

June 14, 2019

Welcome/Bienvenue Kindergarten Parents and Guardians

A warm welcome to Peach Arch School and specifically to our Kindergarten Program. We are looking forward to working with everyone to make the upcoming school year 2019-20 one of the most rewarding and fun years ever.

This informative letter (one of many you will be receiving throughout the school year) will assist you in maneuvering your way through September, one of our busiest months.

Kindergarten at our school is an all day program and we can understand that some of you are concerned about this long day and the impact it will have on your child and your family. As educators, we welcome the opportunity a full day provides to spend more time with every child in our classrooms, to cover topics in more detail and to expand the range of activities we can do in Kindergarten.

Kindergarten is an exciting year as it marks your child's transition into the school system, where growing independence and increased social responsibility are fostered. Your support is invaluable and we very much look forward to getting to know you as the year goes on. We are also hoping you continue to work with your child over the summer using the information you received at the Kindergarten Orientation back in April.

The incoming Kindergarteners will gradually transition into a full day as you will see by the attached Gradual Entry Schedule. This allows us the opportunity to teach important routines to a smaller group. It also gives us a chance to see the children interact with each other and with each teacher. We will team teach during the first 2 weeks, move children between classes and attempt to create 2 homogenous, well-balanced French Immersion Kindergarten classes. We will take individual learning needs, gender balance and social competency into account when creating the permanent classes by September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The attached Gradual Entry Schedule outlines the tentative placement of your child as well as the times and location for reporting to specific classrooms.

On the first day of classes, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, please report together with your child to the designated classroom for a 45 minute orientation session. Before leaving, please make sure you have signed up for a Parent/Teacher (no child) conference time of your choice offered from Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup> as indicated on the Gradual Entry Schedule sheet. Merci to those parents who have filled out and forwarded the Kindergarten Student Information Sheet in advance. This information has been a huge help to us!

There are a few things we would like to mention in preparation to make your child's transition into Kindergarten as successful as possible.

#### School Motto

Take care of yourself  
Take care of others  
Take care of our school

#### Kindergarten POD 200

Our school is a unique design and we are very cautious of the safety of our students. Students always travel in pairs and the POD doors are always locked during the school day.

#### Getting to school on time

Please ensure you give yourself plenty of time in the morning to arrive to school on time. Parking can be challenging as most of the students come from out of catchment. Having your child arrive to school early can also lessen children's anxiety and gives them time to visit with their friends before the school bell rings. Tardiness results in your child missing important information not to mention it being very disruptive for classmates and teachers.

#### Step 1-2-3

For most children and parents alike, the transition from home to full day K will be a relatively smooth one; however, for others it will be a more difficult process. To help with this, we have developed a procedure we call STEP 1-2-3 and here is how it works:

Step 1: arrive to school on time and kiss your child goodbye

Step 2: have your child line up along the K POD wall with his/her backpack BEFORE school bell rings, ready to enter classroom

Step 3: when school bell rings, child walks into classroom ALONE and you walk AWAY even if child is fussing/crying/clinging

As everyone becomes more familiar with one another and with the routines, the transition will get smoother so please help us out by following this procedure. It really works in assisting children to become independent learners.

#### Shoes and Coats

Please make sure your child wears shoes and a coat that she/he is able to quickly put on and take off by themselves. You can practice pulling up zippers and doing buttons at home over the summer. The inside/gym shoes that will stay at school (in the classroom) must be runners (not slippers or crocs) with VELCRO.

Change of clothing

Please pack an extra change of clothes in a labelled Ziploc bag and send this to school during the first week. It's always a good idea to have this on hand just in case of accidents!

Backpacks, lunch kits and snacks

Your child will require a large backpack to hold a lunch kit, a SMALL water bottle (keep it simple please!!), notices and art projects being sent home, library books and snacks. Please, NO backpacks on wheels. Note: We are a NUT AWARE school.

Lunch breaks and recess

Kindergarten is a full day program, therefore, it is imperative children get scheduled outside play time to run and get fresh air. Kindly make sure your child is appropriately dressed each school day as they will go outside under monitored supervision for a 30 minute break come rain or shine. Our school is fortunate to have plenty of undercover areas for those wet recesses.

School Supplies

All Kindergarten school supplies are purchased by us, the teachers. The amount of \$30.00 is requested to cover the cost of your child's school supplies which can be paid online beginning the first day of school in September. Kindly read the School Cash Online (KEV Group) letter that is attached or check the school's website for more information about this.

We certainly hope this letter is helpful for you in preparing your child for their introductory school year. Enjoy your summer and we'll see you all in September

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Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Teachers

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