



Kindergarten

Information Package



Welcome to Kindergarten!

Your child is beginning an adventure where new relationships, ideas, and experiences will help them grow. Together, we will work to create an inviting and nurturing environment which promotes questioning, exploration, inquiry and risk-taking. We are happy to have your family at Meadowridge, and can't wait to begin a wonderful year with your child.

As parents, you are your child's first teacher, and new learnings will continue while building upon the knowledge they bring to school. Thoughtful materials, social opportunities and play-based inquiries will challenge them to reach new understandings about how the world around them works. Children will be active learners and, through interactions with materials and their peers, meaningful discoveries will be made.

We will also help your son or daughter to develop as a well-rounded child. In the Kindergarten program at Meadowridge, we will be focusing on all these areas of development: Physical, Intellectual, Artistic and Aesthetic, Emotional and Social Development and, Social Responsibility.

We strive to provide a safe, supportive environment for children to:

- ▶ gain independence and accept responsibility
- ▶ gain self-confidence
- ▶ develop initiative, creativity, and self-discipline
- ▶ develop a belief in their own capability and their own worth as a person
- ▶ integrate experiences from their personal, family, school, and community life to aid in life choices

Most importantly, your child will be supported and cared for. We will all work together to build a solid foundation from which your child will gain confidence, enjoy school and foster a love for learning.

The following pages provide information and specific details about daily life in our Kindergarten classes, and will attempt to answer any questions you may have.



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Kindergarten

What does learning look like?



Children are active learners. They learn by exploration and problem-solving in a safe environment - an environment in which they feel free to take risks. The students will have many opportunities to learn and test their skills using hands-on, concrete activities. Learning comes much more easily when a child can actually *play, debrief and re-play*. Kindergarten activities will be designed to be thought provoking and they will also be open-ended, so children can challenge themselves. PLAY is an important part of our Kindergarten programme. In fact, PLAY is an essential part of your child's education.

Below are all the skills a child acquires through play:

- Meadowridge School follows the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) and covers the B.C. Ministry of Education New Curriculum (2016), which includes Literacy, Numeracy, Science, Music, French, Physical Health Education and Career Education. Our Kindergarten program is designed to foster emergent literacy and numeracy. The IB programme supports concept development and the framework consists of four essential elements: concepts, knowledge, skills, and action. The knowledge component is developed through inquiries into four transdisciplinary themes of global significance.

- In conjunction with IB philosophy, the PYP transdisciplinary framework offers young students authentic opportunities to focus on key developmental abilities.

The learning community values the early years as a time in which play is the primary driver for inquiry.

Play involves choice, promotes agency and provides opportunities to inquire into important concepts and personal interests.

The following features are central to learning in early years; play, relationships, learning spaces, symbolic exploration and expression.

Teachers support learning by: planning interrupted time for play; building strong relationships with students and families; creating and maintaining responsible spaces for play; offering any opportunities for symbolic exploration and expression; PYP Learner in the Early Years (3 to 6 years old).

- We have varied opportunities for play, between Invitations for Learning (these are teacher planned) and student choice in our classrooms. These may include; LEGO and Construction, Dramatic Play or Art. When interacting at these Centres, your child will also be learning important social skills. There will also be many times when your child can practice skills individually. And of course, there will be direct teaching, when the children gather together with the teacher, and we learn together.



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Developmental Objectives

What a child learns through play

Social-Emotional Development

- › Develops independence in choosing activities, seeing to personal needs, and meeting new challenges.
- › Develops confidence in self and abilities.
- › Begins to control emotions in socially acceptable ways.
- › Moves from absorption with self to awareness of others.
- › Moves toward co-operative play.
- › Extends concentration and attention span.

Language Development

- › Masters speech sounds appropriate to age.
- › Learns speech structures including simple sentences, past tense, and pronouns.
- › Uses oral language with confidence for a range of purposes such as naming, describing, comparing, explaining, reasoning, predicting, directing, questioning, judging and expressing imagination.
- › Develops vocabulary, becoming more elaborate and precise.
- › Learns to follow directions.
- › Develops thinking skills basic to reading such as sequence, details, and character.
- › Develops concepts of print such as left-to-right orientation, and sound/letter relationships.
- › Develops reading strategies with picture, context and phonic cues.
- › Explores beginning writing; from writing their own name and a few words to personal composing.

Psychomotor Development

- › Develops co-ordination necessary for stability (balance, rhythm, control), locomotion (walk, run, hop, skip and climb), and manipulation (handles small toys, traces, colours and cuts).
- › Becomes increasingly graceful and rhythmically expressive.

Intellectual and Mathematical Development

- › Identifies basic attributes, such as colour, shape and size.
- › Classifies according to basic attributes.
- › Sub-classifies and cross-classifies (age 7).
- › Orders a series of graduated objects.
- › Extends and reorders a graduated sequence.
- › Recognizes and creates a repetitive pattern.
- › Extends spatial concepts such as self in space and objects in space.
- › Relates parts to whole.
- › Learns one-to-one correspondence.
- › Understands sets.
- › Learns measurement and time (relative).
- › Learns conservation of number and length.
- › Moves from concrete to increasingly abstract concepts and representations.

Development Through Environmental Studies

- › Learns to distinguish self from others.
- › Becomes aware of family and social relationships.
- › Develops sensory awareness.
- › Identifies most body parts.
- › Increases knowledge of specific plants and animals.
- › Becomes aware of growth, change and ecological interdependence.
- › Increases knowledge of properties of common nonliving things, such as sound and water.

Arts Development

- › Develops creativity and learns to express their imagination through picture-making, two- and three-dimensional models, and movement and dance.
- › Learns to distinguish pitch, rhythm and tempo, timbre, and volume.
- › Learns to sing a repertoire of songs and action games.
- › Extends individual fantasy into socio-dramatic play.



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The School Day



Drop off is between 8:10am-8:25am. At 8:30am our learning day begins and attendance is taken. Children who arrive before attendance have the opportunity to begin their day by talking with their friends, settling into the classroom and feeling relaxed and ready for learning. The day ends at 3:30pm. We will let you know about the “layout” of the school day at a later time.

Attendance/Reporting Absence

Regular attendance is essential for your child to receive the maximum benefit of the experiences we offer. Please have your child arrive before 8:25am to allow for a relaxed start to their morning. It is also vital that your child not be late. If your child will be absent from school, please report it by emailing attendance@meadowridge.bc.ca. **Kindly copy the homeroom teacher too.** Families that arrive on campus past 8:30am are late and will need to first register at the front desk to obtain a late slip before coming to the Early Learning Centre. If you are picking up early on any given day, kindly sign your child out of the registry book at the front office before coming to the classroom.

Medical/Illness Concerns

If your child is not feeling well, **KEEP HIM/HER AT HOME**. If your child is running a fever, has a cold (including severe and persistent coughing and/or coloured nasal discharge and/or phlegm) or has a rash keep him/her at home until all symptoms are no longer present. Don't forget to report your absence to the office. Your child needs to be kept at home for at least 24 hours the day after vomiting, after a fever breaks or when a rash has been treated. The school will call home at any time to ask that you come to pick up your child if they appear unwell or unable to participate in learning activities. As a reminder, staff are not permitted to administer any medications.

When we are informed of any medical concerns or allergies that affect the well-being of Kindergarten classrooms, we will help everyone make plans for student safety. Please contact Ula Jo at ula.jo@meadowridge.bc.ca, as she manages care plans for all medical concerns and severe allergies.



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Clothing Information



All clothes **MUST** be clearly labelled with your child's name. Our Parent Guild is pleased to offer a school fundraising opportunity as Meadowridge Parent Guild has partnered with Mabel's Labels, a company that provides all types of personalized, waterproof, laundry safe labels. These labels are very durable, easy-to-use and are fun, and have stood the test of Kindergarten. Items with these labels do find their way back to you. Dishwasher, microwave, laundry and kid tested. Order these in early August to have on hand. Visit www.meadowridge.mabelslabels.com.

Physical Health Education (PHE)

Your child will have opportunities to engage in physical activities on a regular basis. Students are to begin their year with a pair of velcro shoes. Please spend some time at home where your child puts their shoes on without assistance from an adult. Shoes with laces are permitted only when your child is able to manage and tie them with no assistance.

Emergencies

We ask that you please provide some extra clothes. We would like a plain coloured shirt, pair of dark coloured pants, two pairs of socks and extra underpants. Place them in a large Ziploc bag **CLEARLY LABELLED** with your child's name. These emergency items will be stored in their backpack. Please check clothing items for sizing periodically. If your child needs to use these items, the soiled items will be sent home. Please replace them with clean ones and return them to school the next day. A cloth shopping bag will be supplied and awaiting each child on the first day of school, which can store extra items.

Painting Shirt

Your child requires an old, long-sleeved adult t-shirt for art activities. Sleeves must be cut to the length of your child's wrist, and the shirt must be clearly labeled with their full name. Have your child practice recognizing their own shirt from the pile in the classroom and they **ALSO** need to be able to put on their shirt to be ready for painting. **Please no button-down shirts or plastic material/bib style smocks as they are very hot to wear.**



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Playing Outside



We play outside, even when it rains, and use our “Muddy Buddies”. As the comfort of your child outside in our West Coast weather enhances their experience outdoors, this is the required clothing for outdoor play. Each child requires rubber rain boots, 1 pair of waterproof rain pants, and 1 waterproof jacket with a hood. **Thin nylon pants and ONE piece suits are not permitted as they do not keep your child dry and warm.** Our school uniform shop has brought in an option for a waterproof pant for families to purchase for their child. Please plan on ordering a pair when you have your uniform fitting appointment. Alternatively, Mountain Equipment Co-op has been proven to be a great product as they offer both jackets with hoods and durable pants which keep the kids dry and comfortable. See the store in Langley or www.mec.ca. All Muddy Buddy items must be clearly labelled with your child's full name. Be advised that warmer Muddy Buddies will be more comfortable when the winter season comes.

A note about rubber boots: Although fabric leg shaft boots are trendy, the rubber stops at the ankle and water leaks inside leading to soaking wet feet. Please outfit a rubber boot not one made with a fabric leg shaft.

Independence and Practicing Dressing Themselves

Children will dress themselves at school, so please encourage this independence at home. To help your child (and the teacher!), please teach him or her how to change their own shoes, manage buttons and how to zip and unzip their jacket before arriving in September. You may wish to practice unpacking their lunch kit and opening lunch containers during meal times at home, prior to school starting. This is great practice for before Kindergarten starts.

Backpack

Students in Kindergarten require a backpack that they can wear on their backs. You can help prepare your child for school by having your child practice packing their own bag, managing zippers and putting on their own backpack. **Backpacks that roll on wheels are not permitted.**



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Lunches and Snacks



Please send a lunch kit labelled with your child's name. Your child will require a lunch, healthy snacks and a fillable small water bottle for re-hydrating during the day. Please see below.

Snacks

- Please send 3 small portions for snacks. We have snack in the morning (approximately 9:45am), lunch (11:45am) and time for another snack mid afternoon (approximately 2:00pm).

Suggestions:

- Fresh fruit/vegetables peeled and cut, cheese and crackers, sandwiches, cheerios, dried fruit, yoghurt or milk.
- A dessert item will be permitted after their lunch.

Note: Fruit leather/fruit gummies are not suitable for snacks in Kindergarten.

Hot Lunches

- Kindergarten parents have the option to pre-order lunch directly from the cafeteria. Instructions for setting up your child with SAGE Dining Services are to be downloaded directly from the school website and orders placed directly with SAGE. If your son/daughter is receiving lunch from SAGE, two snacks and a water bottle for Hot Lunch days need to be sent from home.

Birthday Celebrations

Friendship is very important in Meadowridge School. It is important to include everyone in our interactions. Should you, as a parent, decide to have a party outside of Meadowridge and not everyone is included, please do not hand out your invitations at the school. If you are inviting all class members then we can have the invitations go home on Thursday evening in our mailbags.

If you would like to send in a treat to celebrate your child's birthday, please let the teacher know beforehand. We would like to celebrate this special day with your child's classmates but will limit the sweets during our learning day. We can celebrate with mini sized cupcakes (these are called 2 bite cupcakes in the grocery store) and enjoy them during the afternoon snack break.



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Safety and Communication



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Child Pick-Up

Your child's safety is of utmost importance. Unlike Junior Kindergarten, you do not need to sign your child into the classroom should you arrive before 8:25am. **However, if you are late you will need to sign into the front office before coming into the Early Learning Centre. The same procedure is followed should you be coming to pick your child up before 3:30pm; signing them out of the front office before coming to the Early Learning Centre is required.**

If someone other than the designated person is picking up your child, it is important we know the person's name and telephone number in advance! If someone different is picking up your child, we also ask that they come into the classroom at 3:30pm and introduce themselves to us. We may also ask for identification.

Communication Between Home and School

Our lines of communication are always open. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. Your child's education will be even more successful if there is frequent and forthright communication between us.

There will also be regular communication between home and school via newsletters. Meadowridge has a regular newsletter called the eGryphon which is sent electronically each Thursday. We will also provide instructions on how to sign up for Seesaw, which will be the app used for digital portfolios, content, and daily messages from the classroom.

The Kindergarten teachers work in conjunction with the Grade Representatives in sending information. **Email is used for these informative pieces, so please ensure the email address you provide to the school is the same email used on all your documents and able to be checked daily.**

These forms of communication from the school will answer many questions for you and provide you with a snapshot of what is happening in your child's classroom. It is important to read our daily Seesaw message that we create for you, which outlines details about the day, discoveries made in class, special reminders, or special announcements that will help your family connect to the school. We have two Kindergarten classrooms that use some icons and letter codes in several places.



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Summer Homework



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Checklist for September 6



Complete the 'Getting to Know Our Kindergarten Families' Form

The form is enclosed with this package. Please send it back to the school Admissions Department before the school year begins.



Email a Photo of Your Family

Please help us get started right away by providing your child's teacher a clear photo (4x6 or 5x7 of your family). This will be used for learning engagements in the classroom all year long.

Courtney Higginson - Kindergarten Teacher
courtney.higginson@meadowridge.bc.ca

Angela Pallister - Kindergarten Teacher
angela.pallister@meadowridge.bc.ca

Labelled and Ready



Have all the uniform pieces labelled and here for the first day of school (paint shirt, rain gear, uniforms).

Practice Snack Time



Plan snack time at home to set up your child for success, by having them open and manage their snack containers and water bottles independently. This also gives you an opportunity to see what snacks they enjoy, and which containers are successful for independence. If your child is particular about snacks, it is strongly encouraged that you involve your child with shopping, menu planning and maybe even packing snacks which enforces to them what you expect them to be eating at school.

Practice Independence and Dressing



Teach your child to put on and off their own coat, gym shoes, and rain pants/jacket. Then have some practice time at home, before leaving for a family outing or event. We as teachers do expect to help with zippers but other skills should be taught at home prior to coming to school.



Kindergarten

See you in September



Miss Higginson's classroom code is KH and the class symbol is a bumble bee!



Miss Pallister's classroom code is KP and the class symbol is a dragonfly!

To our Kindergarten Families:

Your child is beginning an adventure where new relationships, ideas, and experiences will help them grow. Together, we will work to create an inviting and nurturing environment which promotes questioning, exploration, inquiry and risk taking.

We are happy to have your family at Meadowridge, and excited to begin the 2022/2023 school year, and can't wait to begin a wonderful year with your child.

Warm regards,

Miss Higginson and Miss Pallister
The Meadowridge Kindergarten Team

For more information or resources email

Miss Courtney Higginson at courtney.higginson@meadowridge.bc.ca

Miss Angela Pallister at angela.pallister@meadowridge.bc.ca



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