



May 2022

Dear families,

We welcome you and your child to Kindergarten! We hope we have a wonderful year together. Your child will be in a multi-aged K-3 classroom with either Ms. Pollick or Ms. Leathwood. The benefits of multi-age are that students learn a variety of skills that support them to be resilient, independent, good leaders, better citizens as well as learning patience, acceptance and understanding.

Both of us have a passion for teaching primary and are so excited to be your child's first school teacher! We look forward to your involvement in our classrooms and in your child's learning.

In September, there will be a gradual entry into Kindergarten. Please have a look at the gradual entry schedule below. We really appreciate your flexibility as we help all children get off to the best start possible in school.

The first year of school should be one of excitement, enjoyment, and learning. We would like to invite you to a 'meet the teacher orientation' for parents and guardians on **Wednesday, September 21st at 3:15**. During this meeting we will introduce our classroom routines and learning intentions for the year, tell you all about ourselves, and go over a few helpful notes and any questions you may have about the coming year. Please mark it in your calendars, I know it is a long way off!

Parents often wonder how they can help prepare their child for Kindergarten. Here are some ways:

- Play games that involve numbers. Any game with dice or a spinner would give your child the opportunity to recognize numbers and practice counting while having fun!
- Practice holding pencils, crayons and scissors correctly and developing fine motor skills. If your child hasn't shown an interest in learning letters or numbers yet, don't worry! They will learn them at school. (here is a good site to help with pencil grip: <https://www.growinghandsonkids.com/pencil-grasp-development-for-writing.html>)
- Help your child talk about and label their feelings. Socio-emotional learning and self-regulation are a huge part of learning and sharing in a classroom setting and essential life skills!
- Help your child become as independent as possible taking off and putting on their shoes, doing up zippers, cleaning up after themselves, washing and drying their hands.

- READ, READ, READ!!!
- Enjoy talking and listening together! Oral language is a big part of our program. Talking with your child builds their vocabulary and develops their confidence in sharing their thoughts and ideas with others.
- Have a look at our Welcome to Kindergarten social story on our school website. Review this with your child as often as needed to get them excited and ready for school.

Kindergarten Gradual Entry Schedule September 2022				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	6 half day for grade 1 stu- dents only	7 1:00-2:45 afternoon	8 8:40-10:30 morning	9 8:40-10:45 morning *bring snack
12 8:40-10:45 *bring snack	13 8:40-12:05 *bring snack	14 8:40-12:05 *bring snack	15 8:40-12:55 *bring snack & lunch	16 8:40-12:55 *bring snack & lunch
19 full day	20 full day	21 full day Parent Meeting @ 3:15	22 full day	23 Pro-D day No school
26 full day	27 full day	28 full day	29 full day	30 stat holiday TAR

A few reminders:

- The school day starts at 8:40, however children are welcome any time between 8:40-9:00am, as we have a gentle transition into our day to help settle in.
- We will work as a team to best support your family with this exciting, new change. We know the transition into school can be a challenge for some and invite your family to make Fridays optional if your child needs more time. Please let your teacher know what your family decides so we can best plan for the class.
- Please make sure your child comes with a backpack, water bottle, snack, lunch (when staying full days), and a pair of indoor shoes. **Please label all items.**

- There is a \$40 school supply fee that can be paid to your child's teacher, the office or on our website <https://jvh.sd8.bc.ca>

Thank you for taking the time to read these notes. We look forward to working together with you as a team to support your child's learning. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, concerns, comments, or just want to say hi 😊.

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