



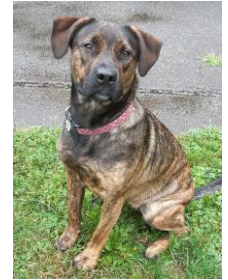
Welcome to Grade One!

My name is Katie Metcalfe and I'll be your child(ren)'s teacher (*shout out to all of my sets of twins*) this year!

I have been at James Hillier for a long time now and I still love our little school. Go Jayhawks! I've taught K-3 but LOVE the Grade One curriculum best.



I am married to my husband Jim and we have one child. Allie is starting grade one this year, too! I also have two dogs. Ozzie and Maggie. I hope to share lots of stories about their crazy adventures with the class this year. My favourite thing in the world is walking my dogs.



I LOVE GRADE ONE and hopefully you and your family will too. There is so much **growth** that happens this year and I can't wait to get started. You have to promise me something to start the year off though. **Please don't compare your child to another kid in grade one. Each one of us is on our own adventure.**

Some of us may be starting the year reading chapter books, and some of us are still working on the order of the letters in our name. Some of us are **AMAZING** builders and creators.....while some of us have never even taped 2 cereal boxes together. **Our goal is to be the kindest, bravest and most flexible students in the school!**



My job is to teach and guide us through the **VERY FUN** grade one curriculum.....trying my best to work with each child at their level.

Now, the yucky part about grade one is that we start getting official report cards. I don't mind writing them – but they are sure hard to read sometimes if a child isn't hitting benchmarks at the exact moment that the curriculum wants them to. What does that mean? Well. Some kids walk at 9 months. Some kids walk at 13 months. **Everyone ended up walking!!!** We'll try and remember that as we work through the year together. A report card is merely a 'snapshot' of what a child is doing at a certain time of year.....we'll learn about what the marks mean later on together.

On to class business.....

1. Does my child need their own school supplies?

If you want to. I have things in the room to share. But, if they are more comfortable using their own items, fine by me! **Pencil box, good pencils, scissors, glue sticks, washable markers, and twistables** are all good ideas.



2. **Please send in a change of clothes.** I hate having to interrupt a parent's work day for them to bring a set of clothes in for their child. Students can keep a spare set in a bag on their hook for the year. **Your child will also need a pair of "easy to put on" indoor shoes.**
3. Homework. **Agendas** are our homework right now. We will **copy a message from the board** everyday. Please check the message every night with your child. It will foster a conversation about what is happening in our classroom and keep you informed. Other homework includes – getting a good night's sleep (we're going to be exhausted doing big kid things now) and chatting about school. Reading bags will begin in a few weeks.



4. **Refillable waterbottles** are welcome in our room. We keep them on our desks and send them home at the end of the day. Having a label on it would be helpful. We also have a super-long language block in the mornings. We may eat a bit earlier than the 11:00am snack time for the first little bit. We'll see how this goes.....

5. **Book orders** will be sent home every month. No pressure. Order if you'd like! If it's a surprise order – let me know – and I can make a plan with you. Cash, cheque or online ordering is fine!

6. **Class Calendar!** You'll find our class calendar in our agendas.....September's calendar is all set to go with our gym days (with the famous Ms. Sabatino) on it! It will be glued in at the beginning of each month.

7. We are a **PEANUT FREE** classroom. If you are sharing a fun treat with us for a birthday – please know that it must be store-bought and labelled peanut free. I'm afraid anything else will



have to be sent home. (i.e. Timbits) I'll share more about classroom parties a little bit closer to Halloween time.

8. Our focus in September will be learning about each other, talking about self-regulation (and learning some new strategies) and starting our reading, writing and math work. We'll start learning all of [our new routines](#) as well!

Thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter. I hope it answers a few of your questions. **More information will come home this month and throughout the year.** If you need something – please don't hesitate to call me or write a note in your child's agenda. I am unsure about using a communication app this year – as the Board has added more to their “do not use” list and our options are dwindling. I need to get an official list. For now – we'll use our agendas, the phone and face-to-face! Please say hi!

Please fill in and return the form below. Feel free to write more on the back!

My child(ren)'s name(s):

After school pick up plans:

We are most excited about:

We are a little worried about:

Mrs. Metcalfe needs to know:
