

PARENT ORIENTATION MEETING KINDERSTART PROGRAM



St. Bernard's Elementary
October 2nd, 2008



WELCOME TO ST. BERNARD'S ELEMENTARY

Presenters tonight include:

- **Ms. Carolyn Campbell
Assistant Principal**
- **Ms. Elizabeth Fagan**
- **Mrs. Kathleen Sullivan
Kindergarten Teachers**



VISION STATEMENT FOR ST BERNARD'S ELEMENTARY

- The vision of St. Bernard's Elementary is that with the support and participation of family, school and community, the educational needs of our children are met, so they may reach their potential and become meaningful and responsible members of society.



WHY HAVE A KINDERSTART PROGRAM?

Parents and children can:

- 1) become familiar with a kindergarten environment during the year prior to school entry.
- 2) participate in learning experiences in the school.
- 3) gain greater knowledge of the expectations of the learning experiences.
- 4) develop attitudes and skills that support future performance.
- 5) enhance learning experiences at home.
- 6) develop positive home-school relationships.



WHY HAVE A KINDERSTART PROGRAM ... continued

School Personnel can:

- 1) meet and interact with children and their parents.
- 2) prepare to meet the needs of all children.
- 3) informally assess a child's strengths and needs.

Please note that the expectations are those of this orientation program and not those of an individual teacher.



KINDERSTART SESSIONS

- ◆ Parent orientation meeting is held in October.
- ◆ Students will come to three one-hour sessions. Dates are: October 24th, November 14th and December 5th (all Fridays). Parents are requested to stay in the classroom during these sessions.
- ◆ Your child will be assigned one time on these dates. It will be 8:45 - 9:45 or 10:00 - 11:00 or 12:00 - 1:00 or 1:15 - 2:15.
- ◆ It is very important to have your child attend the scheduled session.



KINDERSTART SESSIONS ... continued

- ◆ February 20th, March 20th, and April 24th - The parents/guardians attend information sessions with school personnel while children attend one of two 1 1/2 hour classroom sessions on that day. Our Guidance Counselor - Kevin Parsons, Math teacher - Marilyn Tobin, Speech-Language Pathologist - Carol Ann Dick, Special Education Teacher - Rhonda Stride, and Principal - Libby Foran will meet with parents/caregivers at these sessions.



KINDERSTART SESSIONS ... continued

- **January 16th each child will be scheduled to come in for a 15 minute individual interview. A parent/guardian will be in the room with the teacher and child.**
- **April 24th and May 22nd the children will ride the bus to school. On April 24th parents may follow behind the bus. On May 22nd children attend school totally independent of parents/caregivers (a practice run for kindergarten).**
- **Administration will ride home on busses to help students with bus routine.**

Bus Safety

- Please review the following bus safety rules with your child:
 - Wait until the bus has come to a full stop before approaching the bus.
 - Always remain seated while the bus is moving.
 - Talk quietly to the person next to you so the bus driver can concentrate on the roads.
 - Do not eat on the bus.
 - When exiting the bus move quickly away from the side of the bus so the bus driver can see you.
- Students riding the bus must observe all safety and conduct rules. A student who consistently misbehaves or distracts the driver will lose the privilege of riding the bus.

FACTS ABOUT PRESENT (2008-2009) KINDERGARTEN SCHEDULE

- Kindergarten day varies.
- Morning session begins at 8:35 a.m. & ends at 11:20 a.m.
- Afternoon session begins at 12:15 p.m. & ends at 2:45 p.m.
- Groups rotate at the start of each month.
- A monthly calendar with gym and music days, as well as library and other special activities is given for each month.



FACTS ABOUT NEXT YEAR'S 2009-10 KINDERGARTEN CLASS

- 40 Pre-Kindergarten Students are registered at this time.
- After the Kinderstart program is completed, if you have concerns regarding whether your child should begin kindergarten in September, we suggest that you talk to one of us or meet with our Guidance Counselor.





Preparing for Kindergarten

PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

- Prepare yourself for separation
- Positive attitude

CHILDREN:

- Involvement in group settings
- Encourage sharing and turn-taking

INDEPENDENCE:

- Responsibilities
- Choices
- Personal needs





ARRIVAL:

- Scheduled times
- Appropriate footwear
- Coats

KINDERSTART CLASSROOM:

- Name tags
- Talk with the teacher

SESSION ORGANIZATION:

- Free exploration
- Circle time
- Planned activities
- Closure





Over the course of this program, the teacher will observe the children and take anecdotal notes commenting on each child's growth and development. This information will provide direction for the teacher in planning for their entry into Kindergarten.

Reactions

- Meeting the teacher
- Willingness to participate

Motor Abilities

- Fine and Gross Motor Development





Observation Component

Listening Skills

- Responses
- Attentiveness during stories, songs, etc.
- Participation

Expressive Language

- Responses to questions
- Free conversation
- Communication during group activities

Independence Level

- Separation from parent/ caregiver
- Demonstrating initiative





Co-operative skills

- taking turns
- sharing materials
- maintaining personal space

Maturity

- Listening to directions
- Need for support/guidance
- Response to requests





Listening

- use a quiet voice
- give simple instructions for a task
- encourage turn taking

Speaking

- be a good role model
- encourage conversations
- use appropriate manners
- avoid slang and baby talk





Reading

Read each day

- discuss illustrations
- make predictions
- point to words
- different types of text

Visit the local library

Make little books together and read

Read signs in the neighbourhood





Writing

- provide writing supplies
- make cards for special occasions
- draw a picture and write a sentence
- keep a journal
- practice name using a capital letter at the beginning followed by lowercase letters





Print Name

- Capital letter
- Lowercase letter
- Praise

Alphabet

- Sing ABC's
- Environmental print
- Alphabet chart
- Fridge magnets
- Letter games





Sound Awareness

- Beginning sounds
- Rhyming games

Math Skills

- counting / numeral recognition
- matching one to one
- concept words
- sorting
- patterning
- geometric shapes





Kindergarten Readiness

Learning Outcomes

Visit Eastern School District's Website

<http://www.esdn1.ca>





The KinderStart Bags will be distributed during the first classroom visit after they arrive. They contain:

- Materials for your child to keep such as a magazine, a couple of books, craft supplies, math counters, and a bag to carry all of it in.
- At each session your child will receive a Fun-At-Home Package and Homework Package for the month.





Kinderstart Packages

Fun-At-Home Package

Monthly Calendar ~ suggested activities for the month

Fun At Home Activities

- Fun with books and talking.
- Fun with recipes and creating
- Fun with singing and games.
- Fun with finger plays and rhymes
- Fun with science.



Make-It-Book and craft activities.



Homework Package

Pre-Reading and Pre-Writing skills

- Tracking/Tracing
- Visual Discrimination
- Classification and Categorization
- Predicting and Inferring
- Alphabet

Math skills

- Numbers 1-5
- Shapes



**Thank You
For Attending Our
Kinderstart Parent
Orientation Meeting**

**St. Bernard's Elementary
October 2nd, 2008**

