

Welcome to Kindergarten at Kinosayo!

Teaching Philosophy

- Learning through play while developing discovery-based learning skills, including a strong foundation for literacy, numeracy, and social growth.

Environmental Awareness

- Activities planned around research-based evidence that children's involvement with nature enhances learning and problem-solving abilities.

Kinder Programs

- **Morning:** 8:50 - 11:37am (Drop off and pick-up at the front of the school/foyer)
- **Afternoon:** 12:43 - 3:25pm (Teacher pick-up in the foyer at 12:35pm)
- **Full Day:** 8:50 - 3:25pm (Drop off and pick-up at the front of the school/foyer)

****We ask that Kinder-kids are met by an adult - we are not permitted to release them to older siblings or to let them leave on their own.**

Busing

- Available through the Transportation Department at our District Office on Sir Winston Churchill Blvd (780-460-3712). Children who take the bus will be met at the front of the school. Full Day and Afternoon students going home by bus will wait in supervised groups until their bus arrives.

****Parents or caregivers must be on the receiving end.**

THINGS FOR YOU TO DO PRIOR TO SCHOOL STARTING:

- **Eye exam and hearing test.** So much of what we do in Kindergarten requires seeing and hearing - if a child is having issues in one or both of these areas their learning will be impacted. Vision tests are free for children up to 18 years old and hearing tests can be coordinated through your family doctors. *There is a program called "I See, I Learn" that many local optometrists participate in that provides one set of glasses to Kindergarten-age children free of charge.
- **Exposure to crayons, pencils, markers, glue, and scissors.** These are tools that we use regularly in the classroom. Encourage a "mature" grasp instead of a fist.
- **Exposure to books, magazines, puzzles, etc.**

- **Exposure to the alphabet and counting (through songs, games, etc.).**
- **Practice putting on shoes and fastening velcro.** If your child cannot independently tie their own consider purchasing shoes with elastic tensioners or velcro closures.
- **Toilet-training.** Please let us know if your child is not independently using the bathroom, including wiping themselves. (We will always help in the case of an accident).
- **Practice zippers and buttons.**
- **Practice opening and closing containers,** lunch bag zippers, ziplock bags, opening snack food packages, etc. We are here to help especially with thermos lids that must be tight to avoid spills but we encourage independence.
- **Group activities.** If your child has not had exposure to group activities it might be nice to sign them up for something over the summer so they can start to experience being "one of many"! The transition from home (where they are often one of 3-5+) to school where they are one of 24+ is often difficult. The concepts of sharing, compromising, and being part of a group are a lot to deal with in the first weeks of school on top of learning new routines and environments.

THINGS WE WILL NEED:

- **Indoor shoes.** One pair of non-marking sole, indoor shoes is to be brought to school and left here for daily use. Velcro, zipper, or elastic-fastened shoes that can be managed independently are preferred - tying up laces for students cuts into valuable instruction time.
- **Backpacks.** Please make sure the backpack is a functional size to carry Library books, the daily agenda, lunch bag, and crafts to and from school.
- **Snacks & Water Bottles.** There will be opportunities for the children to eat a snack in the morning and in the afternoon. Please talk with your child often about what is being packed as their tastes change frequently! Full day children will also need to bring a full lunch. We are encouraging you to send your child with a refillable water bottle so we can keep hydrated! We will teach them how and where to access water. We ask that you pack utensils in your bag, however there are some available if we forget!
- **Change of Clothes.** 'Oops' happen so please send a complete change of clothes (socks, underwear, pants, and shirt) in a labeled Zip-loc. If we need to use them a note will be sent home with the dirty clothes requesting replacement items.
- **Allergies & Medical Information.** Any medication that needs to be administered at school MUST be registered at the Office. Epi-pens will be stored in the classrooms and brought on all outings by the teachers.
- **"Nut-sensitive Classroom".** We endeavour to ensure safe classrooms where all parents are aware that nuts, nut-products (peanut butter, Nutella, almond butter, etc), and any items containing nuts are to be avoided at school for the safety of students and staff.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- **Kinder-cooking.** We will be doing themed Kinder-cooking 1-2 times each month. Parent volunteers will be most appreciated on these days.
- **Parent Volunteers.** We will have many opportunities for you to participate in your Kinder-kid's learning environment. We encourage parents to be involved in the school and we always welcome help with art, Kinder-cooking, field trips, prep work at school or at home - tracing, cutting, sorting, making playdough, etc. If you have the time we would love to see you!
- **Field Trips.** We have several field trips planned throughout the year. Parent volunteers will be needed for all trips. Student permission forms will be sent home prior to each off-site trip for you to review, sign, and return. Occasionally, the daily schedule is altered so all classes can attend field trips together. We give as much notice as possible so parents can make alternative drop-off and pick-up arrangements.
- **Staff Meeting Days.** The first Wednesday of every month (starting in October) there will be no Kindergarten. Grades 1-6 attend for only a half day.
- **School fees for the year.** As of this year (2022-2023), our school fees are as follows:
 - Field Trip fees - \$160.00
 - Kinder-Cooking fees -\$65.00
 - Agenda + Communication Bag - \$11.25
 - Full Day Kindergarten fee - \$3200.00 (\$320/month).

Payment portal and logins will be sent to you in the introduction packages that get mailed out in August. (There will be a school supply list, staggered entry schedule, calendar, and other important information included in this mailing.)

If you still have questions unanswered, or to arrange a private conversation or meeting, please call us at the school, or reach out to one of us via email.

We would love to talk with you!