25 Stoney Crescent West

Lethbridge, AB, T1K 6V5

September, 2018

Grade 9 Students

Father Leonard Van Tighem

25 Stoney Crescent West

Lethbridge, AB, T1K 6V5

Dear Students,

Welcome to Language Arts! As we will be working together quite a bit over this first quarter, I think this is a good opportunity for us to get to know each other. This is my third year at Father Leonard Van Tighem School. I have a few questions for you, and I have shared my own answers to these questions with you in this letter. Then I would like you to write a letter back to me, giving me your answers.

This is my third full year of teaching as I just graduated from the University of Lethbridge in December of 2016. I have completed two degrees at the University of Lethbridge, my first degree is a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Kinesiology and Art and my second degree is a Bachelor of Education, majoring in Kinesiology and Art. For those of you who do not know what Kinesiology is, it is a fancy term for physical education or gym. After I graduated, I received a temporary contract, teaching grade 6 at St. Paul school where I taught there for ten weeks. After that I continued to substitute teach until the school year was up in June. I then ended up here at Father Leonard Van Tighem School last year where I enjoyed every minute of it and I am happy to be back on a continuous contract with the division! Even though my majors are Kinesiology and Art, this year I am teaching grade 7 through 9 LA, grade 8 Health and Religion, Hockey, Printmaking, Badminton and Fitness options, grade 5 and 6 Gym and grade 5 French. But I have been told that you never teach what you went to school for and I am excited for this year and to get to know you all a little bit better.

I am originally from Neepawa, Manitoba and moved to Medicine Hat when I was going into grade 5. We moved from Alberta because my dad got transferred. I finished the rest of my schooling in Medicine Hat and decided that I was going to do my post-secondary education in Lethbridge. After I graduated I moved to Lethbridge. Shortly before my first year of university was going to end, my dad received another transfer and my parents followed me here. I have an older brother who is happily married to my sister-in-law and a younger sister, both of which live here in Lethbridge. My husband and I have been married for 2 years, as of this past Monday and we have been together for 6 years and we have two very cute dogs, named Amara and Stella. Amara is a German Sheppard/ Border Collie mix and Stella is a German Shepard/ Rottweiler mix. What about you and your family? What is the best thing about your family? What do you enjoy doing with your family? Do you have any pets?

When I’m not teaching I enjoy numerous things from playing / coaching hockey, boating, snowboarding, reading, camping, traveling and anything to do with arts and crafts. This summer was filled with lots of painting. As soon as school ended, we decided to finish off our garage. We mudded and taped the drywall, then sprayed texture on it. After that we painted it white, then painted moldings and hung those. I was busy for hours a day finishing off all the things that needed to be painted. My dad works at Northside Lethbridge Dodge and the detail department got behind, due to a huge sale, so I went in for a few weeks to help them catch up. I also inventory all of the tools the mechanics use and do the scheduling. Over the course of the summer we had five weddings to attend to, so this took up most of our weekends. For the September long weekend, we went to Edmonton for our second anniversary. Here we went to the West Edmonton Mall, the new outlet mall, went for dinner and caught up with some friends. It was a nice way to end off the summer. What are some things that you enjoy doing and couldn’t live without? What did you do this summer that was awesome?

As a child I loved reading! I would read every night before bed, then University happened and I traded in books for textbooks. Since teaching reading has been something I have been able to get back into and I love it. I try to make an effort to read before bed each night and reading class on Friday’s is something I look forward too. What about you? Who is your favourite author? Mine is J.K. Rowling, I love all things Harry Potter. Do you have a favourite book? What things are you good at as a reader and what is one thing you need to work on to improve your reading? Last reading question: How do you select a book to read for enjoyment?

I look forward to getting to know you through your writing this year. As you write, I learn how to help you become a better writer. What are you looking forward to in LA? Is there anything in LA that you find difficult or that you worry about?

I learn best when I can collaborate with others to discuss and come up with ideas about what to write and when I can see an example. What helps you be a successful learner? What can I do to help?

I look forward to receiving and reading your letter. In closing, here are a few pieces of advice for getting the most out of our class this year:

* work hard.
* make mistakes and learn from them.
* take responsibility for what you learn about reading and writing this year.
* take pride in your work – after all ... it’s part of who you are.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kasprick

 P.S. This is also an opportunity for me to observe your writing skills, so ... write as thoughtfully as you can. We will use this writing to determine your strengths and needs as a writer.



Letter to Mrs. Kasprick

You will write many pieces over the course of the year. Your first assignment will be a response to the one you’ve just read from me. To probably all of you, I am a new teacher; we both do not really know each other. This is your chance to “fill me in” as I have already filled you in about me.

Think about school and this class in particular. What do I need to know about you in order to be a better teacher for you? What would you like to tell me about yourself so that we understand each other better? Please see my letter for further questions.

Some more instructions:

     Your letter should be between one and a half to two pages long (single spaced) and must answer each of the questions I’ve asked you.

     Remember this is a formal piece of writing, remember your audience is your teacher - no texting language, emoticons or graphics please.

     Please write your letter in paragraphs (at least 4-5 sentences per paragraph please). Use the attached planner as a guide.

     Keep your purpose for writing in mind: **What do you want me to know about you?**

**LETTER OUTLINE:**

Opening Salutation:

*Dear,*

*Hello,*

*Good morning,*

Paragraph #1:

*A brief introduction of yourself – your name, (the following are suggestions) age, how long have you been at Van Tighem? What are you looking forward to this year? What options are you taking? What are some of your qualities?*

Paragraph #2:

*family – include siblings, parents, pets and anyone else you consider family.*

Paragraph #3*:*

*Things you can’t live without –*

*Things you like to do –*

*Hobbies/sports (teams)/ activities/ what you do after school and or in the evening*

Paragraph #4:

*Reading questions*

Paragraph #5:

*LA questions – things you like/look forward to, things you find difficult*

*What helps you be a successful learner?*

Paragraph #6:

*Anything else you’d like to tell me about yourself ….*

Closing salutation:

*Sincerely,*