

September 6, 2017

Welcome to Kindergarten

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Kindergarten! I am honoured and thrilled to teach your child this year! It is my hope that together we will make this year a memorable and productive one for your child. We had a great first day and are excited for all the activities that are planned for the year. The following is some important information that will be useful to you in helping your child succeed in Kindergarten.

Snacks and Lunch: There will be a morning snack followed by lunch and then an afternoon snack. Please ensure these snacks and meals are healthy so your child will be alert and energized to perform optimally in all activities. We would like to request that a water bottle be sent to school daily since we do not have a water fountain in the classroom. Please also be aware that any food containing nuts may not be brought to school due to severe nut allergies.

Homework: We will begin our homework program later in the month of September when students are more comfortable with classroom routines and expectations. We will introduce the homework program by a staggered approach, with one subject being cumulatively assigned each week until homework is assigned every day. Please support your child with their homework and check it over every night to ensure proper completion. Our class will also participate in a home reading program. A reading log will be sent home along with a book that is suitable for each child. Please have your child read each book aloud and assist with sounding-out letter sounds for unknown words.

Birthdays: Birthdays are an important celebration for children. If you would like to bring any treats to include in the celebration, please let me know. I can also provide you with a list of names for planning parties outside of school in order to avoid any exclusions, which can be devastating to a child. Hence, depending on the size of the birthday party you may be planning, we ask that you try to include everyone in the class, or either all of the boys or all of the girls.

Special Skills/Careers: Please let me know if you have any special skills, interesting careers or hobbies that you would like to share with our class. As part of our studies of careers we will gladly welcome you as a guest speaker in order to talk about your work or even look into the possibility of visiting your workplace. In addition, if you have any special knowledge or skills pertaining to cultural events or celebrations and would like to share this with the class, then we welcome your contributions!

Sharing Time: Every day the Kindergarten class will have “Sharing Time”. This is a special time set aside to give students an opportunity to share their thoughts, ideas, and knowledge with their classmates. Sharing time helps to develop their listening and speaking skills. It also helps students develop good manners as they are expected to be polite when their classmates are sharing. Some ideas for sharing include educational toys and games, favourite books, magazines, or items related to the theme we are studying in class. Students can also share stories about their families or their lives outside of school. We try to limit the amount of toys that come in for sharing; however, a special toy from a birthday, grandma, etc. is perfectly acceptable. Every child will have one sharing day per week, commencing the week of September 11th.

Sharing Schedule (once per week):

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Vihaan	Vienna	Myla	Armaan	Amrita
Jaela	AJ	Dante	Sienna	Teagan
Aria	Saivik	Taara	Sahil	Sissi
Ashima	Grant	Max	Arnav	

Gym Strip: During the first several months of Kindergarten the gym strip will serve as an extra pair of clothing in case of accidents and therefore must be kept at school with gym shoes in a small drawstring bag. Our gym teacher kindly requests that your child wear Velcro shoes if your s/he cannot tie shoelaces independently. Bright coloured laces and designs are permitted for gym shoes only.

Dance Shoes: A sample of appropriate dance slippers can be found hanging on the Notice Board. Please ensure your child’s name is written inside each dance shoe; these will be kept in the classroom for the school year.

End of Day Pick-Up: As we adjust to new school routines throughout our day (and particularly for the end-of-day routines during the month of September) we kindly request that parents wait in their vehicles or outside the classroom door away from children’s sight lines until dismissal time at 3pm, as a parent’s presence can be very distracting during clean up time and end of day procedures. At 3 o’clock our Kindergarten helpers will open the door to welcome parents in again.

Questions: Please feel free to speak to me about any questions or concerns in the morning when you drop off your child or after school when you pick them up. Families will continue receiving monthly school newsletters and may refer to the school website for other information: www.diamondelementary.ca.

I am looking forward to talking with you again soon and getting to know you and your child better!

Sincerely,

Alanna Schuurmans
alannaschuurmans@gmail.com