



Welcome to Kindergarten



at
WDACS

Starting school is a big step for your child and your whole family.

It's a wonderful and exciting time in your lives.

We want to help you get off to a good start by giving you and your child information that will help you prepare for this experience.

HOW TO REGISTER YOUR CHILD

Children eligible for Kindergarten must be 4 years old by December 31st to enroll in Kindergarten. Call or visit our School today.

The following information will be required when you register your child:

- A document to confirm Canadian Citizenship and birth date (one of the following): Canadian Birth Certificate, Canadian Citizenship Card, Permanent Resident Card, other documents to verify status in Canada
- Your child's address including: 911 civic address (fire number), lot, concession, county and postal code
- Parent contact information, work and home
- Emergency contact person and telephone number
- Custody information, if applicable
- Immunization records
- Medical information -
 - "Request for Medication Assistance form, which is provided by the school, must be filled out if medication needs to be administered by school personnel



There's a lot to learn in Kindergarten!

OUR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Kindergarten introduces children to the school years and helps to widen their learning horizons. These early years in education involve tremendous growth and learning. Kindergarten lays the foundation for better reading, writing, and math skills. It will help children make a smoother transition into Grade One. Parents and school staff, working together as partners, can help to ensure all children fully develop.

Learning and Growing

School is a great place for your child to learn. They get to meet new people, discover new things and have fun. Children learn best through active experience and purposeful play.

Here are ways teachers and early childhood educators will keep students engaged:

- *experience books, poems, verses and dramas*
- *listen to and tell stories*
- *imagine, wonder, think*
- *read and write*
- *become aware of colour, shape/size and numbers*
- *classify, sort, compare*
- *climb, run, jump, push, pull, catch, throw*
- *play alone or with others*
- *ride vehicles*
- *learn to share*
- *respond to rules and routines • talk about safe behavior*
- *talk about and/or express thoughts and feelings*
- *paint, draw, model, build, construct*
- *explore sand and water experiment*
- *sing, dance, move, make music*
- *play with dolls, puppets, and tools*
- *engage in dramatic play and role-playing*
- *explore, investigate, create, represent*
- *solve problems*
- *work with computers*
- *look, listen, hear, touch, taste*
- *think and make decision*

The Kindergarten Program



The Kindergarten Program is organized into four frames:

- belonging and contributing,
- self regulation and well-being,
- communicating and demonstrating literacy and mathematics behaviours, and
- problem solving and innovation. This allows for relationships and connections to be made in learning experiences.

In Kindergarten...

Your child will learn to:

- demonstrate a sense of identity and a positive self-image
- demonstrate an awareness of their surroundings
- understand that diversity exists in the world around them
- demonstrate independence, self-control, and a willingness to take responsibility in learning and other activities
- use problem-solving skills in different situations • use social skills in play and other situations

Here are some ways to help your child develop their personal and social skills:

- Make it a habit to ask them about their day.
- Ask questions about what they did and who they met.
- Have your child call a relative or friend to tell them about what is going on in their lives.
- Take your child to a variety of cultural celebrations different from your own and encourage them to ask questions.

Your child will learn to:

- communicate by speaking and listening to others
- understand a variety of information explored both by your child and with the educators
- use appropriate reading and writing strategies
- understand and share ideas about stories that are read aloud by the teacher



Here are some ways to help your child develop their language skills:

- Ask your child to name different things around the house or in the neighbourhood.
- Read a book with your child and have them explain what is going on in the story.
- Ask your child to tell you a story.
- Help your child write their name and get familiar with the way it looks.

Your child will learn to:

- show an understanding of numbers through counting and comparison
- measure and compare objects and materials (i.e. blocks, water, sand) through free exploration and guided activity
- describe, sort and compare shapes and objects
- explore, recognize and create patterns using a variety of materials
- begin to predict the outcome of everyday events
- Classify and display information using graphs and charts

Here are some ways to help your child develop their mathematics skills:

- Take your child to the grocery store and have them look for numbers.
- Let your child help you cook and have them measure ingredients.
- Go for a walk and count cars or houses.
- Sort fruit by colour, shape and size.



Your child will learn to:

- learn about their surroundings through hands-on exploration
- investigate and discuss the characteristics and functions of some common materials, and how to use these materials safely
- investigate the world around them by observing, questioning, and sharing their findings
- demonstrate an understanding of, and care for, the natural world
- recognize and use some common forms of technology

Here are some ways to help your child develop their science and technology skills:

- Talk about the weather and describe it. Discuss the clothing that should be worn for different weather conditions.
- Have your child help you sort the laundry or empty the dishwasher.
- Explain how familiar things work, such as a bicycle or an iPad.

Your child will learn to:

- demonstrate an awareness of health and safety practices for themselves and others and a basic awareness of their own well-being
- participate in activities that require the use of both large and small muscles
- develop control of small and large muscles
- have fun while getting exercise

Here are some ways to help your child develop their health and physical skills:

- Have your child help you prepare healthy snacks and lunches.
- Go for walks and play games.
- Encourage a positive and fair attitude.



Your child will learn to:

- show awareness of themselves as artists through drawing, painting, music, drama, and dance
- use skills gained through activities in the arts (i.e. colour mixing, using paste/glue)
- use problem-solving strategies in the arts both individually and with others (i.e. following directions, sharing materials)
- explore a variety of art forms, including those from other cultures
- express their ideas through various art forms

Here are some ways to help your child develop their artistic abilities:

- Draw a picture on a blank page.
- Make crafts using things with different textures and sizes from around the house.
- Sing a song and make up actions

Tips to Ease Transition

There are a number of activities you can plan with your child leading up to Kindergarten to make the transition easier.



Preparing for Kindergarten

- Drive or walk to the school and look around the playground.
- Establish bedtime and morning routines: practice going to bed and waking up on the new school schedule.
- Read with your child.
- Talk with your child.
- Play with your child and provide opportunities for your child to play with other children of a similar age

Attending school requires some independence for children. Help them to be independent by encouraging them to:

- dress themselves;
- put on their own shoes;
- complete bathroom routines by themselves;
- practice doing up buttons and zippers;
- practice packing their backpack;
- practice opening lunch containers.
- Begin getting your child and yourself used to the bedtime and wake-up schedule that will be required during school
- Of course, all children are unique, and some children may have special needs that affect their skill in certain tasks. Speak to the principal about how you can work together to meet your child's special abilities and needs

It would be helpful for your child to:

- know their first and last name
- know their home address and phone number

Keep Routines

Kindergarten children can get very tired at night because they are doing so many new and exciting things. For this reason it helps if you keep routines like bath time, meals and reading time as regular as possible. A good sleep each night is important.

Things to Bring to School

- Choose clothes that are comfortable, durable and easy to clean.
- Choose clothes and footwear that are easy for your child to put on, take off and fasten.
- Mark all clothing, footwear, school bags and lunch containers with your child's name.
- Choose outdoor clothing that is weather appropriate.
- Have an extra set of clothing at the school for muddy days, spills or accidents.
- Provide your child with a school bag to carry notes, school work, lunch and snacks. It should be easy to open and close and light to carry.
- Pack small snacks (peeled and cut fruit, vegetables, cheese and crackers, etc.) for your child to eat at school during their nutrition breaks.
- Please avoid pop, candy, peanut products and hard to open containers.

Allergy Alert

Please be aware that we have students who have severe allergies to peanuts and tree nuts. Ensure that your child knows how to tell adults and other students about any allergies (e.g. peanuts) or food restrictions he/she may have. (e.g. I can't eat nuts. They make my tummy sick)

Please read all labels carefully when packing treats for lunch. We no longer accept homemade treats or unpackaged candies for any class celebrations.

Dress for Success!

- Choose clothes, jackets, shoes and boots that are easy for your child to put on, take off and fasten by him/herself. Spend time practicing with him/her
- Kindergarten children learn best when they are exploring, discovering, experimenting – in other words, getting messy. Choose clothes for your child that are durable and easy to clean.
- Outdoor play is an important part of the Kindergarten Program. Your child needs outdoor clothing for all types of weather. For example, splash pants, rain boots, hats, snow pants, jackets, extra mittens and socks.



On the first day of school

- Be calm and positive about the new experience.
- Talk about the fun things your child will be doing.
- Take your child to the bus or school on time.

Saying goodbye

- Give your child a “magic” kiss on his or her hand. These kisses don’t wash off and can be used whenever the child feels lonely or misses a parent.
- Reassure your child that you know he or she will be fine.
- Give your child another kiss and then calmly leave. It is usually easier for a tearful child to calm down when the parent is not there.

Bell Times

Scheduling information, including bell-times that indicate the start and end of the school day will be provided to you during registration

Balanced School Day

WDCS runs a balanced school day. The benefits include larger blocks of uninterrupted instructional time that results in greater task completion and improved student focus. There is more time for nutrition and less time lost through transition. The school day is divided into three equal instructional segments that total 300 minutes. The segments are separated by 40-minute nutrition and recreational breaks instead of two 15-minute recess breaks and a one-hour lunch break.

Safe Arrival Program

The Safe Arrival Program assists parents and school staff with the responsibility of ensuring that children arrive safely at school. On days when a child is going to be absent from school, parents must ensure that their child's whereabouts is known to school staff.

Report your child's absence:

- If you know in advance that your child will be absent, call the school (leave message with school staff or on an answering machine), or, send a note with your child prior to the date of absence.
- On the day of your child's absence, notify the school prior to 8:45 a.m. Safe arrival telephone lines are open and available for messages 24 hours a day; or, send a note with siblings, which is also acceptable.
- Generally, if your child is not well enough to go outside, he or she is not well enough to be at school
- Provide the school office with the following telephone numbers and ensure that they are updated promptly if they change:
 - a home number
 - a work number (if applicable)
 - an emergency contact number (local)
- Advise an individual that he/she is being designated as an emergency contact for your child.
- Ensure your child's safety until he/she arrives at school / is picked up by the school bus and once they have left school / are dropped off from the school bus.
- Reinforce with your child that it is a family responsibility (not the school's responsibility) to ensure that children report on time to school or to the school bus stop.

INCLEMENT WEATHER:

In the event of inclement weather:

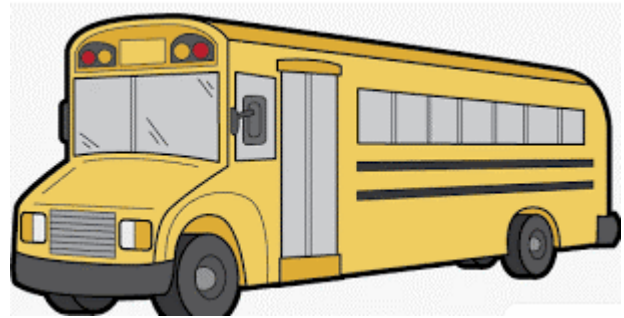
- ✓ Contact the school if your child normally walks to school and will not be attending school.
- ✓ You do not need to contact the school if your child rides a school board bus and the bussing has been cancelled.
- ✓ Contact the before or after school program at the school to ensure that the program is open before sending your child.

Transportation

Bus Cancellations and Delays

In addition to accessing your child's transportation details, parents can sign up to receive email notifications about bus cancellations. An email is sent out to the associated email account whenever a delay or cancellation has occurred.

Sign up at <https://www.mybrucegreyschoolbus.ca/>



Bus Information

Eligibility for Transportation

Students attending their home school are eligible for transportation if their residence lies within the designated busing area of the school. School attendance and walkzone information is available at each school.

- Families will receive a letter before the start of the new school year to inform them about their child's bus route and pick up location. For students who transfer between buses, numbers have been assigned to each of the routes in order to assist students in knowing which buses they are travelling to. The number associated with each of your child(ren)'s bus will be provided on the letter you receive in the summer. Students will receive a bus tag to attach to your child's clothing or backpack on the first day of school. Information contained on the bus tag will assist those who help your child on and off the bus. .

Pick Up and Drop Off

Most transportation eligible students are picked up every morning and dropped off every afternoon at the designated bus stops closest to their homes. Some parents require regular before and/or after-school care for their children at a location other than at home. If a student is eligible for transportation from their home address and their child-care location is within the school boundaries and is served by an existing bus route, the following exceptions to normal service are available:

- the student may be picked up either at the home stop or at the child-care location stop; and,
- the student may be dropped off at the child-care location stop every afternoon, five days per week, for the entire school year.

Responsibilities of the Parents

Parents are responsible for:

- ensuring the safety and conduct of their children while waiting at and while travelling to and from the designated bus stop;
- ensuring that their children are at the bus stop prior to the scheduled arrival time of the bus - five minutes is recommended;
- arranging to have someone meet their primary age children at the designated bus stop;
- ensuring that their children have an alternative plan in case an adult is not home to accept them;
- knowing their children's bus route number and the name of the bus company;
- listening to the local radio stations during possible inclement weather situations

Parent Involvement

Parents/guardians are the first and most important teacher in their child's life. WDCS believes that parent involvement starts at home, working directly with your child. For more ideas and ways to become involved, speak with your principal

Children perform better in school when their parents take an active part in their education.

Communication

Communication between the teacher and home is crucial. You will learn about your child's growth at school in formal and informal ways.

You are encouraged to send notes, make phone calls or have a chat outside of the school at the end of the day when you wish to share information or ask questions. It is important to share any concerns or ask questions so your child's school experiences remain positive. If a major issue or concern arises, a conference may be arranged.

Here are some ways you can do this:

- Attend Parent/Teacher interviews
- Volunteer in the school library

- Join the School Council or the Home and School Association
 - Help take care of the general school environment
 - Volunteer to assist with a school trip
- * Please ask your child's principal for volunteer information and how to submit a police check.

All volunteers must have a police check

Each class has a system of regular communication with home. You may receive:

- newsletters
- phone calls
- monthly calendars
- notes

We are very excited to offer parents the convenience of paying online for school activities, field trips and sports events.

For safety and efficiency reasons, we want to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into our school. School related expenses will be available online for you to make payments during the school year.

You can register for your online payment account now.



School Cash Online

<https://bwdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

As a parent/guardian, you have the important role of guiding your child through the world and answering all of the questions they have.

Being a part of their learning process now will help them perform better in school later.

Encourage your children to ask questions and to explore new things.

Take them for walks, introduce them to new people, read books, listen to music and open their eyes to the wonders of the world around them



Children learn best through everyday activities. They are always discovering new things to look at and to play with.

BLUEWATER CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT



Caring



Commitment



Dependability



Trust

Character Development is a shared responsibility of individuals, schools, homes and communities.

"The future depends on what we do in the present."



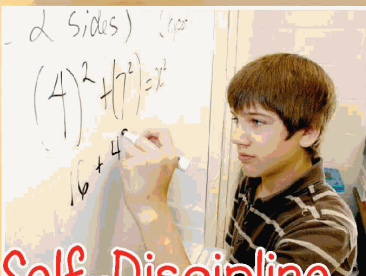
Honesty



Teamwork



Integrity



Self-Discipline



Responsibility



Respect

Character for a Lifetime