

Woodland Park Elementary

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# *Welcome To Kindergarten*

Information for September 8<sup>th</sup> 2020



Please read this package completely. It has been carefully compiled to provide you and your child with the necessary information for a happy and comfortable transition into our school.

# Woodland Park Elementary School

## KINDERGARTEN

### September Start

The first steps into Kindergarten represent an important milestone in a student's school journey. We look forward to welcoming your child into our school and sharing in this milestone with you.

As we look ahead to the 2020-2021 school year, responding to COVID-19 will be central to the planning for school start-up in September. While schools typically share schedules for gradual entry into Kindergarten in June, the rapidly changing landscape in relation to COVID precludes us from providing families with schedules at this time. Once we have received direction from Ministry regarding September, schools will be sharing gradual entry plans with families. We anticipate that this will occur in late August through school websites.

We appreciate your patience and look forward to celebrating your child's entry into kindergarten in the fall

### Getting Ready for School

Please see the attached PowerPoint slides of ways to help your child be ready for school. The slides are also available on the Woodland Park School Website.

### Special Gradual Entry Session

Gradual Entry happens for the first 2 weeks of September school for Kindergarten students. Gradual Entry is to allow children and parents an opportunity to become familiar with a new situation by attending in smaller groups and for shortened days. It is also hoped that the mini-sessions will help bring about a positive transition from parents and home to teachers and the school. This is the format recommended by the Surrey School Board and followed by Kindergarten classes throughout the district.

Detailed information about your child's gradual entry schedule will be shared closer to the start of school.

### Registration

School is scheduled to start Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 for School District #36. However, the first day of school is a **registration day only** for Kindergarten. **Kindergarten children do not attend school on this day.** The first day of school has been set aside for confirmation that your child is registered for Kindergarten and will be attending our school. You will get the first day of school information closer to the start of school. Follow the scheduled date and time and meet outside doors of the Kindergarten rooms located at the front of the school in order to:

- Confirm registration
- Pick up newsletters and an information package
- Sign up for a Parent/Child/Teacher interview

**Please note:** If you are not able to be in attendance on your first day of school, you must notify us prior to 3:00 p.m. if you still plan to have your child attend Woodland Park for Kindergarten. Alternatively, you may also send someone in your place to confirm your child's registration. You may contact us by phone (604-589-5957) or by e-mail (woodlandpark@surreyschools.ca). **If we do not hear from you, we may give your spot to someone on the waiting list.**

## **Class Organization**

At this time, we will not be able to confirm which class your child will be in, as we are working to verify our Kindergarten enrolment numbers. Details of class assignment occurs at the end of Gradual Entry in September.

Based on the numbers given to us by the school district, there is the possibility that we may offer K/1 classes this year in addition to our Kindergarten classes. We will provide you with more information regarding this during gradual entry.

## **Parent/Child/Teacher Interviews**

The entrance of your child into Kindergarten is an important transition, please make the time to meet with the K teachers for an interview. To ensure a successful beginning for each child, we are inviting parents/guardians and their child to visit a Kindergarten teacher for a 15 minute interview. The visit may be in person or virtually depending on the public health recommendations. This visit together will provide an opportunity for you and your child to share background information regarding your child's health and development, and to explore expectations or express concerns in a comfortable, private setting. Any other information that you feel might be important for the teacher to know or be helpful in understanding your child would also be appreciated. Please note that your child may not necessarily be placed with the teacher you have your interview with.

## **Arrival and Pick-up Routines:**

All schools will continue to follow the recommendations by the BC Health Authority and at the moment Social Distancing and Health Checks are recommended and this will possibly still be the expectation for September. The children are expected to arrive five minutes before class begins and to follow social distancing style line-up outside the Kindergarten exit doors on the outside of the school building. The classroom teachers will do a health check with each child before entering the classroom. The teacher will help direct each child to wash hands and where to sit before the next child enters the classroom. **It is most important that the children come into their classroom on their own without a parent.** It is much easier for the child to adjust if they can take this first brave step during gradual entry! If you experience any difficulties or have any concerns, please see one of the Kindergarten teachers privately. It would also be a good idea to show your child where you will be waiting for them so that they are sure of your location after class is over. **To ensure safety, children are to be picked up at the classroom door every day.**

Please be aware **that the school parking lot is reserved for staff at the school and for students with mobility challenges.** There is **no parking in the school drop off area as well.** Alternatively, there is parking available on the streets near the school. If driving, please use street parking and walk to your child's class. We would strongly encourage you to walk to the school for drop off and pick up your child.

## **Clothing and School Gear**

1. Children should wear play clothes that are comfortable and easy to wash. We paint, use play dough, exercise, sit on the floor, play outside, etc. Make sure that the clothing worn can easily be undone or done up independently while using the bathroom. You may also want to pack a spare set of clothes for your child in the event that they need to change.

2. The children will need a pair of slip-on or Velcro closing runners (i.e. “inside shoes”) for gym and inside the classroom. Please do not send lace-up runners, slippers or shoes with marking black soles. Please label the shoes clearly with your child’s name.
3. Also, a full-sized backpack is required to bring their lunch and snack to school, and to take home library books and work (the pack should be able to fit a binder inside). No miniature backpacks or purses, please! Your child will be required to bring his/her backpack to school every day.

## **Bathroom Etiquette**

If your child is used to having assistance from you in the bathroom, please practice independence. As well, we would kindly request that you review good hygiene practices with your child (i.e. proper handwashing, flushing the toilet, urinating only in the toilet, etc.)

## **Preparation for the School Day**

Kindergarten is a busy and active day. Your child will need routines at home to help be ready. Good sleep, a nourishing breakfast, and arriving on time with their backpack and lunch helps your child have good days at school. When your child comes home from school, special one-to-one time talking about the day, playing or sharing a story will help your child connect with special attention. In class, students share all lessons and toys with other students.

## **Lunch and Snacks**

**At school, please send the lunch and snack in the morning in your child’s backpack.**

Food is what give us the fuel to get through the day and keep our brains working strong. Cutting food into bite size pieces help to make eating time easier and neater. It’s also important your child can open their food containers too – independent eating is what often makes meals less of a battle.

Practice having “picnic” lunches before coming to school. Your child can help make choices for their lunch. Then you can see what they actually eat and what they can open. Students eat their lunch at their desks – later they will work and play at this desk. At home, practice eating and cleaning up the table and the floor. This is also a good reason for water – juice is very sticky.

Please ensure that your child knows what to eat for a snack and what to eat for lunch. If your child does not finish his/her lunch, please do not worry at this time. We will, over the course of the year, work with your child to help them learn how to do this! Having your child help with healthy choices for snack and lunch may also help your child during school eating times.

To help your child with identification, ensure that their snack and lunch are in separate containers. Children are to bring a leak-proof bottled water to school. **Please ensure that any cutlery your child needs is also packed, as we do not supply it.**

At Woodland Park, we encourage our students to have healthy eating habits and so we would ask that you help us to promote this by sending a healthy snack and lunch to school with your child each day!

We would also kindly ask that your child bring peanut-free/nut-free food items for their snack and lunch in order to give our children with peanut/nut allergies a safe environment.

## **School Supplies**

The Kindergarten Teachers will pre-ordered student materials for the year. The cost for Kindergarten students is \$40.00. In addition, an optional fee of \$10.00 is requested for the purchase of classroom arts and crafts supplies for the various seasonal projects that we will be completing throughout the school year.

We will order school supplies in bulk, having experienced good success with this program in the past. These prices are very competitive and teachers appreciate the quality and uniformity of bulk ordering. We will be asking that these materials be paid for at the Parent/Child/Teacher conference. Please make cheques payable to Woodland Park Elementary.

Parents are still welcome to purchase the materials themselves if they wish, but please contact the classroom teacher for a detailed list. School supply lists will come out closer to the start of school.

## **In closing ...**

We hope that this booklet has answered many of your questions and clarified the organizational procedures required in settling your little one into his/her first classroom. Our goal is to help you feel comfortable too and welcome you to come to the school on many occasions. Our communication and working together can make Kindergarten a happy, successful experience for the children!

If you have any questions regarding any information in this booklet you are warmly invited to call the school at 604-589-5957.

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Teachers

