aware it might not be addressed until after school.

If for some reason, you find that you are not receiving any emails from me, please let me know so I can check that I have the correct email address for you.

School Website: <http://calgarychristianschool.com/>

Here you can find all the information you need regarding **hot lunches, absence/late entry, volunteering**.

Homework

- All assignments and upcoming tests will be written in agendas
- Memory Work will be due at the end of each month
- Math homework, depending on the unit.
- Biweekly spelling words and practice
- Home Reading Program

Home Reading

- Students are encouraged to read for at least **20 minutes each day** (not including what is read at school).
- Please record student minutes on the **agenda calendar** which is located at the beginning of each month. Add the total minutes read at the end of the month and sign them. We will have a goal to reach 20 000 minutes as a class. When this is reached we will draw for a prize. We will need all students' reading minutes at the end of the month to draw the prize. Find a system that works well with you and your child for recording their minutes. One parent signature at the end of the month is all that is needed.

Volunteering

- For school-wide events, please refer to the **Sign-up Genius** on the school website.
- For class field trips, please **email the classroom teachers** if you are able to attend. It will generally be first-come-first-serve.
- For classroom volunteering please email me if you have a time you are available.

For volunteering, please ensure that your police criminal record check (CRC) is up-to-date and on file at the school office. You may now apply for your CRC on-line. ALL volunteers must file for their CRC for the new school year, unless you completed this process in June. You may volunteer once you have filed and are still awaiting your clearance from the police. However, we will require documentation to show that you have applied for your CRC and are waiting for your official documents. Please contact the school office if you require information on the status of these documents as they pertain to you.

Scholastic Book Orders

Scholastic Book Orders will be distributed. The due dates will be marked in agendas. You can expect book orders to arrive approximately two weeks after the due date. You can pay on-line or you can write a cheque made out to Scholastic Canada. Scholastic is a great book program, often with good deals, but please do not feel the need to purchase books each month. I would also suggest checking the book order forms carefully as there are sometimes books that are not appropriate for Christian students.

Library Book Exchange

5H will visit the library on Monday afternoons for book exchange. Students will be able to have three books out at one time. Books are on loan for two weeks. Books may be renewed, but must be brought back to the school library for this to happen.

Gym Shoes

Students will have PE three days a week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays). Students need to have a non-marking pair of indoor shoes that are suitable for the gym as well as for regular, daily indoor use.

Safe and Caring School

In order to make C.C.S. a safe place for all of our students, please note we want a nut-free and scent-free environment. As several students in our school have allergies, please ensure your child does not bring any nuts to school. Many thanks!

Snack & Recesses

Please send a good, healthy snack with your child for morning snack time, as students are often quite hungry by the time we reach lunch. All students are expected to go outside for morning and afternoon recess. Students must bring appropriate outdoor clothing and be prepared for changes in weather. Special indoor recess exceptions are made for extreme weather conditions, as determined by School Policy.

Lunch

The students will eat in the classroom each day. There is a microwave available for student use. We have 22 students in the the class, so please limit the use of the microwave to one or two days per week, in order to eliminate long lines for the microwave. Please be aware that lunch times are short so it would be helpful if the items brought don't need a long time are short so it would be helpful if the items brought don't need a long time in the microwave. Please send along all of the necessary utensils as there is a limited supply in the classroom. Also please tell your child how long to warm up the meal. If your child will be eating hot dogs and/or pizza on Wednesdays, all ordering must be done online.

Hot Lunches

Check the school website if you'd like to sign up for hot dog lunches, pizza lunches or special lunches.

Birthdays

Students love celebrating birthdays. If you would like to bring a snack to share with the class, please remember our "no nut" school policy. Please plan for 22 students in our class.

If your child is having a birthday party that does not include all of the boys and girls of the class, **please do not hand out the invitations at school** to ensure no child is left out. Please use e-mail or phone conversations. Class lists are available in the school directory. Thank you for your sensitivity in this area.

Grade Five Curriculum

An overview of the Grade 5 Alberta Education curriculum can be found at <http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildslearning/gradeatag glance/grade5.pdf>

In Language Arts, students will begin the year working on expository writing, expanding on their skills with writing paragraphs and moving to longer pieces of writing with a lead paragraph, detail paragraphs which include specific supporting details, and a concluding paragraph. Later on in the year, students will further develop their narrative writing skills, working on different parts of the story, incorporating specific sensory details, careful use of dialogue, and effective story structure. Different reading strategies will be taught and practiced throughout the year, using both shorter texts and book studies. (A list of possible reading comprehension questions to use when discussing a book your child is reading is included at the end of this handbook.)

In Math, students will build upon the foundations of the earlier grades and continue to use mathematics confidently to solve problems. A strong understanding of basic facts is crucial for the computation, application, and problem solving work the students will do.

In Social Studies, students will study Canada, looking at its geographic regions and its history, as well as current and local affairs.

The Science curriculum introduces students to wetlands, kitchen chemistry, electricity and magnetism, and weather.

Bible classes will find the students exploring the stories of Daniel and Ruth, as well as the stories of Jesus' Life and Ministry and the book of Psalms.

Field Trips

The following is a sampling of the off-site field trips tentatively planned for this year:

- Ralph Klein Park
- Telus Science Centre
- Canmore
- Skiing at COP

A general field trip form will be signed at the beginning of the school year. You will also receive permission forms for each field trip that need to be signed and returned in order for your child to attend. You will be informed of upcoming field trips in the monthly newsletter and agendas. If you'd like to volunteer for field trips please indicate that on the form you receive.

Toys & Electronics

In order to avoid issues of loss, damage, and theft; and to ensure that students remain focused during class time we would ask that all toys, games, and **electronic devices (including smart/cell phones)** be kept at home. Students **will not** be permitted to play electronic video games at recess. Staff are not responsible for the loss of such items.

Reading Comprehension Questions

Having a deep understanding of texts we read is an important part of the reading program in grade five. Please use these questions to have discussions with your children when reading at home.

Remembering

- What is the setting in the story? How did you know?
- Can you recall a fact from the story?
- Name the main characters in the story. Are they good / bad?
- Who solved the problem in the story? What did they do?
- Can you list 3 main events in the story?

Understanding

- What was the story mainly about?
- Explain why the story has the title it was given.
- How did the main character feel at the beginning / end of the story?
- Describe the main character using 3 adjectives. Explain why you picked those adjectives.
- What is your opinion about how the character solved the problem?
- Who is your favorite character and why did you choose them?

Applying

- How are you like the main character in the story?
- Make a connection to the story. Is the connection: text - self / text - text / text - world?
- What unanswered questions do you have about the story?
- What did you learn from reading the story?
- Why did the author write this story?
- What is the genre of this story? How did you know?

Analyzing

- How are the characters alike and different?
- Which events could not have happened in real life and describe why?
- Which part of the story did you like the best? Why did you choose it?
- What was the theme of the story? Can you name another story with the same theme?
- What was the turning point in the story?
- How did the main character change during the story?

Evaluating

- Do you think the character solved the problem in a good / bad way?
- Why do you think the character did what they did?
- Was the character good / bad and explain your answer?
- Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?
- Which character would you most like to be friends with and why?
- What would happen if you took out a key event in the story?

Creating

- What is an alternate ending for this story?
- How would the story change if you took out a key event in the story?
- What changes would you have made to this story and explain why?
- If you were the main character, what would you have done differently?
- What would be a better title for this story? Why did you choose it?