

Welcome Back To School



Ms. Raja

**First Grade – Snoqualmie Elementary School
2018-2019**

Welcome back to school! While your child and I are usually the ones in the classroom, you are the most important part of your child's education. YOU are the FIRST and MOST SIGNIFICANT teacher your child will ever have!

You are: a role model,
a nurse,
a helper,
a friend,
a guide,
a disciplinarian,
a source of hope,
a security giver, and
a source of love!

All of that can be difficult to live up to, and at times, scary for everyone. That is why it takes a team approach to help your child develop his or her potential to its fullest. Because you are so important in your child's life, I will depend a lot on your help in understanding your child. The more I know about each child's experiences, the better I can meet each child's individual needs. Please let me know of any problems encountered along the way so we can develop a parent-teacher-student solution when or if needed.

Your child will have the best chance for a successful day if:

- routines and expectations are clearly established at home for mornings before school, afternoons after school, homework, and bedtime as all children feel safe when consistent routines are in place
- each day begins with at least 9-11 hours of sleep the night before (this is based on national recommended guidelines for children ages 6-13)
- he/she does **not** watch TV before school as research has shown that children will be more ready to learn
- the day starts best with a healthy, balanced breakfast
- he/she arrives at school on time and prepared for each day
- your child is given the responsibility of bringing his/her take home folder and homework to school in a backpack
- a snack is provided to keep energy levels high and a balanced lunch is ready
- he/she wears a coat and appropriately fitting clothing each day

My philosophy of education revolves around a classroom rooted in kindness, respect and responsibility. I strive to provide an environment in which children feel safe, and are thus willing to take the chances necessary to make academic and personal gains. Your support and involvement in your child's education is extremely important to me and I invite you to contact me at any time to discuss any thing!!

Behavior Expectations

We have high expectations for student behavior in both the classroom and throughout our school to maintain a safe environment in which all children can learn and thrive. Classroom and school rules are to be followed at all times. Our schoolwide PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention System) focuses on positive choices and exhibiting The Cougar Way which is to be safe, to be respectful, and to be responsible.

It is my philosophy to help children demonstrate appropriate behaviors in the school environment. Students who demonstrate positive behavior are rewarded through praise, recognition, privileges, or other “treats” like coupons they can redeem for special privileges. Inappropriate behaviors receive appropriate consequences and we work to teach good behavior to all of the children. No one knows your child better than you, so I may seek your input as to what works best for your child if needed.

Birthdays

Every child will have the opportunity to celebrate his/her birthday with our class. Summer babies will have half birthday celebrations. I prefer to keep an educational focus to any class celebrations and our time is short so simplicity is key! To celebrate, each student will be interviewed by his/her classmates and our new insight to your child will be put into a class book. Your child will also get to select a gift from me on the day we celebrate.

You may send in small inedible treats (i.e. pencils or stickers) to celebrate your child’s birthday but do not feel obligated to do so. Some students in the past have chosen to donate a book to the class library on their birthday; this is a great way for students to introduce a favorite book to the class (maybe even read it to the class!) and creates a lasting gift for the whole class to enjoy. In keeping with improving student nutritional guidelines, and to avoid problems with potential food allergies and students feeling left out, I ask that you please do *not* send in edible treats*.

*Any edible treats will be returned with your child, thank you for understanding!

Book Orders

Every month I will send home Scholastic Book Orders. This is a wonderful source for inexpensive literature, ranging from easy readers to high level chapter books. I encourage you to take advantage of these great book club prices. Scholastic rewards our orders with points, which I can use to purchase more books for students and/or our classroom. **All student orders must be submitted online.** Our class code for online ordering is GRTB8.

Communication

To reduce paper waste, I will post our weekly bulletins each week on our classroom website (if you do not have consistent internet access, let me know) and will use this to communicate what is happening in our room as well as any upcoming events. Occasionally, other notes will come home so please make it a habit to check your child's folder every night. At the start of each month, I will send home a monthly calendar listing important dates related to our room including the volunteer schedule; any updates to the monthly calendar will be noted in the regular newsletter. If you wish to communicate with me, please email me directly or send a note in your child's folder. I will respond to you at my earliest convenience.

Our classroom website is changing formats this year to align with the district's and will be a continual progress. I will do my best to post things in a timely fashion, but if I don't, please understand that student learning is my first priority!

Transportation changes should be arranged in advance via a note or a call to the office. (Do NOT email me in the event that I do not get your message or I am absent.) This allows everyone to plan accordingly and avoid the disruption caused by last minute changes. First graders are not always able to recall what they are to do on a given day and consistency is best to alleviate anxiety on their behalf or ours.

Please let me know if there are other family members (i.e. non-custodial parents) who need to receive classroom information, as I prefer to be in contact with all parents throughout the year. Otherwise, I will use the primary email address provided to me to send all pertinent updates throughout the year.



Donations

I enjoy using small tokens or prizes to reward students often. If you would like to donate items to our prize drawers, I would love it! Small toys, books, free giveaways like McDonald's toys, pencils, self-inking stamps, novelty erasers, stickers, etc, are some examples that kids love to select! The items do not need to be new; one child's gently used item will be well loved by its new owner.

End of Day Dismissal

At the end of each day, students will be expected to remain with the class as we depart together. Following school procedures will ensure that all students are transported safely. When you are aware of changes ahead of time, please send a note to school with your child in the morning. Any last minute transportation changes for the end of the day should be directed to the SES front office and they will let me know as needed. **Please do not email me with daily changes (in the event that I should be absent) unless it is to inform me of a permanent change to your child's end of day routine.** It can be worrisome for everyone if your child goes home another way than you intended.

If you are picking up your child, please wait at the flagpole for him/her to arrive instead of the hallway. Students will not be dismissed directly from the classroom to parents outside our room, in the hallway, or on the lawn.

Healthy Snacks

Our days are quite long for young students, particularly at the start of the year. Therefore, each child should bring a small, healthy snack to keep energy levels from plummeting.

- Only fresh fruit or vegetables are permitted unless/until you hear otherwise. (Dried fruit or fruit snacks are not encouraged due to their high sugar content)
- Snacks must be quick and easy to eat as well as nutritious.
- We will have snack before first recess, from 10:20-10:25.
- Water (in tightly closing bottles) is the only drink permitted in our classroom.



Homework

Homework will begin our second week of school. All other assignments should be fairly quick to complete with parent support (reading of directions). If your child is having difficulty completing these quickly, please let me know so we may discuss potential obstacles and helpful strategies. Specific information for homework items is listed below:

Reading: all first grade students are to read a minimum of 10-15 minutes each night to hone their skills. Parents are encouraged to read aloud to model fluent reading and to read more challenging books that children are not yet able to read on their own. **Reading Logs are due on Thursday.**

Spelling: each week I will provide 5 new Word Wall Words and a spelling pattern to practice on the reading log. Practicing these at home will help students increase their recognition and spelling of words with common spelling patterns which will improve their reading and writing fluency. Our weekly lists are available to practice on www.spellingcity.com as well.

Math: to reinforce each lesson, students will have a double-sided practice page to complete at home. **Math homework is due the next morning.** When we begin a new topic, students will have new games to bring home to play which will help to reinforce the ideas within that mathematic topic. Games should stay at home for continued practice and revisiting.

Portfolio Picks: students will take home completed work in a laminated envelope on Thursdays. Work should be reviewed with a parent; this is an opportunity to recognize your child's strengths/weaknesses and to determine areas for growth. Students must select one piece of work. Once an item is selected, the enclosed half-sheet needs to be completed to explain why the item was chosen as their pick. Return the item plus the "portfolio pick slip" to school in the envelope (the remaining work stays at home). **Portfolio Picks are due the next day.**

Literacy Share: during second trimester, students will have an opportunity to share something they are reading or writing either at home or at school. This will be scheduled on the monthly classroom calendar. (2nd Trimester only)

Enrichment: opportunities for homework are available for those who wish to participate (see Special Projects) and are caught up on classwork.

Other Assignments: Some will take place over a week or two to allow for plenty of time at home. You will receive ample notice before these are due.

- Star of the Week poster and biography (specific date TBD, selected with your input)
- Scientist of the Week (specific date TBD, selected with your input)
- Pumpkin Book Report (due October 19)
- Holiday Show and Tell (due November 30)
- Character Dress Up Day (due in June TBD based up our last day of school)

Please know daily assignments are intended to be small and should be completed within the timeframe given for the SES homework policy. If a student is absent on the day an assignment is due, it is expected on the day he/she returns to school. Not completing homework as assigned will be reflected in your child's effort grades and could result in missed free time opportunities as they arise. If your child has difficulty, let me know sooner than later.

Projects that take more time (those listed in the Other Assignments category) will be provided in advance to allow you and your child to set goals and work on these a little bit at a time to avoid a last minute rush.

School Lunch

Eating lunch at school can be exciting for first graders as can eating hot lunch! Your child should know what he/she will be having for lunch each morning by the time the bell rings. Our time is precious and for that reason payments must be sorted first thing in the morning or before school. Loading your child's lunch account online through Family Access using a debit/credit card is preferred by our lunchroom staff. If you wish to send payment in to school with your child, please prepay for several lunches in lieu of sending payment each day.

If you must send in payment, please send a check with your child's first and last names and 1-R noted on it (for 1st grade and Ms. Raja's Class). Any cash payments should come in a Ziploc bag with your child's full name and 1-R on it.



School lunch calendars are posted on the district website and paper copies will not be sent home for students but extras are available near the office.

Scientist of the Week

In addition to our science curriculum this year, each week 1 or 2 student(s) will be our classroom Scientist of the Week. Students will be expected to:

1. Select a *simple* scientific experiment to try at home with parent help. Choose early in case it does not work and another needs to be selected. Experiments must be approved by Ms. Raja prior to the completion of any written work (this is purely to troubleshoot!).
2. Complete a small independent writing assignment prior to the

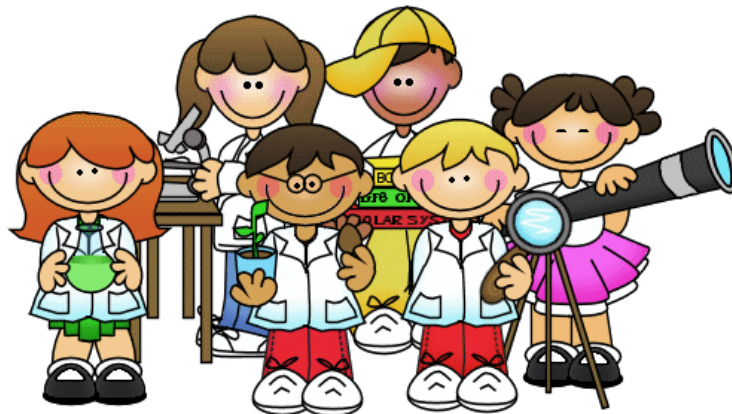


- experiment and reflect upon its success or failure. If the experiment fails, students should select another experiment with an observable reaction.
3. Complete a display board to show the scientific process followed for the experiment. (This will be submitted to the Art & Science Night)
 4. Bring all materials necessary to conduct the experiment (including the Scientist backpack back to school by the assigned date).
 5. Present the experiment to the class while explaining each step of the process to peers.

You are encouraged to assist your child in selecting and conducting the experiment at home but please make sure your child completes the writing on his/her own and is able to perform the experiment independently. I will send home books and a binder with directions detailing everything. If the writing is not completed at home by the student, then he/she will lose the opportunity to conduct an experiment and will receive a score of “0” for the assignment.

Students **MUST** be prepared and ready to present on their assigned day to continue as scheduled. Since this requires your help, you will be able to select several weeks on a sign up calendar that will work best for your schedule, too. Scientist of the Week should be a fun experience, so please let me know if you are having difficulty early on, do not wait until the day before it is due! 😊

Parents are welcome and encouraged to be a part of our audience but I do ask that you allow your child to do the work as this is their time to shine!



Special Projects

Each year I offer students the opportunity to extend their learning by developing self-selected projects. By selecting a topic of their own, students are able to guide their own learning by researching a topic that highlights their own interests

and may not be part of our regular curriculum. This also allows students a chance to teach their peers and teacher about something new!

I am open to topics and the format that students choose, though I do require that students complete a form so that I may discuss (and troubleshoot if need be) their intentions before they begin. I will also help students determine a realistic goal for completion so that they may return to class in a timely fashion to share their learning with the class. Your child will come home with a completed Special Projects form once I have approved it. If your child encounters difficulty, please encourage them to speak to me directly as this will be their work and their responsibility. I will help your child work through their challenges!

For approval to start a project, students must be caught up on their daily work and homework. If either of these areas are lacking, then students will be encouraged to focus his/her attentions there first before exploring new topics.

Some examples of projects developed by students in the past: posters, short books, written stories, mobiles, dioramas, and PowerPoint presentations. I encourage students to vary their projects and to develop creative ways to share their learning that truly interest them. My hope is that by the end of the year, each student will complete at least one independent Special Project.

Star of the Week

Each week one student will be our Star of the Week. Posters will be distributed at Curriculum Night along with directions how to complete the poster using either photographs or drawings. You may complete this in advance if you wish but it will not be needed until the week your child is scheduled. During their scheduled week, students will share their posters and a writing assignment. The writing (an auto-biography) will take the place of reading homework for their week as the Star. Students will then return to class and share the completed poster with their peers. Star of the Week also has line leader privileges during their week along with other special perks! It's important to remember:

- Posters are due Monday so we may share a bit each day
- Autobiographies are due on Thursday

Once we are finished with our Star of the Week rotations, we will choose a different Star of the Day for each day.



Transportation Changes

It is helpful for your child if he/she arrives and departs school in a consistent manner as much as humanly possible throughout the year! If you do have changes in your afternoon routine and your child needs to go home a different way, send a note with your child in the morning so that I may forward it to the office. **Please DO NOT email me with daily changes as I may not see it until after school (or I could be absent).** Last minute calls and changes are difficult to accommodate by myself and the office staff and our main concern is getting your child home safely and correctly. Letting us know in the morning will help to ensure this happens.

Volunteers

If you are able to donate your time and energy in the classroom or at home, we need you! Given the complexities of a primary classroom, I am looking for parents (guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, older siblings, etc.) who might be able to commit to regular assistance. It is my hope that we can find a fit for your talents among the many volunteer opportunities that are presented in a primary classroom. **All volunteers must complete volunteer training and complete the Washington State Patrol clearance before starting in the classroom.** I will send home additional information specific to volunteering to determine your specific interests. Remember to bring your driver's license with you each time you volunteer as it will be needed to check in at the office.

SES PTSA is also seeking volunteers to help with their activities throughout the year. Please contact the PTSA to register as a member and to become involved!



Please contact me should you have questions about any of these items or anything I may have overlooked.

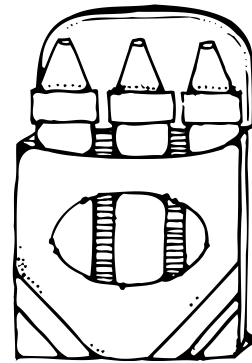
Let's have a fabulous year!

Ms. Raja's Supply List for 2018-2019

Here are the items that we need this year. This list may be different from the general supply list as our needs differ from the other classrooms. Bringing in supplies on Meet the Teacher day will ensure that all students have adequate supplies to start the year.

Classroom pooling:

- 48 Ticonderoga brand #2 pencils, presharpened
- 15 small Crayola (white) glue sticks
- 3 boxes of 24 count Crayola crayons
- 24 colored pencils, sharpened
- 2 large Pink Pearl brand erasers
- 2 fine point Sharpie markers
- 2 highlighters
- 1 package Post-It notes (3inx3in size)
- 1 package EXPO low-odor dry erase markers
- 1 box of Kleenex
- 1 bottle of unscented hand sanitizer with a pump
- 2 package of baby wipes
- Boys: 1 box of sandwich or quart size Ziploc bags
- Girls: 1 box of gallon size Ziploc bags



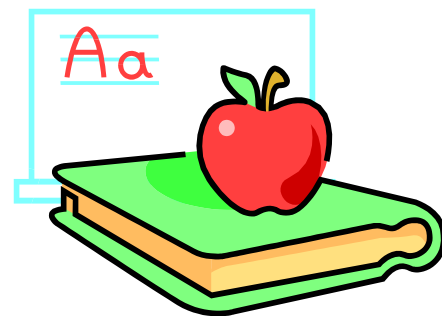
Individual student supplies: *label these items with your child's name

- well-fitting backpack for use every day*
- luggage tag attached to backpack, marked with their end of day bus route number only (for safety purposes, names should be inside the backpack, and not visible from the outside)
- personal headphones* (for use with chromebooks)
- plastic school supply box, 5"x8"*
- Fiskars brand scissors
- Crayola watercolor paints*
- 3-ring binder, 1 ½-inch size

Paints/Binders: If you have items at home that you can repurpose for your child to use this year, please do so. Binders will become student poetry anthologies. The binders need not be new, but it is very helpful if there is a plastic cover that accepts an insert as students will create a custom cover that will make easier to identify their own binder.

Please refrain from sending any items other than those listed above as our storage space is limited. Thank you!

Ms. Raja's First Grade Class Snoqualmie Elementary



2018 - 2019 Daily Schedule*

Monday - Thursday

9:05 - 9:10	Attendance, lunch count, morning work, flag salute
9:10 - 9:25	Social Emotional Learning
9:25 - 10:20	Literacy
10:20 - 10:25	Snack
10:25 - 10:40	Recess
10:50 - 11:50	Power Up (Reading Intervention/Enrichment)
11:50 - 12:25	Lunch/Recess
12:25 - 1:25	Math
1:25 - 1:55	Social Studies/Science
1:55 - 2:10	Recess
2:10 - 2:25	Pack and Stack / Class Jobs
2:25 - 3:05	Specialists (Monday-Thursday)
3:05 - 3:20	Social Studies/Science
3:25	Dismissal

Specialist Schedule:

Monday	Computer Lab
Tuesday	Library
Wednesday	PE
Thursday	Coding
Friday	Music
*Art schedule will be TBD	

Fridays

9:05 - 9:10	Attendance, lunch count, morning work, flag salute
9:10 - 9:55	Reading
9:55 - 10:25	Scientist of the Week **
10:25 - 10:40	Recess
10:40 - 11:15	Scientist of the Week**
11:15 - 11:45	Math
11:50 - 12:25	Lunch/Recess
12:25 - 12:45	Free Time Friday / Clean-up / Class Jobs / Pack and Stack
12:45 - 1:25	Specialist: Music
1:25	Early Dismissal

** Scientist of the Week:

Scientist 1	9:55 - 10:25
Scientist 2	10:45 - 11:15
This will be noted on our monthly calendar (approximately 8-10 weeks)	

*Schedule is subject to change as the year develops and we adapt to school-wide schedules, this is simply a helpful outline for your reference at the start of the year. ☺

Thank you for scheduling appointments for your child outside of school time!