

# Notre Dame Kindergarten 2022-2023



"Children will not remember you for the material things you provided but for the feeling that you cherished them."

Richard L. Evans



"If you will accept me for wherever I am, all my energies and desires to grow will be released and energized. If you will reassure me that it is all right to be where I am now, I will have courage to move beyond where I am. With your loving acceptance of me, I will gradually grow into the fullness of life."

John Powell

Welcome to Kindergarten! I am looking forward to sharing in this year of wonder and excitement with you and your child! It will look a little different this year and I will do my best to teach your child in a safe and caring environment.

I thought I would like to share a little bit about myself with you:

Hi! I'm Susanne Watson. I taught Kindergarten for many years in Grande Prairie before moving to Morinville in 2000. This will be my eleventh year teaching Kindergarten at Notre Dame School. I have been married for 32 years and have three adult children who are all now married and having babies of their own! I was a first time Grandma of Scarlett in May of 2018 and my second granddaughter, Amelia was born in late July 2020, and my latest granddaughter Elizabeth was born in February so I'm busy spending time with all of them. I had a double knee replacement last year so I am so excited to be back to work in Kindergarten! I am always thrilled to teach young students who are full of wonder and are so eager to learn!

Our school theme for the year is "Arise, Get Up, get going and Go with God".

I have put together some important information to help you throughout the school year. Please look over the handout and keep it in a handy place as you may want to refer to it at a later date.

1. **Teacher:** Mrs. Susanne Watson  
**Vice Principal:** Ms. Jenn Wiley  
**Principal:** Mr. Ryan O'Gorman  
**Teaching Assistant:** Mrs. Linda Livingstone

**2. Attendance: Kindergarten Hours: 8:20–11:20 Monday to Friday**

\*Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time. Please use the side entrance of the school on the south side of the school. I will wait outside with students from 8:10-8:20 and then bring them into the school. Students will enter the boot room, take off their outdoor shoes/boots on the carpet and place them on the shelf by their name. Independent dressing is an integral part of the Kindergarten program. If your child is arriving late to school and the Kindergarten entrance doors are locked, please walk your child to the main front door. Students will be getting ready to go home about 11:05 to practice these skills. All students will be dismissed from the classroom at 11:20. I ask that all parents to wait outside the door and I will send them to you when I see you. Please ensure that you are on time to pick up your child. If your child's regular routine will be changing for the day, please send an email or note to let me know. School staff are not permitted to let students leave with another adult without parental permission. We have the following dates when there is no school for just Kindergarten students: October 7 and 14; Nov 18; Dec. 16; Jan 13 and 27; Mar. 3; April 28; May 26. The last regular day of Kindergarten is June 22. Kindergarten Year End Celebration-June 23.

Other days that students will not attend school include:  
September 5- Labour Day  
September 23- Professional Development Day (PD Day)  
September 30-National Day for Truth and Reconciliation  
October 10-Thanksgiving

October 21-PD Day  
November 1-PD, Faith and Wellness Day  
November 5-13-Fall Break (including Day in Lieu for Interviews and Remembrance Day)  
November 25-PD Day  
December 24-January 8-Christmas Break  
January 13-PD Day  
February 9 and 10-Teacher Convention  
February 17-PD Day  
February 20-Family Day  
March 17-PD Day  
March 24-Day in Lieu of Parent-Teacher Interviews  
March 25-April 3-Spring Break  
April 7 and 10- Good Friday and Easter Monday  
April 21- PD Day  
May 19-PD Day  
May 22- Victoria Day  
June 9-PD Day

Please refer to the monthly and weekly newsletters and Kindergarten calendars which will be sent by email and can be found on the school website.

3. **Absences:** If your child will be late or absent from school, please go to the school website at <http://www.nd.gsacrd.ab.ca> and go to the "Report an Absence". Our school has a phone home program, so you will be called if you do not fill in your child's absence.

4. **Supplies:** Please check the list on the school website for a Kindergarten school supply list.

5. **Birthdays:** We will be celebrating children's birthdays at school. If a child's birthday does not fall on a school day we will still have a special day for them, called an unbirthday. Parents are welcome to send in a pre-packaged snack to school for all students on your child's birthday/unbirthday. Students will still receive a certificate, pencil, stickers and a crown. Please send in a **peanut free** snack.

6. **Book Orders:** Each month I will send home a Scholastic, an Elf and sometimes other special book club order forms. Ordering books through Scholastic is a great way to build your child's library at home. At school, we receive rewards and free books for each order that is placed. Please look it over and if you would like to order books, fill out the form and pay online and the books will be sent directly to your home. There is no obligation to order books at any time.

7. **Snack:** We will have a 10 minute snack every morning. Please send in a small healthy snack to school. We will be learning about Canada's food guide and the food groups. Please do not send in nuts or peanut products. Please send a water bottle to school or a reusable drink container that has flip top so unfinished drinks can be taken home without spilling. Please ensure your child is able to open containers and snacks by themselves to practice their independence skills.

**8. Parent Volunteers:** We will be able to accept parent helpers at this time. I also welcome help in the form of cutting, gluing and coloring at home. Please let me know if you would like to help out at home. All volunteers at Notre Dame School are required to fill in a Notre Dame School volunteer form, Child Welfare check and an RCMP Criminal check before they will be permitted to help in the classroom and on field trips. This is a Greater St. Albert School Division Policy set up to ensure the safety of all students in the classroom and the school. Please ensure you complete these as soon as possible as some of the forms do take almost a month to be done. We will hopefully be skating in January/February, swimming in April/May and going on field trips later in the year. We will also be going on walks in the neighborhood and will need at least 2 volunteers to be able to go. All parent helpers need to sign in at the office and wear a volunteer identification tag.

## **9. The Kindergarten Program**

The program is based on the Kindergarten Program Statement. It is organized into seven learning areas:

**Early Literacy-** We will be using a program called Animated Literacy to learn the alphabet. Each letter of the alphabet has a character that performs an action to go with it. The first letter we will learn about is "Cc". The character that teaches the /ck/ sound is Crazy Camel who crunches cookies and the action is moving your hand by your mouth as if crunching on cookies. We will also be learning many songs and poems which will be sent home each week so you can practice them with your child. Your child can sing you the song and circle all of the letter Cc's in it.

**Early Numeracy** – We will explore number concepts, patterns and sorting, shapes, geometry and measurement.

**Citizenship and Identity-** I Am Unique and I Belong

**Environment and Community Awareness**

**Personal and Social Responsibility**

**Physical Education and Well-being** (focuses on early learning in health and physical education)

\*Our Kindergarten day involves a variety of activities to help achieve the expectations in the seven learning areas:

**Centers:** We will work with various themes throughout the year. Learning centers are designed to provide learning opportunities using a variety of materials and toys.

**Group Time:** This will include announcements, calendar, weather, daily schedule, a story, practicing specific skills such as printing letters and numbers and a teacher directed activity.

**Gym:** Students will go to the gym on Wednesdays each week. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for gym and has running shoes. The students may sometimes go outside for gym, so please make sure that they have appropriate clothing and footwear for the weather.

**Library:** Students will go to the library/learning commons each week. I will let you know which day they will be going when I get the schedule. Students will be taking library books to the classroom or home each week and need to be returned on or before the next library day. Students who do not return their book will not be permitted to take a new book. If a book is lost or destroyed, you will be asked to pay a fine.

**Field Trips:** All field trips will be permitted this year.

**10. Communication Folder:** Your child will bring home a "Communication Folder" every Friday filled with any correspondence such as calendars, scholastic book orders, crafts, etc. Please be sure to check the envelope every Friday and keep it in your child's backpack and return it back to school every Monday. I will check for any notes from you, forms, etc. that you may send me every Monday. Please do not lose these folders as they will not be replaced.

**11. Some ways to help at home:**

- read stories with your child (have them pick out letters, talk about the pictures, predict what happens next, tell you about their favorite part, relate a personal experience to those in the story and so on)
- print first and last name using upper and lower case alphabet (i.e. Kim)
- learn phone number, age, birthday, address
- tie laces and zip zippers
- independently dress and undress in outside clothes and shoes/boots
- recognize colors, alphabet letters and sounds, numbers to 10
- count forwards to 20
- count to 10 starting at any number from 1-9
- count backwards from 10 to 1
- print letters and numbers
- count out sets of objects to 10

**12. Parent-Teacher Communication**

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to contact me as I would like Kindergarten to be a wonderful and positive experience for everyone! I will be sending home a weekly email on Sundays to let you know what is happening at school and what letter we are learning about, etc. I will be asking you to confirm your email address soon to ensure I have the correct address. All Kindergarten information, monthly calendars, including this newsletter, will be posted on the following website:

<https://swatson.schoolsites.ca/>

Please let me know if you have any problems with the school website.

Please contact me by calling the school office at 939-4020 or email me at [swatson@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:swatson@gsacrd.ab.ca). The school secretary will make sure I receive your message or forward your call to our classroom, if necessary. I also invite you to discuss anything about the Kindergarten program or your child's school experience with me, in person, either before or after class time. I would like to focus completely on our students during class time.

I am looking forward to a very exciting and fun year with your child!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Susanne Watson

