

## Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with your child this fall. I also look forward to working with you, as I feel that you are your child's first and most important teacher, and we must work together for your child's best interest.

Just a few things to keep in mind as you get your child ready for Kindergarten...

- When purchasing shoes, backpacks, lunch kits, coats, etc. try to keep in mind that one of the main goals of Kindergarten is independence. It's important to give your child a choice but it's even more important that they are able to manage **independently** with whatever clothes, shoes, backpacks, etc. they have for school. We change our shoes 8 – 10 times per day and young children need to sit down to tie up shoes. The boot room is often wet and this means putting their bums down on the wet floor to tie up their shoes. I would suggest getting Velcro shoes if possible- the zippers type do not seem to last. When buying coats and other clothes, make sure your child can deal with the zippers, snaps, etc. -have them try to zip it up by themselves at least 3 times before you buy it. Backpacks should be **big enough** to hold their lunch kit, a change of clothing, ski pants, a good size library book, and various papers.
- If you are working with your child on pencil paper skills such as printing their name, strongly encourage them to start letters at the top and **use lowercase letters except for a capital at the beginning of their name** (printing with all uppercase letters is a difficult habit to break). Encourage the use of the correct pincher grip to hold the pencil.
- Other skills you can work with your child on are saying their personal data such as full name including middle name, age, address, phone number and birthday. Encourage your child to say the ABC's rather than sing them, name colors, play with rhyming words, count to 10 and work on recognition of numbers to 5.
- Try to establish a set bedtime towards the end of the summer and remember young children need 10 to 12 hours of sleep to function to their best potential.

Most of the kindergarten evaluation is through observation with some direct testing. In the first month the children will all have the EYE TA screen done. This screen looks at a variety of areas including Motor Skills, Language Skills, and Concept Skills. It is intended to develop an understanding of your child's knowledge of personal information, colors, simple vocabulary, numbers, body parts, and his/her ability to listen to and follow directions. It allows the teacher to determine where your child's strengths lie and helps us plan the kindergarten program for the up-coming year. This is not a difficult or stressful test for your child. In fact, most of them really enjoy it! You will receive a summary of the results in early November and these results work as your child's first report card.

As you know, children get dirty and have accidents now and again. I would appreciate it if you would send a full change of clothes with your child in a labeled plastic bag in their backpack. Please remember too, that every day your child is actively involved at school, so play clothes are most appropriate. The children will be going outside for recess

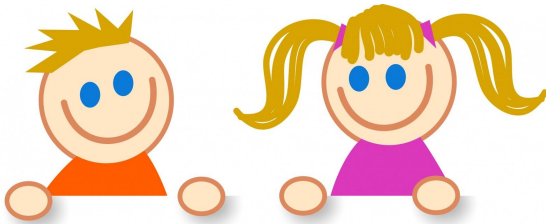
breaks and therefore should be prepared to dress for all types of Alberta weather. Ensure all items of clothing coats, inside and outside shoes, jackets, etc. are **well labeled** with permanent marker. All black boots or black ski pants look the same to a 5 year old at the end of the day!!

I have attached a list of class supplies your child will need for kindergarten.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me either at the school or at home.

#780 795 3782 (school)

#780 289 9717 (home).



See you in September!

Jenna Otway

### **Supplies for Kindergarten**

1 pack of thin tip Markers

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1 pack of Pencil Crayons or 1 pack of Crayons

1 pack of pencils (please NO plastic covered ones)

1 pair of scissors (size appropriate)

3 packs of glue sticks (9 glue sticks)

2 ½ and ½ interlined scribblers (top half plain, bottom half lined)

1 plain paged scribbler (all blank)

1 scrapbook (coil bound) 11 x 17

1 pencil case

3 boxes of kleenex

1 pair of indoor shoes

1 backpack

1 lunch kit

1 set of extra clothes clearly labelled

Please label all supplies.