

# Overlanders Elementary School

OVERLANDERS  
SCHOOL



1150 Hermitage Road  
Edmonton, Ab T5A 4L4  
780-476-3361 overlanders@epsb.ca



## Kindergarten Parent Handbook 2015 – 2016

**Welcome to our Kindergarten at Overlanders School. We look forward to helping your child have an exciting year at school, discovering and learning new ideas and making friendships. This handbook includes important information you will need during the year, as well as a brief description of the Kindergarten program. Please read it carefully and keep it handy for future reference.**

## **Our Kinder Team**

Principal: Mr. Richard Lowe

Assistant Principal – Mrs. Kim Boisvert

Administrative Assistant – Mrs. Sheila Dockerill

Teacher: Ms. Shirley Lee

Music Teacher – Ms. Kathy Bauer

Educational Assistant: TBA

## **Kindergarten Hours**

	AM	PM
Entry Bell	8:28am	12:16pm
Class Begins	8:33am	12:21pm
Recess	10:05am	1:55 pm (M,T,W,F)
Dismissal	11:22am	3:22pm
Thursday Early Dismissal		2:11pm

## **School Hours**

	AM	PM
Outside Supervision begins	8:13am	12:00pm
Entry Bell	8:28am	12:16pm
Recess	10:05am	1:55pm (M,T,W,F)
Dismissal – M, T, W, F	11:22am	3:22pm
Thursday Early Dismissal		2:11pm



## **Absences and Appointments**

If you know your child will be absent from school, please call the school at 780-476-3361 and leave a message with the office. If you need to pick up your child early for an appointment, please go to the office and the office staff will call the classroom. For any extended absences a note should be submitted to the teacher a few days in advance.

## **Kindergarten Entrance Age**

It is the policy of the Edmonton Public School Board to admit, without qualification, children who have reached the full age of five (5) years on or before **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**. Thus, a four-year-old is eligible for Kindergarten if he or she turns five on or before March 1st, 2016.

## **Kindergarten Fees/Supplies**

There are no fees for Kindergarten at Overlanders. All fieldtrips are subsidized by the Overlanders/Canon Ridge Parent Society.

### **Your child needs:**

A backpack that will comfortably hold a snack and a 9x12 library book.

A pair of non-marking Velcro-closure running shoes.

An extra pair of socks, underwear, t-shirt, and sweatpants, in case of “accidents”.

## **Staggered Entry/Orientation in September**

In September you and your child will be invited to a 60 minute orientation session during one of the first few days of school. You will be notified of your orientation time and date by phone. This orientation will allow your child to ease into the Kindergarten experience in a small group setting, with your presence and support. At this time you will be given more detailed information about the program and will have a chance to ask specific questions and fill out some important forms

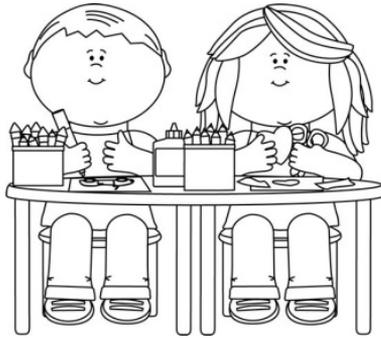
## **The Kindergarten Program**

The Kindergarten “program” is different than the “curriculum” of the other grades in that it is identified as a Kindergarten Program Statement. The program is based on 6 guiding principles and provides general and specific learning expectations for the classroom. The document can be found on the Alberta Education website at the following address.

[www.education.alberta.ca/media/312892/kindergarten.pdf](http://www.education.alberta.ca/media/312892/kindergarten.pdf)

These are the curricular themes:

1. Early Literacy
2. Early Numeracy
3. Community and Environmental Awareness
4. Personal and Social Responsibility
5. Physical Skills and Well Being
6. Creative Expression
7. Citizenship and Identity



## **The Kindergarten Program**

Early childhood is a significant period in human development. Independence, initiative, decision making, creativity, the ability to relate to others and feelings of self-worth all have their beginnings in early childhood.

The Kindergarten program not only helps prepare children for entry into Grade 1 but also provides a foundation for later success. The purpose of kindergarten is to provide learning experiences that are developmentally appropriate in order to meet the diverse needs of the children and promote a positive attitude toward lifelong learning.

Teachers will use a theme-based program to expose the students to the concepts of the Kindergarten Program. For example, if the theme is 'bears', the children will learn various math concepts, science and literacy using classroom activities and materials related to bears.

Play is very important in the kindergarten program at Overlanders School. It is the “work” of the children. They use play to make sense of their world, and to take part in their own growth and development. In the safety of play, children explore materials and ideas, and find out about them- in other words, they learn! This is also an invaluable time to develop social skills, to learn to negotiate and learn how to solve problems.

## **A Day in Kindergarten**

While no day in Kindergarten is the same as any other, we tend to follow a general routine so that children feel comfortable at school. Here is a possible day in kindergarten:

### ***Calendar***

A brief time for greeting each other, sharing news and information and recording attendance. A student is our helper of the day and he or she leads calendar activities.

### ***Circle Time/Story Time***

During this time, we introduce our alphabet and letter sound activities, read morning messages, do Balanced Literacy activities such as Shared Reading and Writing, and participate in letter recognition and reading activities.

### ***Work/jobs***

Students apply their growing knowledge on literacy and numeracy to learning activities, often in small groups.

### ***Snack time***

The children eat their snack and then go outside for play.

### ***Recess/Weather/Illness***

Students are supervised at all times. Please ensure that your child is dressed for inclement weather. All students must go outside during recess unless there is a combined wind-chill/temperature factor of -23 degrees Celsius, or if it is raining heavily. In this case your child will have an indoor recess, if your child is too ill to go out for recess it is best that he or she stay home for a full recovery.

### **Drop Off and Pick Up**

School doors are kept locked for security reasons. The main entrance doors are open between 8:00-8:30 am and 3:00-3:30 pm (M, T, W, F) and Thursday – 2:00-2:30 (Thursday)

Your child's safety and sense of security is very important to the Kindergarten teachers. A teacher wearing an orange safety vest begins supervision duty in the school yard at 8:13 am for the morning classes and at 12:00 pm for the afternoon classes. Please do not drop off your child unless you see a teacher in the playground. All Kindergarten students should be accompanied to and from school. Children should not enter the classroom until a teacher is present to supervise.

Kindergarten students enter the school at the entrance on the South East corner of the school. A teacher will open the door at 8:28 am and at 12:16 pm. If your child arrives late, please take

him or her to the office for a late slip and escort him or her to the classroom.

Please do not use the teacher's parking lot as it is shared with Clareview Headstart. There is parking along the street. Please use the crosswalk if you park along the south side of the street.

You may wait quietly to pick up your child outside of the Kindergarten room door, but please remove dirty or wet footwear, and leave wet-wheeled strollers by the front entrance or on the carpeted area. Please let us know who will be picking up your child on a regular basis. We will not dismiss a child to anyone else unless we are notified. Please send a note about any changes. If an emergency arises during the day, please call the school. Always alert us to your phone numbers so that we can contact you in case of any emergency.

### **Report Cards/Assessments**

Students are observed continuously throughout the year and observational records are maintained.

Formal one-on-one assessments occur in the following areas for report card communication:

- Letter Identification
- Letter sound Knowledge
- Numeral recognition 0-10
- Counting by rote
- Book knowledge

Student Led Conferences are held during school hours or after school and in the evening in November and March to celebrate student learning.

Report cards are handed out in March and June. November's meeting focuses on discussing the results of children's EYE- Early Years Evaluation screen. In March and June, progress reports provide progress comments on the seven areas outlined in the Kindergarten Program Statement.

Your teacher will communicate with you in many ways throughout the school year. During the parent-teacher interviews and on progress reports, the teacher will share information about your child's growth and achievement. Since you know your child best, it is also important for you to share information about your child, with the teacher. If questions or concerns arise, contact the teacher.

## **Toys**

There are many types of toys and learning materials available in our classrooms. We ask that children **do not** bring toys from home. These can become lost or broken at school, and this is upsetting for the children. During the year children will have the opportunity to bring in special items from home to share with the class, or will be asked to bring a specific item to share (for example, something shaped like a circle for circle day). Please wait until your teacher asks for these particular items. The teachers are not responsible for items that are lost or broken.

## Parent Communication

As teachers, we observe the children carefully to watch for growth in all areas of their development: social/emotional, physical and cognitive/academic. We record these observations and share them with you during parent-teacher conferences.

You will be issued a SchoolZone login to keep you up-to-date on the happenings at the school. You may find it helpful to record events on your family calendar. In addition to SchoolZone, you may receive notes from the kindergarten teacher and field trip permission forms. Please read all kindergarten notes that are sent home and sign permission forms as soon as possible.

## Volunteers

There are many opportunities to become actively involved at Overlanders School, if you have the time and interest. Some volunteer jobs can be done at home, such as cutting out booklets or making play dough, while some involve helping students at school, such as reading with students or sharing a special interest or talent. In-class volunteer opportunities will begin in October to allow students to get used to our routines. If you are interested in becoming a class volunteer, please let your child's teacher know. **All volunteers are required to have submitted a completed volunteer form to the office.** These will be sent in the first week of September.

## **Contacting the Teacher**

The Kindergarten classroom is a very busy place during arrival and departure times, especially in September when children are learning the routines of the classroom. The teachers would appreciate if you need to talk to us about something that will take more than a quick minute, please do request an appointment or leave an explanatory note in the Home-School Communication pouch.

It is important for all parents to contact the teacher directly in the event of a question or a concern. A voicemail can be left for us at the school at 780-476-3361, extension 200. We will be happy to return all calls! If you need to call before or after class, dial 780-476-3361, extension 200.

## **Inclusive Learning Services**

In September and October students undergo EYE-TA – Early Years Evaluation – Teacher Assessment screening for Awareness of Self and Environment, Cognitive Skills, Language and Communication, Physical Development – fine and gross motorskills, and Social Skills and Approaches to Learning. Through this, formal Speech and Language and Occupational assessments can be initiated. All EYE-TA results are reviewed with parents/guardians in November during student conferences. Inclusive Learning support team can support children requiring further support in areas and may receive additional assistance in the classroom from Inclusive Learning specialists. You will be contacted if it is felt that your child would benefit from these services and your permission will be requested for any further testing.

## **A Teacher's Wish**

If your child begins to print, please teach the correct formation. It is very difficult for our children to “unlearn” incorrect formation of letters. Incorrect formation interferes with speed and fluency of printing at a later date and causes frustration during printing lessons.

## **Behaviors to Be Expected in Kindergarten**

***Approximate Reading*** – “Approximate Reading” is retelling a story from memory using the story’s picture clues. Children may use their finger to point out words or pictures. Students will be taught to decode or sound out small words through the year and to recognize simple words such as I, at, it, in.

***Scribble Writing*** – Scribble writing is making different lines or strokes which may or may not refer to specific words or letters.

***Reciting a Story Orally*** – Children recite a story orally while looking at pictures.

***Using Temporary Spelling*** – Temporary spelling is the use of a letter or letters to represent a word or phrase. For example, l or lik may be used to represent the word like.

## **Skills For Kindergarten**

Here are some skills and strengths children will be building in kindergarten. You can help your child begin to learn these things by including them in the natural experiences of play and interaction you have every day. It does not help to drill children or to put pressure on them to learn. Some children will be ready to learn these things before they enter

kindergarten, others will not. It all depends on their development.

- Names of colors
- Names of some shapes (circle, square, triangle)
- Identifying some letters
- Counting to ten
- Cutting with blunt-nosed scissors
- Printing a first name, with capital and lower case letters
- Following two and three step directions
- Verbally expressing wants and needs
- Listening to stories and enjoying them

Give your child opportunities to learn these things as he/she plays, simply by talking about them. Don't insist your child shows you what he knows by quizzing him. Instead, just casually give him input. "Oh, look you're putting the red block on the blue one." Or, "Let's see how many carrots are on the plate. One, two, three, four, five carrots." Incorporate the information into daily routines. "Do you want the red sweatshirt, or the yellow one?" Your child may have some of these skills on the first day of kindergarten, but not others. Don't worry. That's the goal of kindergarten.

**Working together, we can make a difference!!!**