



Welcome to Kindergarten™
THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

Welcome To Kindergarten!

At Mary Jane Shannon Elementary



Meet the School



Ms. Chau
Principal



Mr. Carter
Vice Principal



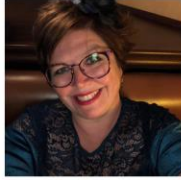
Ms. Ahmad
Strong Start



Ms. Lin
Kindergarten



Ms. Nercessian
Kindergarten



Ms. Walker
Early Literacy





Principal's Message!

Dear Future Kindergarten Student,



Hello! My name is Mrs. Chau and I am the principal of MJ Shannon Elementary. My job is to take care of everyone at MJ Shannon School and in the fall, that includes you!

We are very excited to have you join us for Kindergarten in September. School is so much fun and you are going to love it! Normally, we would invite you to a very special event at our school. It is called **WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN**. Because everyone is practicing SOCIAL DISTANCING right now we are not able to invite you in for this particular visit. Instead, your teachers will be taking turns sending you and your parents a very special email message each Friday starting late May. In this email, teachers will be sharing some super fun activities and games you can do with your family. They will also send you a photo of themselves just like the photo I have attached with this email. You will hear from the following teachers:

Ms. Lin- Classroom Teacher
Ms. Nercessian- Classroom Teacher
Ms. Walker- Early Literacy Teacher
Ms. McArthur- Teacher Librarian

We hope you enjoy your **WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN EMAILS** and the activities shared within them. Have fun!

I look forward to meeting you very soon!

Take care
Mrs. Chau

! Places in our School





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!





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



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).

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

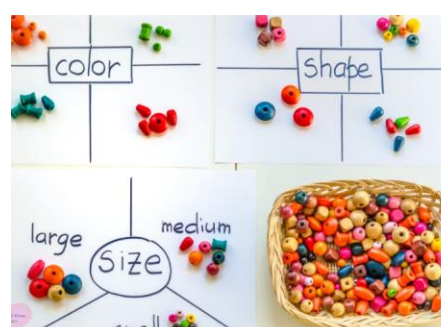
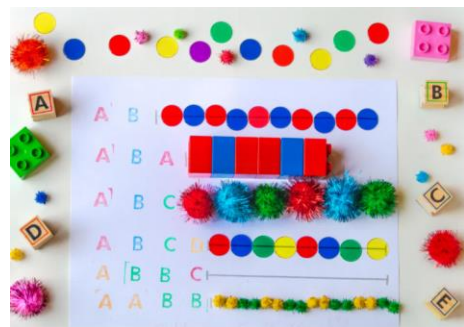


Mathematics

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](#)





Creative Exploration

Children are naturally curious. They enjoy exploring and creating using a variety of materials.

Using WTK scissors and crayons, assorted paper, tape, and recycled materials at home, invite your child to create! Drawing, cutting, and playing with art objects is not just fun, but full of learning!

More Art Activities can be found [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](#)
- [Healthy Media](#) Use
- [Learning Through Play](#) videos - more ideas for playing and having fun together.





Additional Information About our School



MJ Shannon has a Lunch Program!

If your family is interested in joining the lunch program, sign up forms are handed out at the start of the school year and parents have the option to join for a low monthly cost.

Additional Information about MJ Shannon can be found on our website:

<https://www.surreyschools.ca/schools/mjshannon/Pages/default.aspx>

**There will be a virtual online information session on:
Friday, June 18th, 2021 at 9 am until 10 am.**



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Learn more at

thelearningpartnership.ca

