



550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam, British Columbia V3J 6A7 • Phone 604-939-9201 • Fax: 604-939-7828

## **Kindergarten Welcoming**

*When your child begins kindergarten there are many key considerations that can assist you and your child positively transition into kindergarten.*

### **Prior to Kindergarten Registration in Early February**

Become informed about kindergarten program options:

- Neighbourhood Program
- Early French Immersion <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Programs/French%20Programs/Pages/default.aspx>
- Mandarin Bilingual Program <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Programs/Mandarin/Pages/default.aspx>
- Montessori <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Programs/Montessori/Pages/default.aspx>
- Reggio Influenced Program <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Programs/Reggio/Pages/default.aspx>

All programs of choice host information evening in January. To identify your neighbourhood school, you can use the SD43 school locator <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Programs/Pages/KindergartenRegistration.aspx>

*When thinking about kindergarten programs for your child you might consider:*

- *Do you want your child to go to school in your neighbourhood?*
- *What are your child's strengths? What are your child's learning needs?*
- *Will you be able to support your child's learning?*

### **In the Spring after Kindergarten Registration**

Attend the Welcome Kindergarten session with your child

### **What You Expect in the First Week of Kindergarten**

All schools in SD43 begin the school year with a gradual entry program. The purpose of the gradual entry is create multiple opportunities for the children to begin developing an attachment to their teacher and to connect to their peers. In addition to building relationships, children in small groups will become orientated to the school and classroom environment. This will help to create a safe, caring learning environment. Also during this first week, all children and parents will be invited to participate in a Welcoming Conversations. This conversation will provide families with the opportunity to share information about their child, and begin to develop the parent/caregiver relationship. Parents will be asked to share their child's strengths and any challenges. Each school principal will send out specific gradual entry scheduling information.

## **Questions/Key Considerations for Parents and Caregiver**

### **Communication**

How will the teacher and school communicate with parents/caregivers?

- Email
- Planner
- Teacher Website
- School Website
- School Calendar, when will students be attending school, when are there schedules closures

*As a parent, if you have a concern, please refer to information provided on the SD43 website:*

Administrative Procedure 380:

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/Board/Policies/Administrative%20Procedures/Administrative%20Procedure%20380.pdf>

### **Communicating Student Learning (reporting)**

- What is the process?
- When does it occur?
- How is the learning communicated?

### **Recess and Lunch Hour**

- Who will supervise the children at recess and lunch?
- Who will supervise the children when they eat lunch?
- Will uneaten food be sent home?
- Is there a Nut-Free Policy?
- Are there Garbage/Recycling/Green Waste programs? How is it best to pack lunch?
- Are students allowed to drink juice?
- Are there any food regulations?
- Is there a hot lunch program? Do the kindergarten children participate?
- Is there a “West Coast” recess policy? (Children still play outside if it is raining)
- What weather conditions will result in an “Inside Day”?

### **School Arrival and Dismissal**

- Where do the children enter and exit the building?
- Where can parents park?
- Are parents welcome in the school building, during school hours?
- Are parents/caregivers expected to wait with their child for the school bell?
- Is there a drop-off zone?
- Is there supervision before/after school?

*Note – there are no crossing guards to assist children to cross street*

### **School Supplies**

- Will my child require inside shoes? Are there particular requirements (e.g. to be able to be worn in gym, Velcro)
- Will my child require an extra set of clothing?
- Is there particular clothing my child needs for outside learning/play?
- Does my child need gym strips?

### **Emergency Preparedness**

What are the emergency procedures?

- Fire
- Earthquake
- Code Yellow
- Code Red

### **Parent/Caregiver Involvement**

- What are the volunteer opportunities?
- What must a parent do to volunteer? E.g. criminal record check, driver's abstract, volunteer form
- What is the Parent Advisory Council (PAC)? District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)?

### **Special Events**

- What types of special events happen school-wide? Classroom-based?
- How are special events communicated to families?
- Are there assemblies? Are families welcome to attend?
- Will children go on field trips? How will the learning on the field trip be articulated?
- Will there be special presentations?
- Is there a sports day/activity day?