



Welcome to **Kindergarten**[™]
THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Welcome To Kindergarten!

At North Ridge Elementary School



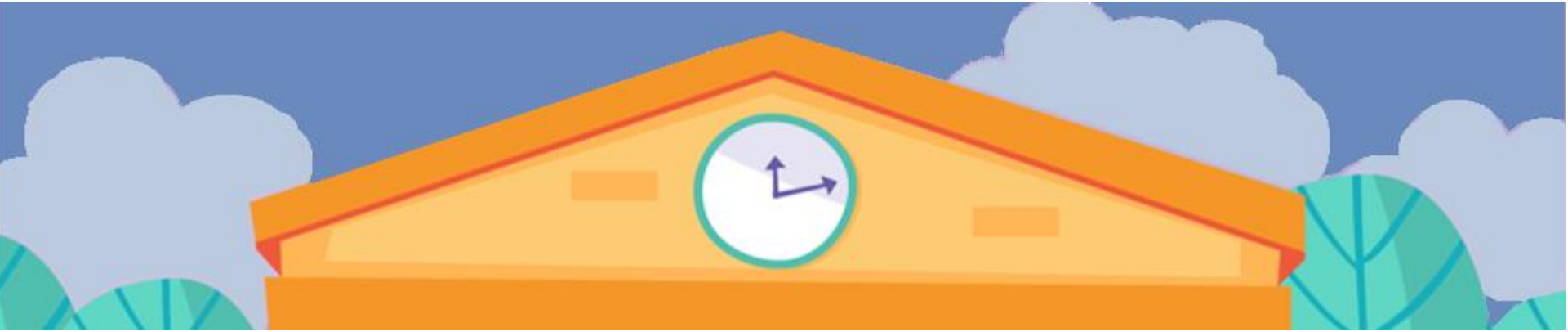
Meet your new Principals!



Dear Kindergarten Parents and Guardians,

We are very excited about your child coming to North Ridge in September. We are very proud of our fabulous and dedicated kindergarten team who will give your child a hands-on, interactive, engaging and rich learning journey. Your child will love Kindergarten at North Ridge and we can't wait to get to know our new Kindergarten Stars! We have an extremely student-centred approach at North Ridge and we want you to know that we will always find time to chat or meet if you have any questions or concerns. From our skilled teachers, to our amazing secretaries, to Ms. Eppele (VP) and me (Mr. Redding, Principal), we will always be here putting your child's learning and social-emotional growth first!

Welcome to North Ridge!





Meet your Teachers



Hi! I'm Mrs. Krajnc (rhymes with dance). I am so excited to be your Kindergarten teacher and I can't wait to meet you.

I love hiking and biking. We will have fun exploring our Outdoor Learning Forest.





Meet your Teachers



Hi! I'm Mrs. Sahota. I am so excited to be your Kindergarten teacher and I can't wait to meet you.

I have a dog named Jackie and I love to go for walks. I can't wait to play in the Gym and go for Recess with you.





Meet your Teachers



Hi! I'm Mrs. McCauley. I am one of the Kindergarten teachers at North Ridge. I know we will have a fun year together and I look forward to seeing the many ways that you will grow and learn.
Welcome to Kindergarten.





Meet your Teachers



Hi! I'm Mrs. Yargeau and I am super excited to start this new year together. I like to spend my time doing things that are creative like cross-stitching, crocheting and crafting. I can't wait to get to know you all and start our learning journey together.





More great people at our School!



Hi. I'm Ms. Elfstrom. I am the librarian. I can't wait to read stories to you and share my books with you.



Hi. We are Mrs Favero and Mrs. Grigoletto. We are the secretaries and we can't wait to help you.



Hi! My name is Everest. I like to visit sometimes and I hope we can be friends!



Hello. My name is Ms. Feuring. I am the Music Teacher. We will sing and dance together.



Places in our School



! Take a peak into a Kindergarten classroom!



Your Welcome to Kindergarten Bag...

Your Welcome to Kindergarten bag is filled with so many amazing materials and resources for talking, reading, singing and playing together every day!

See the **Family Activities for Early Learners Resource book** for fun ideas (in the WTK bag).

Pick an item or activity that you can enjoy together every day!



Getting Your WTK Bag...



You are your child's first and best teacher!

Your child will receive their Welcome to Kindergarten bag in September. It is full of resources to help your child practice school skills.

Welcome to Kindergarten is brought to you by The Learning Partnership, a national charitable organization dedicated to supporting, promoting and advancing public education. To find out more or to support this program, please visit <https://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/programs/welcome-to-kindergarten> today!



Welcome to Kindergarten Key Messages

You are your child's first and best teacher!

- Follow your child's lead as you play and discover together
- Talk and read with your child in your first language
- Help your child to share and take turns
- Encourage your child to make choices and decisions
- Celebrate your child's learning

Talk Read Sing Play, Every Day!



Talking Builds:

- Relationships
- Vocabulary
- Listening and speaking skills
- An appreciation for family stories and oral traditions



Reading Builds:

- Vocabulary
- A sense of story
- Knowledge
- Print, letter and number awareness



Singing Builds:

- Oral language
- Memory
- Rhythm & rhyme
- Belonging
- Enjoyment of music
- Patterning



Playing Builds:

- Decision making
- Cooperation
- Physical skills
- Curiosity
- Self-regulation
- Creative thinking
- Measurement, geometry and spatial sense

Playing with Playdough



There are so many benefits to playing with playdough!

Playdough can be bought or made out of some basic ingredients. (See WTK Family Activities Guide for a simple recipe)

Using props found at home, help your child to create! Here are some things you might use to help your child play with playdough: buttons, toothpicks, cookie cutters, plastic animals, pipe cleaners, rolling pins, garlic press, potato masher...

Not only will your child have fun, they will learn so many things!

For more information see [The Benefits of Play Dough](#)



Talking and Reading Together



There is no app to replace
your lap ~ spend time
reading with your child!

The WTK Resource bag contains several books to enjoy together. Find a time each day to sit and read with your child. Make reading a special time to share.

Practice the three Cs of reading: **Cuddle, Conversation and Choice.**

Talking about books and stories helps your child make connections between the books and themselves, their community, and the world.

When you hold a book and read with your child, so many important skills are fostered. In addition, e-books can be accessed here (in both French and English).

Mathematics

Numbers and shapes can be found everywhere (e.g., clocks, house numbers, keypads, license plates, in books...). Help your child explore mathematics in their environment.

- Look for collections of objects in your house (e.g., rocks/gems, clothes pins, buttons, animal figures...). Count “how many” and place magnetic numbers beside each group.
- Use buttons or coins and dice to play “Snakes and Vines” in your WTK Chirp magazine
- Using beads and string, make a “pattern” necklace (e.g., red bead, blue bead, yellow bead, red bead...).
- Have fun cooking, measuring, counting, and more by using the [WTK cookbook](#) with your child.

[Here](#) are more ways to play with mathematics.



Noticing Print

Playing with letters and noticing print in the environment help build foundational early literacy skills.

- Using WTK magnetic letters and alphabet template, sort letters in various ways (e.g. by colour, by shape, upper/lower case...)
- link letters to names and familiar words found in the environment (e.g. F like Fatima, M like McDonalds...)
- Build your child's name with magnets and other items (e.g. stones, lego...)
- Make name puzzles using your child's name and those in their family
- Write simple stories using environmental print found in flyers, magazines, labels from packages...

Here are some ways you can play with WTK Magnets at home - click [here](#)





Healthy Choices

Learning is made easier for child when they are healthy and well-rested. To promote healthy children:

- use Canada's Food Guide as a guide to make healthy meals or snacks
- cook and eat together
- make water a drink of choice

Explore the [Welcome to Kindergarten Family Cookbook](#)! It has many healthy recipes that promote cooking and enjoying food together. For information about healthy habits for children, visit [Caring for Kids](#)



Music and Movement

Listening and moving to music is a fun, healthy family activity. The WTK ball and WTK music (download [Welcome to Kindergarten Album](#) , [Lyrics](#), and [Activities](#)) that can be used anywhere!

Here are some ways to enjoy music and movement together:

- Using the WTK song, "Jump Up, Jump Down", try moving to the actions described in the song.
- Move along while waving and tossing light objects like ribbons, scarves, and tissues.
- Use music to calm or energize!
- Play ball games together and practice rolling, tossing, passing and catching.
- Move to music and pretend to move like an animal (e.g., rabbit, elephant, snake, butterfly)
- Enjoy music from around the world



Here are some links to other music for children:

[30 Playtime Songs](#)

[Classical Kids: Light and Silly Classical Music for Young Children](#)

[Children's Music from Around the World](#)



Social and Emotional Learning

Teaching children about their emotions and helping them to form relationships with others are foundations of school success. Here are some ways families can practice these important skills:

- talk about feelings by reading stories or watching videos about emotions (Here are some ideas).
- sing songs to help your child learn how to express their feelings (e.g., [If You're Happy and You Know it](#))
- **create a "Kindness Calendar"** with your child. Write down some thoughtful ways children can support others and put this on the calendar (e.g., draw a picture for a grandparent; give someone in your family a great, big hug; donate a toy; feed the birds) - children love to generate ideas on how to be kind!
- Praise your child when they use words to express their feelings.
- Help your child through overwhelming moments by practising [12 Self-Regulation \(Calming\) Strategies for Young Children](#).





Additional Resources

Here are more WTK Resources to Explore

- Welcome to Kindergarten [website](#)
- WTK [Early Learning Resources](#) page for Key Messages available in 27 languages, and the Parent Page with [fun activities](#)
- Family Activity [Calendar](#)
- [Healthy Media Use](#)
- [Learning Through Play](#) videos – more ideas for playing and having fun together.





Additional Information About our School



- The students require a fruit and vegetable snack, healthy lunch and a water drink every day
- School supplies will be provided at the cost of \$45 per student. Please pay at the office in September.
- A pair of labeled inside running shoes (without laces) should be provided
- A labeled Ziploc bag of emergency clothes (underpants, socks, a set of clothes) is required
- Parent and teacher communication will be shared using a communication planner
- Independence with their clothes and toileting
- Currently, we do not have a lunch program
- The Gradual Entry September schedule will be shared with you as soon as we receive it.



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Learn more at

thelearningpartnership.ca