

# ABC's of Kindergarten



## Absence

If your child is ill or will be absent, please use the Safe Arrivals Absent Report System. You can access this through the District App, or on the website [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca). You can Sign Up to create an account if you don't already have one. This is for your child's safety. If a student must leave early for an appointment or is arriving late please ensure that they are signed in and out with the secretaries in the office.

## Allergies

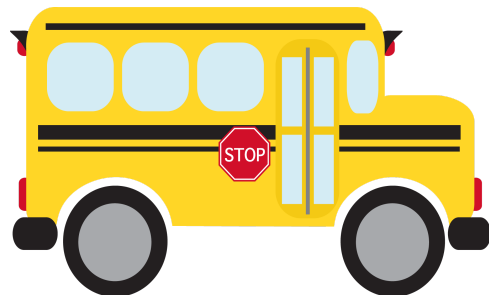
Bertha Kennedy Catholic School is a NUT FREE zone. Please respect the children in our kindergarten classroom with severe nut allergies and refrain from sending snacks that contain nuts or 'may contain nut products'.

## Attendance

A successful school experience is the responsibility of the child, the parents and the school. Your child's progress, both academically and socially is influenced to a great extent by daily participation. Regular attendance is the key to a successful kindergarten experience.

## Arrival

Morning Kindergarten will begin when the bell rings at 8:55-11:47am. Afternoon Kindergarten will begin at 12:38-3:30pm. Students arriving on the bus will be met by a supervising staff member and then led to the front door of the school where they can line up with their classmates.





## Backpacks

Each kindergarten student requires a backpack to bring to and from school each day. Their backpack will carry their snack/lunch and zipper folder bag. Please ensure your child's backpack is well labeled.

## Birthdays

Birthdays are special occasions for young children. All children's birthdays will be noted on our monthly calendars and will be celebrated in class. If your child wishes he/she may bring a treat for the class. Please ensure all treats are **NUT FREE**. We will celebrate summer birthdays during the last few weeks of school.



## Book Orders

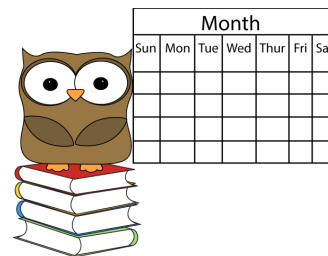
Every month we will send home a Scholastic Book Club Flyer for you and your child to look over. This club offers wonderful books - what a

great way to build your home library! If you choose to order, please pay online.



## Calendar

A calendar of monthly events will be sent home at the beginning of each month. Please find a place in your home that will allow you to check the calendar frequently for events happening each day at school. Use the calendar to help your child prepare for the day as well as to prompt them in telling you about what happened at school.



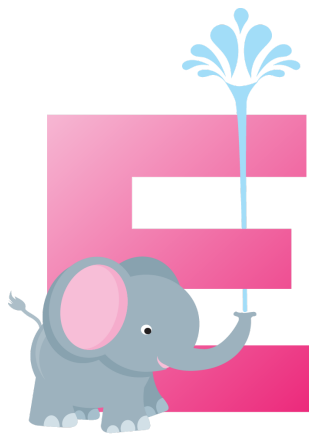
## Celebration of Learning

The Kindergarten Celebration of Learning occurs two times a year and is a time for you and your child to reflect upon your child's learning. You and your child will be invited to come to the school and take part in a number of activities that will give you a first hand look at the progress your child is making. In addition, I will be available to meet one-on-one to discuss your child's experiences in kindergarten.



## Dismissal

At dismissal, students will be led to the doors to meet the bus or parents. As kindergarten students are working on developing skills for independence, we appreciate all parents to remain waiting outside the doors of the school while your child prepares for the end of the day. If your child will be picked up by another adult please let us know, as this will ensure the safety of your child. Your child will not be allowed to leave with another adult without notification from the parent.



## Email

You may contact me via my email address at [lkolodziej@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:lkolodziej@gsacrd.ab.ca). I will check my email on a daily basis. If you need

to discuss something urgently, please call the school at 780-458-6101.



## Emergency Card

Each family should have completed an Emergency Card upon registration at Bertha Kennedy School. Please ensure all contact information is kept up-to-date.



## Field Trips

We have planned field trips that are both fun and educational for the children.

We often need parent volunteers to ensure our trips are successful. Please watch for field trips on our monthly calendar and in our newsletter. If you are able to volunteer please fill in the volunteer section of the permission form and return promptly to school. Many field trips have a limited amount of space for parents and we will attempt to ensure that all parents interested will

have an opportunity to attend at least one field trip. **Please note, that all parents are required to have a Volunteer Declaration Form completed and submitted to the office before you are allowed to volunteer.**

In order for your child to attend each field trip, a permission form must be signed and returned to the school prior to the day of the outing. Without a signed permission form, students will not be permitted to attend and will remain at the school with an alternative activity planned. Please return permission forms as soon as possible after they are sent home in your child's zipper folder bag.

## Fire Drills

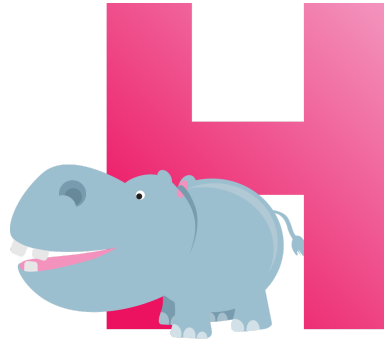
Fire drills are held throughout the year. All students will participate and are expected to walk quickly and quietly to their designated exit. We will practice and become familiar with procedures before our first scheduled drill.



## Gym

Our class will have an opportunity to use the gym each week. The students

will have an opportunity to use a variety of equipment and learn about being physically fit. It is essential that your child have running shoes that are well fitted with non-marking soles.



## Health

Please let us know of any special circumstances that may affect your child. These could include medications that make him/her sleepy, a death in the family, etc. Also, please let us know of any allergies your child may have, especially food allergies. We sometimes cook or do food activities to complement lessons in kindergarten and it would be helpful to know when we plan our recipes.



## Illness

The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a

difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. It is important, however, to keep your child home if he/she is ill. This helps to make them more comfortable and prevents others from becoming ill. Children function more effectively in the classroom when they are healthy. If your child becomes ill at school you will be notified to arrange to bring your child home.

### **Indoor Shoes**

Each student is required to have indoor running shoes to wear at school each day. The students will remove their outdoor shoes before coming into the classroom. Indoor shoes should be well labeled, as they will be left in the school. Shoes will be sent home throughout the year to ensure they still fit well.



### **Kidwriting**

Each week kindergarten students will participate in writing in journals where they will learn to express their ideas and thoughts on paper. Kidwriting is an approach to teaching students phonics and writing skills where each child is supported at their independent level.

### **Kindercooking**

Students will take part in kindercooking activities throughout the year to complement their learning. Parent volunteers will be needed to ensure the success of this program. If your child has any food allergies please let us know so that we can take them into consideration when planning our recipes.

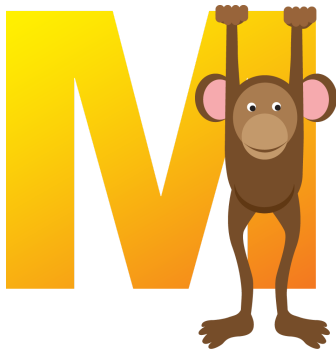
### **Kindness**

Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class as well as others members of school with kindness and respect. In kindergarten we practice the 'Golden Rule'. Bothering others, bullying and interrupting learning will not be permitted.



## Library

The students will visit Mrs. Williams in the library each week. At this time, they will enjoy a story being read and choose a book to sign out. All books are to be returned the following week on library day.



## Music

The students will attend music class with Mrs. Elaine Groenenboom, where they will have a chance to sing, dance, and play instruments.



## Newsletter

Our monthly kindergarten newsletter will be sent home electronically at the beginning of each month. Please read

each newsletter carefully as it contains important information regarding the month's events. You can also find the newsletter on my website

<https://mylkteaching.weebly.com>

The **BK Week-At-A-Glance** will also be emailed each week by Mrs. Baker to inform you of any Bertha Kennedy News.



## Outdoor Play

Occasionally the kindergarten students will take their learning outside. It may be to witness the changes of the seasons, to participate in school events, get some exercise or just enjoy the sunshine (and snow). Please ensure your child comes to school with the appropriate outdoor clothing, which includes appropriate footwear, coats, hats, mittens, etc.





## Parent Involvement

Your support of school activities and asking your child questions about their day, makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school.



## Questions

If you ever have questions regarding your child or our kindergarten programs please feel free to contact me at school.



## Report Cards

Kindergarten report cards are issued twice a year (March and June). These reports reflect the progress your child has made toward various kindergarten objectives and uses a grading system that reflects the developmental nature of kindergarten learning.



## Shared Reading

Shared reading is an interactive process used with the whole class. As the teacher reads a story, children join in on phrases or words that they know. During subsequent re-reading, children read more and more of the text, and are able to retell the stories. Shared reading is an opportunity for the teacher to model conventions of print and the use of reading strategies.

Poems and rhymes are also used in our shared reading program.

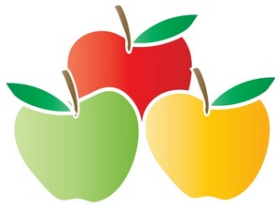
## Star Student

Each child will have an opportunity to be the Star of the week. We will start the program in October. Please

look for the information in your child's zippered bag in the coming weeks. Please check the monthly calendar carefully for your child's Star of the Week date.

## Snack

Each day your child will have an opportunity for a snack. Please ensure a nutritious snack is packed in your child's backpack each day. Please remember that this is only a snack and send something that your child will be able to finish in 10 minutes. Great snack ideas include yogurt, pieces of fruit, veggies and dip, cheese and crackers, nut-free granola bars, etc. Please send your child's snack in a reusable container with any cutlery that may be necessary.



## Toys

Bringing toys to school is discouraged because they distract the children from learning. If a toy is accidentally

lost or broken, feelings will be hurt. If a child brings a toy to school (which is not a part of show and tell) it will remain in their backpack in the hallway.



## Unique

Kindergarteners learn that they are special and unique. Kindergarteners have opportunities to describe how they are alike as well as different from others. They share their traditions and learn about different traditions and cultures within class.



## Visitors

Bertha Kennedy Catholic School has a policy that ALL GUESTS (including familiar faces) are required to sign-in at the office. It is important to remember that while this may seem inconvenient to frequent visitors and volunteers, it is the goal and responsibility of the school to create a SAFE learning environment.



## Volunteers

All adults wishing to volunteer at Bertha Kennedy School must complete a Volunteer Declaration Form and submit it to the office. For the safety of all our students, all volunteers must submit the appropriate documents prior to volunteering in the classroom or on field trips.



## Washrooms

Have your child use the washroom shortly before coming to school. The students will have the opportunity to use the washroom each day prior to snack. Please make sure we are aware of any medical problems that might require more frequent washroom trips.

## Website

Our school has a website which can be accessed at [www.berthakennedy.com](http://www.berthakennedy.com). Check the calendar regularly to find information about curriculum, special events and school news.



## Younger Siblings

It is in your child's and the program's best interest to have our parent volunteers available without younger children. This not only allows your full attention to be focused on the class, but also allows some special time between you and your kindergartener. Thank you for making childcare arrangements for younger siblings.



## Zzzzz's

Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime routine is a wonderful gift you can give your child. It will help them to be alert and ready to learn each day!