



# Kindergarten Information For Families

2020



# WELCOME!



# Prayer: A Child's Hands



Blessings from the hand of a child:

Blessings of innocence,

Blessings of hope;

Blessings of trust:

Blessings of joy.

May these graces help heal our fractured souls;

create in us wider circles of compassion;

lead us to deeper loving.

Gracious God may your touch be felt through these tiny hands,

bless them and guide them,

may they be instruments of your healing and peace,



**Amen** Les Miller





## YCDSB LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are gathered on the ancestral lands and waters of all Indigenous Peoples, who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us.

We respectfully acknowledge, those who have walked on it, those who walk on it now, and future generations who have yet to walk upon it.

We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve as stewards of the earth.

**Todd Jamieson**  
*YCDSB Knowledge Keeper*



# The Kindergarten Program



*“The Kindergarten program is a child-centred, developmentally appropriate, integrated, extended-day program of learning for four and five-year-old children. The purpose of the program is to establish a strong foundation for learning in the early years, and to do so in a safe and caring play-based environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of all children.” ~Ministry of Education: The Kindergarten*



# Catholic Education in Kindergarten

*"Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.'" Mark 10:14*





# The Kindergarten Program

Large blocks of time dedicated to play-based and inquiry-based learning within the flow of the day

Explicit instruction in literacy, mathematics, and religion occurs during focused learning time and during play-based learning blocks



# Purposeful Play:

- will occur both inside and outside as part of the Kindergarten program
- may be structured or unstructured
- provides opportunities for students to actively engage in conversation, ask and answer questions, use key vocabulary, and connect to their own experiences
- fosters opportunities to experiment, explore, construct, solve problems, communicate, role play and make decisions



# School Times

Period	Time
Supervision Begins	8:45 am
Entry Bell	9:00 am
A.M. Recess	10:20 - 10:35 am
Lunch Break & Recess	12:00 -1:00 pm
P.M. Recess	2:20 - 2:35 pm
Dismissal	3:30 pm



Our children are bussed. Children will be supervised from the bus to the kindergarten play area and while in the play area. In the evening, older student helpers, buddies and staff assist in taking kindergarten students to the bus.

If dropping off your child, parents are asked to park their cars in the parking lot and walk their children to the kindergarten play area. There, a staff member will greet you. Parents are asked not to enter the kindergarten play area and are asked to stay behind the yellow line marked on the pavement. At the end of the day, parents who are picking up their child are asked to wait outside the kindergarten gate and a staff member will send your child out to you.

On inclement weather days, parents are asked to drop their children off in the foyer of the school, as the outside door in the kindergarten yard will be locked. On Snow Days, your child will be dismissed from the front door of the school as well.



# Safe Arrival Procedures

## SAFE ARRIVAL

Student Absence Reporting

Phone: 1-855-856-7862

Website: [go.schoolmessenger.ca](https://go.schoolmessenger.ca)

Mobile App: [!\[\]\(9ea682cef02bbbdc0191f78cdae1d433\_img.jpg\) App Store](#) [!\[\]\(4f9d0ae3c2647e19346cd8247c9e7e9d\_img.jpg\) Google Play](#)



# Student Transportation

For information on eligibility bus routes, stop locations, late arrival, cancellations, and general information, please contact York Region Student Transportation Services School Bus Information at 1-877-330-3001 or the [STSYR website](http://www.schoolbuscity.com/) [www.schoolbuscity.com/](http://www.schoolbuscity.com/)



# Before and After Care Programs



- Before and after School Programs are offered at the school
- Further information, please go to the school website



# Nutrition Breaks: Snacks and Lunches



- peanut and nut safe environments. We have students that have severe allergies to peanuts, nuts, tree nuts, kiwi, sesame and shellfish. We ask that food that contains or may contain these ingredients not be brought into the school.
- lunchtime supervisor will supervise the children while they eat their lunch
- children play outside everyday during the lunch recess  
(with some weather exceptions)



# Dress Code



- Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather as they will be provided opportunities for both indoor and outdoor play
- Please label all clothing items with your child's name
- All students must have a pair of indoor running shoes that can be kept at school
- Velcro shoes are a great option as this will allow your child to independently put on his/her footwear. Please do not send shoes with laces.
- Please send a complete set of extra clothes in a large Ziploc bag labelled with your child's name. Each article of clothing should also be labelled in case they fall out of the bag.
- Please send your child in clothing that they can get on and off easily. Pants with zippers and snaps are not practical at school.





# Dress Code Continued

## Dress Code

- All student attire must be in keeping with our Catholic teachings and beliefs, and reflect principles of modesty and **shall not** include the following:
- Halter tops, tank tops, spaghetti strap tops (narrower in width than 3 fingers) or tube tops
- Half t-shirts, tops with cut-outs, tops made of mesh or netting type material
- Short shorts or skirts
- Low necklines, front or back

Continued on next slide...



# Dress Code Continued

- Language and/or representation (pictures) on attire that indicates gang affiliation and/or depicts violence, profanity or discrimination of any kind whatsoever or that otherwise demeans an identifiable individual or group
- Accessories not in keeping with the spirit of the Dress Code as determined by the local school
- Tops, pants, shorts and skirts **must** cover the entire midriff.

# Considerations for September...



When choosing a school bag please consider the following:

- Ensure that the bag is large enough to easily place large items in like a lunch box, library book etc.
- Top loading backpacks with zippers are usually the easiest way for young children to independently pack and unpack their bags. Practice packing their bag at home.
- Avoid clips and buckles if possible
- Have your child start to practice opening and closing the backpack before you purchase it
- Label your child's backpack



# Activities to Prepare for September

- opening and closing school bag and lunch/snack containers
- independently washing hands with soap
- independent toileting routines
- dressing and undressing
- putting on their shoes



## Activities to Prepare for September:



- Take a walk near the school and show your child where they will be playing and learning in September
- Go for walks and look for familiar signs within the community (e.g., STOP signs, street signs, names of places, etc.)
- Use play equipment such as blocks, cars, sand, water, musical toys, etc.
- Read with your child and ask questions about the story
- Play with playdough, magnet letters, and numbers
- Provide opportunities for your child to use pencils, crayons, and scissors

## Early Learning Foundations

The success of children in school is based on how ready they are to learn. Long before children come to school, learning begins with parents, caregivers and early childhood educators.

Children need to be properly fed and well rested so that they can develop important spiritual, social, emotional and physical foundations. These foundations will help them to:

- Communicate on school activities, letters and numerals
- Understand their own feelings and the feelings of others
- Cooperate, share and take turns with both peers and adults
- Resolve conflict successfully and control their own behaviour
- Have the self-confidence and self-esteem to try new experiences



 Community Support for Early Learning



Getting Ready for Kindergarten

An Information Booklet for Parents and Guardians

# Additional Resources:



[This brochure is available on the Ministry of Education website in many different languages if you scroll to the bottom of the page]

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/>

<https://www.ycdsb.ca/programs-services/kindergarten/>



# SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER !

GOOD SHEPHERD CES  
905-895-0303

