



# Welcome to First Grade Class!

MARNI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | SEPT. 7, 2030

HELLO! HOLA! BONJOUR!

你好! 안녕하세요! こんにちは! नमस्कार

Welcome Welcome Welcome!!!

Alas, the time has come.

It is time for you to leave your loving child by my side!

I know it is hard, but I promise, I will be their loving guide.

I assure you, we will have a wonderful and lovely year.

So no need to fear and no need to tear!

We will read, write, draw, play, and cheer!

I guarantee you, our time together will be a fantastic year!

Hello dear parents, caregivers and guardians,

Welcome to the class! My name is Ms. Kim and I will be your child's grade 1 homeroom teacher for this year. I have been teaching grade 1 for six years now after graduating from Ryerson University with a Bachelor of Education through a concurrent education program at York University. I am also an ASL (American sign language) teacher. I have always enjoyed spending time with children and assist their physical emotional and social development. I have a passion for teaching and I hope to continue on my path. We also have Ms. Lee as our early childhood educator who has been working with me for three years now. She is a wonderful educator who is passionate to make a welcoming environment in the classroom. We are so excited to be your children's teacher and hope to make a memorable and enjoyable school year!



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## OUR CLASSROOM

Grade 1 is an important school year for the children as they gain a lot from the environment and develop their literacy and language skills. We sit together in the classroom and engage in many different ways as they learn from one another. Our classroom is a very diverse classroom as we have many families from different backgrounds. Therefore, we respect and acknowledge all types of cultures brought to the classroom. Not only is our classroom culturally diverse, but we also have two children who use sign language to communicate and one child who uses a wheelchair. Our schools do the best we can to ensure that all children feel belonged and respected within the environment. Therefore, we also encourage parents, guardians, and caregivers to actively engage with the educators, and build a relationship in order to support children's well-being and development. Again, we are so excited to be your children's teacher this year.



CONTACT INFO:  
TEL: 6476802681

ESTHER99KIM0914@GMAIL.COM

## WHAT IS LITERACY?

- Reading, communicating, writing, listening, watching, thinking, & interacting with others
- Engaging & making connections with the world through their own free will
- Asking questions / having inquiries and exploring those inquiries
- communicating through understanding, expressing things, and accepting

## ORAL

Oral communication is a fundamental principle that helps children enhance their literacy skills. It focuses on listening and communicating. It is important because:

- helps children understand the world better
- helps them to think deeply, learn new things, and socially interact with others
- helps them identify problems, organize what they know, express their feelings and thoughts to others
- helps children make connections of what they hear, know, and see

**Tell-Retell Story Time!**- We will have a circle time every Monday and the children are to retell a storybook that they read or a movie or a TV show that they watched through the weekend. The children will express their thoughts through this activity.

**What We Know**- Before reading our daily book before lunch, we will have time to talk about the topic of the book first. As the children listen to their peers and understand how others think, they will also share their ideas and opinions with the class.

**Acting (Drama Play)** - Drama and role play works as a tool to help children express themselves. Once a month, our class will come together and act on their favourite book that we read as a class. The children will choose their own roles and act them out. As they present in front of the rest of the class, other children will listen. \*Children who use sign language will participate using sign languages while I will interpret it to the rest of the children.\*

**Sing-Along!** - Singing will be embedded in most of our sessions. We will sing songs in the morning to greet everyone, sing during our circle time, before reading and before going home. These songs will be incorporating ASL. Moreover, while singing good morning and goodbye, children are to move around the classroom and hug their classmates. This is to greet their friends with a hug and say goodbye with a hug.

## READING



Reading is another engaging activity that helps develop children's literacy skills. It is imp because:

- helps children grasp and apply new knowledge
- helps them develop a wider range of use of text and vocabulary
- helps children to apply comprehension strategies
- helps them discover their interest
- helps them discover a new world and new experiences
- helps children to be more creative

**Read to Others**- Every day, we will group the children in pairs, and they will take turns reading different types of literacy such as short poems and vocabularies-meaningful words, rhyming words, and long, hard words that we learned in class



**Rhyming Words-** Our class will begin the day with a small activity when coming to class. We will have a board in our class with different rhyming words. Children are to select at least one pair that rhymes with each other and read it out loud in front of the class.

**Reading in Different Languages-** We think developing children's native language is also as important. Children will read a book in their own language and retell the story to the class.

**Reading with ASL-** Every day before lunch, we will read a book that the children choose. While Ms. Lee reads it out loud, I will be reading in ASL. Then we will have a discussion afterwards. The children will learn to listen and read ASL at the same time.

**Meet my Family-** Every week, we will invite family members to the class to read with us. We will divide the children into groups of 3 alongside with one family member per group. The family members will help the children read the books and answer any questions the children have for them. \*If there are no family members that can come, we will invite school faculty members instead.\*

## WRITING

Writing involves a lot of different skills and tasks. This is because it is a form of communication we use to records our ideas and thoughts. It is important because:

- helps children gather information and organize ideas
- is another way for children to express themselves
- a way to help develop children's creativity and reflection
- helps children to think as they plan, revise and publish their work

**Decorate the Room-** We want our classroom to be diverse and welcoming. Once a week, during art class, we will make posters or signs for our classroom. These posters and signs can be about anything, usually based on the children's interest, and in any language.

**About Me!-** Every week, we will write one thing about ourselves and read it to class. This way we can learn more about our friends! This will be proofread before moving on to the next activity with media.

**Everyday Exercise-** Every morning, the first thing we will do in our classroom, after settling down, is writing down our own thoughts for 10 minutes. It can be anything-poem, story, diary, whatever that is in their mind, will be recorded and handed in.

**Finish the Sentence!-** Every Friday, before school ends, children will be given open-ended phrases. They are to finish the sentence and/ or make a list that makes sense. These phrases will be something like "What I..." or "What if..." or "I am..."

## MEDIA



Media Literacy focuses on modern art and text in communicating. It uses technologies, sounds, visuals, and more to make a connection between language and the world. It is important because:

- helps children understand the purpose and the intention of media texts
- helps them develop critical thinking
- helps reflect on themselves and show improvement on their weakness
- helps them express their thoughts and opinions about the media work



**Radio (Listening) Time!**- In the past, many families had come together to listen to the radio. Our class will be doing something similar. We will have a listening time with the children, where the children are to listen to the story from the radio. Then they will draw their favourite part of the story and share it with the class.

**Movie time!**- We will watch a movie or short clip from time to time during class hours. After watching, as a class, we will go around and describe how the movie/ clip was. It is a time for the children to express their personal thoughts and opinions about the movie/clip! Then we will have a discussion about the intentions of it.

**Say cheese!**- Throughout the year, Ms. Lee and I will be recording the children's work, achievements, and special events celebrated in class. On our last day of school, we will turn on the video and keep it running while we have a classroom party! Children can develop their literacy skills by seeing what they have achieved and by listening to the video.

**My Story!**- A continuation of "About Me". After reading out in class, and proofread, we will practice typing what we wrote on our school computer!

*"Where learning is  
always fun"*

## FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

Family involvement is crucial in children's development as it supports the children in various ways. It allows children to have positive experiences and helps them perform better in schools. So, what can you do?

- Help your children explore the world.

- Parents who continuously interact and read to their children helps develop their literacy skills tremendously. So, read books with your children!
- Listen to your children when they talk especially when they interrupt your reading! This is a process that helps them understand the reading!
- Come to class and read with us! Share your cultural experience to help children expand their knowledge of different cultures.
- Observe your children. See what they are interested in and enjoy. Their interest can be a good topic for discussion and book choice.

## INCLUSIVE PRACTICES

We hope to create an inclusive, diverse and welcoming environment.

- We respect different ways of teaching. If you want to address a specific culture of your family, we are happy to include it!
- Our classroom will have various languages on our walls. All of our announcements will be presented in different languages. Check our website!
- We have books in many languages, but we also do accept donation books.
- We teach sign language to the children! We use it every day while singing and reading.
- Our school is designed to accommodate children with physical needs. However, if you want to suggest any changes, we will gladly discuss them.

## RESOURCES

- Storyline Online  
<https://www.storylineonline.net/>
- ReadWriteThink Student Interactive  
[http://www.readwritethink.org/search/?resource\\_type=16&type=32](http://www.readwritethink.org/search/?resource_type=16&type=32)
- PBS Reading Games  
<https://pbskids.org/games/reading/>

