

Welcome

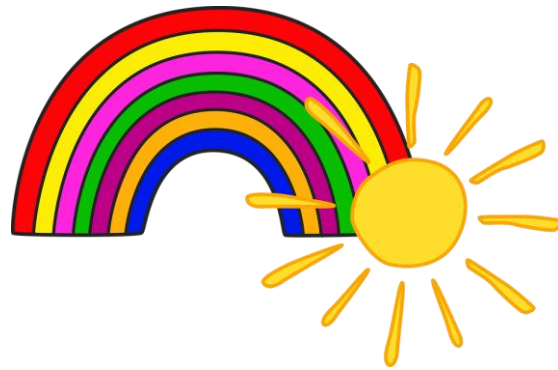


to



Kindergarten!

(An Information Guide for Parents)



Our Lady of Sorrows School

Mrs. Anna Corrado

September 2023

Welcome to Kindergarten!



September is such an exciting month! For teachers and children, it is a month of change and new beginnings – new surroundings, new friends, new experiences, new skills, and new challenges. We are happy to be working with your child this year and we are very much looking forward to a year of making learning fun for you and your child.

The “First Day of School” is a great milestone for your child and we understand that you and your child may meet this day with excitement or apprehension (or a little of both). We hope that this booklet will help you to know what to expect in Kindergarten this year and to answer any questions you may have. Throughout this booklet we will share some of our beliefs and school/classroom policies.

We will begin by introducing you to the “Must-Have Skills” for Kindergarten success. We are sure that many of you parents have spent a portion of the summer coaching your child to learn their numbers and letters. It is very important that you spend time teaching your child a few key non-academic skills. This will help them to make the transition to coming to school for the full day. **Skills that foster independence are the most important skills to have when entering Kindergarten.** In particular, a child with strong self-help skills

is more able to focus on the academics at school and thus be better prepared for Kindergarten success.

The following skills should be nurtured at home to make the transition to all-day school smoother for everyone:

- **Skill #1: Getting Dressed Independently**

Yes, we are available to assist your child with dressing and undressing, however it helps with time management if your child has mastered or is close to mastering this skill. Your child will deal with putting on and taking off their shoes, runners, sweater, or coat several times a day. Please help your child learn to dress themselves and ensure that they learn to use buttons and zippers. Velcro shoes are practical at this stage.

- **Skill #2: Being Responsible for Belongings**

Your child will have their individual full length cubby in which they will store all belongings. Teach your child how to hang up a coat and backpack on a hook. Make your child aware of their belongings and their whereabouts (i.e. snack, lunch, runners, etc.)

REMEMBER TO LABEL ALL OF YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS WITH A BLACK PERMANENT MARKER!

- **Skill #3: Bathroom Success**

It is important that you practice proper bathroom hygiene steps with your child (wiping, washing hands, etc.). We teach the children to sing the A, B, C's when washing their hands as this is the appropriate length of time that they should be doing so.

Accidents happen and it is always better to be well prepared so that it does not cause any anxiety. On the

off chance that your child does not make it to the washroom on time, **please make sure that there is always a change of clothes (school gym strip as well as undergarments and socks are a suggestion) inside their backpack that can be easily accessed without making a big scene.**

- **Skill #4: Eating Without Help**

Remember there is a time limit for your child to eat their snack and lunch at school. Have your child practice opening the Rubbermaid containers, juice boxes, Ziploc bags, thermoses, or any other pouch container that your child may be bringing to school. This will give your child less frustration and more time to eat. Be sure that your child has enough to eat for the day, however, do not overpack as too many choices is overwhelming.

- **Skill #5: Following Directions**

In Kindergarten, your child will learn all about self-regulation: that is, waiting their turn, showing less impulsivity, and following directions. Listening and following directions gets better with practice. Please help us with this skill by instilling this at home. Playing games like “Simon Says” and “I Spy” with your child will also help develop the ability to listen, observe and follow directions.



Academic Learning

Today's Kindergarten curriculum is filled with exciting academic learning. Your child will explore the world of learning and will develop many basic skills. Our new curriculum helps students learn by exploring. You, on occasion, will be asked to help your child research and/or send to school materials for certain class projects.

Work booklets, sheets, cards etc. will be sent home on a regular basis to reinforce and help develop taught skills. Encourage your child to use these materials to practice and develop new skills at home.

Please take time to discuss each school day with your child. Ask questions and offer positive feedback. Review work and set aside a special place for displaying the work. Your expression of interest will play an important part in your child's learning success.

You will be invited to join our **Seesaw Family App** in which you will have the opportunity to observe your child in their classroom setting. This invitation will be sent to you at the beginning of the year by hard copy. Please look for this in your child's Communication Folder.

Parent/Teacher Relationship

We believe that a good parent-teacher relationship is necessary for maximum school success. Throughout the year we will communicate with you as much as possible. Your child will have a Communication Folder in which we may put any notes or reminders as well as any schoolwork. This folder will go home with your child each day and is to come back to school with your child each morning. **Please make it part of your daily/nightly routine to go through the folder**

and then place it back into your child's school bag (ready for the next school day). This folder is also where you may send to school any notes. If ever you have any questions or concerns about school, or your child, and you feel that you cannot send us a note in the Communication Folder, then we encourage you to contact us by phone: (604) 253-2434 or by email: kindergarten@myolosschool.com. You can also visit our website www.ourladyofsorrows.ca, for any updates.

School Attendance

Your child's regular and prompt attendance at school is crucial to their success. We cannot emphasize this point enough! If, however, your child is going to be absent (in case of illness or emergency) please call the school before the beginning of class and leave a message with the secretary. **Please send a note in your child's Communication Folder when your child returns to school with the date(s) of their absence and an explanation of why your child was not at school, OR you can email your absentee notice directly to the school secretary at office@myoloschool.com.** This is a school policy and is necessary for our records in receiving the B.C. of Education Ministry funding.

Sick Days

DO NOT send your child to school if they are sick in any manner. If any symptoms are noticed during the day, your child will need to be picked up immediately and will not be permitted to return until symptoms have subsided. This is to ensure the safety of all the children and staff.

Early Pick-Up

If your child needs to be picked up early from class, please call the office to inform the school or send a note in your child's Communication Folder and state the time of pick up.

When you arrive to pick your child up, please use the front entrance of the school and check in with the secretary. She will then inform us, and we will do our very best to make sure that your child is ready to be picked up at the time requested.

School hours and Kindergarten Arrival and Dismissal

Our school day begins at 8:40 am; however, the Kindergarten doors will open at 8:30 am for a more staggered entrance. **PARENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO COME INTO THE SCHOOL** as your child will need to enter the school independently. Entry for Kindergarten is the west side doors of the school. Teachers will be available in case your child is having separation anxiety.

Kindergartners are dismissed at the same door at 2:40 pm.

Please wait outside closer to the back of the building for your child. Each child will be dismissed as the family member, or the person that is responsible for your child's pick up, is recognized. DO NOT ENTER THE SCHOOL.

Changes in Pick-Up

If your child is going to be picked up by someone other than the usual person, please send a written note in your child's Communication Folder stating this.

Snack/Lunchtimes

Your child should bring a small snack as well as a full lunch to school every day. Please send healthy foods and

preferably water or milk rather than juice. Your child should bring these in a lunch bag/box.

****ALERT****

Please note that our school is a NUT FREE school. This means that no nut butter or any nut products are allowed. We would appreciate your consideration for this as these products could be life threatening to some children. DO NOT SEND ANY FOODS CONTAINING ANY OF THESE PRODUCTS!!!!

Gym/Physical Education Class

Your child will have Gym, or Daily Physical Activity, every day. Please ensure that your child has a pair of runners that they can keep at school for these many activities. These runners will remain at school for the entire year.

*******Please label all of your child's belongings*******

Music

Your child's Music Teacher is Mr. Kanabe. Kindergarten has a structured music lesson every Monday and Wednesday.

ADST (Applied, Design, Skills and Technology)

Our ADST teacher is Mr. Stocker. He will be coming into our classroom on Fridays to do special hands-on projects with the children.

Money

On occasion it will be necessary for your child to bring money to school. Always send money in a sealed envelope with the following information written on it:

- Your child's first and last name
- Your child's grade (Kindergarten)
- The purpose for the money (book order money, lunch money, picture money, etc.)
- The amount of money sent in

Book Orders

Your child will be bringing home Scholastic Book order forms once a month. These can be ordered online. You will be given further information with the first book catalogue.

These orders are provided as a convenient way for parents to buy quality books for their children at a low price. As an added bonus, for every dollar that is spent on these book orders, we earn bonus points that are used to purchase books or materials for the classroom.

Birthdays

Birthdays are special occasions for young children and will be celebrated. Each child will bring home a class card and surprises on their birthday. We will provide the class with a small treat for birthdays. We are asking that you, in turn, provide a small supply for any of our centres (i.e. a puzzle, toy car, small doll, game, box of markers, beads, play-doh, etc.). **No food, drinks, or cakes are permitted to come into the classroom for birthdays.**

Special Helper:

Beginning in October, from Monday to Thursday, a different student will be assigned to be the “Special Helper”. This student will be the teacher’s helper throughout the day: lead prayer and calendar activities as well as lead the class in class line ups,... You will be given a Kindergarten calendar at the beginning of each month with the Special Helper listed for each school day.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell is important because children are very proud of their belongings and it is a great way for them to improve their interpersonal skills (listening and speaking). In order to avoid too many things being brought in every day, and this taking up too much lesson time, we will appoint the ‘Special Helper’ as the ‘Show and Tell’ person for the day. You and your child will know which day will be their day by the monthly Kindergarten calendar. Please do not let your child bring anything that is of great value, that can easily be broken or cannot be replaced. **Your child is asked to bring only one item, which should be related to our theme or the Letter of the Week.**



We hope that you have found this booklet to be informative. We recommend that you save this booklet for future reference.

As we have already mentioned several times, we are very much looking forward to a wonderful school year of working with your child and we hope to see you share in the growth and excitement that will take place in our classroom. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support throughout the year!

Mrs. Anna Corrado

