



Mr. Fung's Kindergarten News - September 2011



Dear Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to a brand new school year! It will be an exciting year with this class coming to school daily ALL DAY..."Just like the big kids!" For many of the students this will be a big transition and it may take some of students a bit of time to adjust, but it will also be very exciting for them. This will be terrific experience for them both academically and socially. As a parent with a son and daughter now both in high school...YIKES!, I recognize how quickly our children grow up right before our very eyes. It is this appreciation that I understand the importance of embracing the youth and innocence of our children at this early age. Your child is entering an important time of his/her life and it has always been my goal to provide your child with a positive and rewarding school experience. Your child will achieve many learning milestones and personal accomplishments. Many things that we can take for granted as adults are very proud moments for your child (like zipping their coat). Cherish all of them. Together with Mrs. Haney and Mrs. Peters we are looking forward to a fun and exciting year in Kindergarten and to maintaining close communication with you to ensure that your child experiences a fun and exciting year. I look forward to meeting the new families in the very near future. **The class will attend school daily from 8:50am-3:15pm.**

A Kindergarten newsletter and Calendar of events such as this one will be sent home to you each month to keep you informed about the planned skill development highlights, themes, and special events going on. During this month we will be "Getting Acquainted" with our new and familiar faces and with the school community in general. This is an important month where we will be working on establishing classroom routines and student expectations, and introducing the children to the many activities and daily happenings in the classroom and school. There are 6 key areas in the Kindergarten Program that will be focused on: ***Language, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Personal and Social Development, Health and Physical Activity and The Arts*** as outlined in the Ministry of Education's Kindergarten Program document.

Below is some information that I hope you will find helpful to start the school year successfully. There is lots of little, but important things happening in the Kindergarten class each and every day, so at anytime if you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

We are a Balanced Day school meaning the children will have two daily Nutrition/Recess Breaks (a.m 40mins; p.m 45mins). Each Break the class will have 20 minutes for food/drink and the remainder for outdoor recess. I encourage you to use re-useable containers/packaging for your child's food and drink wherever possible to help reduce waste. Whatever can't be eaten in the morning can be saved for the afternoon.

ALLERGY ALERT!!!: *Our school is a Peanut/Nut-Free school. Within our Kindergarten classes and the school we have students with SEVERE nut allergies. To ensure student safety, as a school community, we ask that you PLEASE carefully check all food packaging labelling and contents to ensure that there are No Nut products contained. Your cooperation and understanding are appreciated.*

School Open House/Meet the Staff-there will be a Meet the Staff School Open House that will take place on **Wednesday, September 14th from 4:30 to 6:30pm**. I am looking forward to meeting the school community and our Kindergarten families.



Attendance/Pick-Up- Please promptly notify the school if your child is going to be absent for any reason. If your child will be late for school or if you need to pick up your child during the school day, you must check in with the office first upon arrival. I will be requesting each family to provide two main contact names that will be regularly picking up your child from school each day. If someone else will be picking up your child **PLEASE** send a note indicating who will be picking up your child for that day. This is very important and very helpful to the teacher to ensure the safety of the children. Your cooperation in this regard is appreciated.

Backpacks: Each child should have a sufficient size backpack to hold their special work, notes, books, etc to bring to and from school. I will be providing each child with a **Personal Note bag** that will be used to send home newsletters, notes, etc. and that you can use to send along notes, forms, money, etc. for your child back to school.

Shoes: All children will require a pair of indoor non-marking soled running shoes, which they can keep at the school and change into daily. These will be required for in the classroom and physical education activities. Even if your child is able to tie their own shoes, I request that your child bring shoes that have Velcro straps or that can be slipped on.

Computer Headphones: The children are requested to have their own personal set of headphones for when they go to the computer lab. Please label the headphones with your child's name and preferably in recloseable bag.

Extra Clothing: please pack some extra clothes (e.g. underwear, pants, socks) for your child that they can keep at school in case of an emergency. Each student has their own personal coat hook in the classroom to keep their extra clothes.

Labelling: Please try to label all your child's belongings that will be brought to the school (backpack, coat, shoes, hats, etc.).

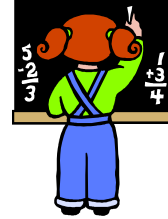
Early Release Day-Friday, September 23rd will be an Early Release Day for all the students in the school. There will be NO classes in the afternoon on this day. The afternoon is reserved for School Professional Development activities. If your child is bussed, then he/she will still be bussed on this day. There will only be one Nutrition Break this day.

Homework Calendar: Each month a 'Homework Calendar' will be sent along with the newsletter. The calendar will have a variety of fun activities that you can do together with your child at home. How many you choose to do will be at your discretion and are meant to be a fun opportunity to continue to support your child in their learning.

Well, that is all for now. Thank you for entrusting your child to me at this important and enjoyable stage of development and life. Please know that my efforts are always to provide your child with a fun, safe and caring learning environment that will promote a successful learning career.



Sincerely,



Mr. Kelly Fung

Kindergarten may be defined as...a good home, where children can learn through playing, cooking, watching, listening, acting, reading or pretend reading, and writing or pretend writing...a place where they can explore their environment, ask questions, and answer questions. (Hall and Cunningham, 1997). Kindergarten is not a place to master skills. It is a place where caring teachers build a strong foundation for learning.

(D. Hall and E. William, "The Teacher's Guide to Building Blocks")