Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back to another exciting year at Parkcrest Elementary School! We can only expect exciting and wonderful things to happen this year. The students are happy to be back and are very enthusiastic to learn. I am looking forward to meeting all of you in the near future but I would like to send you some information about our classroom policies and procedures. I hope that this will help to answer some of your initial questions and concerns.

**Who is Mrs. Latta?** My name is Mrs. Jayne Latta and I having been teaching in SD #73 for over 15 years. My background includes a Bachelors Degree in Music Education and a Bachelor of Education from UBC. This is my sixth year teaching at Parkcrest. Prior to our school, I have taught at Beattie and Bert Edwards in both intermediate and primary classes. I do have two of my own children in grade 7 and grade 10 in SD73.

This year I am beginning a two year leadership program with the school district. Two days a week I will be working in the office with Mrs. Linfitt. I am pleased to announce I will be job sharing this year with Ms. Gobelle. She will be the teacher in our class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

I am happy to meet with parents any time. Please feel free to contact me at the school during school hours, email me (alatta@sd73.bc.ca) or send a note in your child’s agenda and I will make an appointment to meet with you (250-554-2368). I am looking forward to teaching your child this year!

**Class Blog:** Our class blog is up and running. Feel free to check it out! Just log into [www.lattaslibretto.weebly.com](http://www.lattaslibretto.weebly.com/) or go to the School district website, click on ‘Schools’ and you will find our ‘Parkcrest School” web page. Teachers’ blogs are listed on the left side of the page. I try to update this every Sunday night to let families know about the upcoming week.

**Class Messenger:** This is another helpful way I find I can communicate with parents. If you go to our classroom blog I have posted the link to register for this free service or you can go to <http://cmsngr.co/EW52X4EL5W> our class code is 22MHSH under Grade 5/6.

**French**: Our class will be having French this year with Ms. Brkovich. Our French classes will be on Tuesday and Thursday.

**PE:** This year Mrs. Erichuk will be teaching our Gym class. Students will be required to have proper gym wear. This includes a change of tops and bottoms. Students will also need to make sure they have proper gym shoes to run in. Gym classes are on Monday and Thursday.

**Library:** Once a week, we will be going to library for a Skills/Research lesson and a sign out time. Our librarian this year is Mrs. Gorman. Our class will once again be able to sign out two or three books each week. Library day will be Tuesday.

**Choir:** I will be teaching intermediate students choir this year. All intermediate classes will be having choir together once a week for 45 minutes. This block encourages teamwork and builds community among our students. We find that this experience helps to boost peoples spirits and the students look forward to it each week. I will be trying to integrate our songs with the social studies program to make it meaningful for our intermediate students**.**

**Agenda Books:** Grade 5/6 students are given a bit more responsibility in the classroom and around the school. They are expected to make efficient use of class time and pay close attention to due dates while completing their best work. We will be working on many assignments this year and organization and time management is very important.

You can help your child by encouraging them to make wise use of their agenda, our class website and other tools available to them. Newsletters and permission slips will come in the agenda as well. It is important that these quickly are returned to the school.

Our agendas will go back and forth between school and home - Monday to Friday.

Students will keep their newsletters and spelling lists in it. Please send their agenda every

day signed by a parent. Please feel free to communicate with me in this agenda

regarding appointments, absences, concerns etc. I will be checking it each day as well.

Agendas will be coming home soon. Please watch for them ☺

**Homework:**  The majority of homework that will come home will be assignments that have been started in class but the student was unable to finish. Often if class time is not well used, students need to complete the work at home. Once in a while we may have projects to work on with set deadlines and from time to time students will need to prepare for unit tests. It is my hope that students will have ample time to complete tasks, however, should something occur please feel free to send me a note or an email and accommodations can be made.

**Weekly Spelling List:** Students will completing spelling this year. Lists will be sent home on Monday of each week and they will be tested on Friday. Each night students are expected practice their spelling words.

**Water Bottle:** Please send a water bottle to school each day for your child. Students are allowed to drink water at their tables during class time.

**Chromebooks**: The two grade 5/6 classes are participating in a technology pilot project this year. After a successful application process, the two groups have the use of 32 chromebooks and 7 ipads. As teachers we are very excited to have the opportunity to implement many exciting and engaging technology based activities into the classroom.

I am asking students to bring their own earphones for our technology time.

Finally.... thank-you so much for the enthusiasm that I have already seen from many of our parents this year. It is nice to have such a supportive and caring group of parents and it shows in your children! Please do not hesitate to call me at the school if you have any questions or concerns and we can set up an appointment time to meet. Your support and communication is the key to helping us create an effective program for your child.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jayne Latta

Student + Parent + Teacher = Success!!!