



Bienvenue à la maternelle

2016-2017

It must be hard to believe that this special first day has finally arrived. I am sure that you are filled with many mixed emotions and we hope that we can make the transition to school life as easy as possible for you and your family. Please read this note, fill out the attached forms and make sure to check out our website. This information has been compiled to provide you with all you need to know about our classroom routines and the Kindergarten program. We are excited about the year ahead with your child. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. Bonne année!

Welcome!

School Phone Number – (519) 824-0028

Teacher: Mme Alannah McGregor (Sept-Dec)
Mme Melissa Ellis (Dec-June)

alannah.mcgregor@ugdsb.on.ca melissa.ellis@ugdsb.on.ca

ECE: Mme Rebecca Miller

Blog: mmeellis.weebly.com

Phone extension: 400

Principal: Madame L. Newman

Vice Principal: Monsieur O. Cutz

Office Staff: Mme Lambkin & Mme Rice

Contact Information

Each child will be provided with a labeled plastic Ziploc bag, referred to as a "sac en plastique". This bag is to come to school with your child each day. All notes and forms from the school will be placed in the bag. Any notes from you will also be sent in this bag. When you send money to school with your child for book orders, trips, milk etc., please put it in an envelope/bag and write your child's name on it and what it is for.

Please take a few minutes to subscribe to our class blog and school blog. These will automatically notify you of updates, requests etc.

mmeellis.weebly.com
www.ugdsb.on.ca/jmc/

All information, news, weekly updates, photos etc. will be posted on our class blog. Monthly school newsletters and activities will be posted on the school website.

Communication

Lunch and Snacks

We will have two nutrition breaks during the day. The first break is from 10:15 to 10:35 and the second from 12:40 to 1:00. All meals will be eaten in the classroom. Please try to send items that your child can open on their own and that don't spill easily. Please encourage your child to help in choosing nutritious snacks as healthy eating is an integral part of the Kindergarten program. **Please be advised that we have students with peanut, nut and milk allergies in Kindergarten. There will be no peanut or nut products allowed in the classroom. Please do not send yogurt tubes.** A parent volunteer and/or teacher/ECE supervise the children during the nutrition breaks and outdoor recess time.

Water Bottles

Each day your child should bring a labeled refillable water bottle to school.

Milk/Pizza

The school has a daily milk program, which makes white and chocolate milk as well as juice available for purchase. There is also a Pizza program. More information and order forms will follow in September.



Lunch and Snacks

In the Kindergarten program, **four "frames"** or broad areas of learning are used to structure our thinking about learning and assessment. The frames are:

- Belonging and Contributing
- Self-Regulation and Well-Being
- Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours
- Problem Solving and Innovating

These frames are embedded in a **play-based** and **inquiry** approach to learning. Assessment and evaluation of students will be based on these four frames. This is a two-year program, and our class is composed of both Year 1 and Year 2 Kindergarten students.

The French Immersion Program is a full (100%) immersion program. In our Immersion program, **French** is used throughout the day. The children will learn through daily routines, activities, interactions, stories, songs, poems and chants.

Outdoor learning is an important part of our program. Our beautiful natural environment at John McCrae includes a forest and river. We spend a portion of each day exploring our surroundings, which stimulate curiosity, learning, and physical development.

You can **help prepare** your child for Kindergarten by helping them develop various skills at home. Some suggestions include basic self-care skills (dressing, toileting, eating), printing his/her first name, counting, letter recognition, cutting and gluing).

OUR PROGRAM



Safe Arrival and Departure

If your child is ill or will be absent from school for any reason, please notify the office as soon as possible. Please call before school starts (or the night before) and leave a message explaining your child's absence. By making a quick call in the morning, you save our office a lot of time phoning to locate your child.

The school phone number is (519)-824-0028.

If there is a change in your child's arrangements for after school, please advise me with a note in your child's sac-en-plastique or an email. **Your child must have parental permission to leave the school if there is a change in the normal routine.**

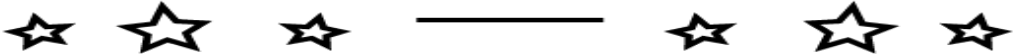
Transportation, Before and After School

Teachers and ECEs are on duty at busses and on the yard to supervise outdoors at 8:20. Children should remain outdoors until the bell rings at 8:35. During inclement weather (ex. pouring rain/extreme cold) a bell will ring early to allow students inside.

Older students are our school bus patrollers. These students take the children to and from buses. At the end of the day, teachers and ECEs supervise the students in the Kindergarten yard, at the crosswalk and at the buses. If you pick your child up from school, please arrive by the 3:05 dismissal bell. If you arrive after dismissal, you will need to collect your child from the main office.

Bus Tags

Please make certain that your child has their bus tag attached to their backpack. This helps teachers, bus patrollers, and the bus driver know where your child should be.



Attendance & Transportation

Things to send to school daily:

- Backpack (not too small, not too big, please no wheels)
- Lunch box (filled with yummy food) and water bottle
- Sac-en-plastique
- Jacket, hat, sunscreen etc. appropriate for the weather

Things to send to school that will stay at school:

- Indoor running shoes
- A child sized towel for quiet time
- A spare set of clothes in case of accidents

Label...label...label... EVERYTHING!

Things in our Kindergarten classroom can get easily mixed up. Please be sure to clearly label everything (shoes, boots, clothing, lunch boxes, containers etc.).

Clothing

Please encourage your child to wear comfortable, easy care clothing. Kindergarten is a busy program involving much experimentation, participation and activity. It is sometimes "messy" and accidents do happen. Choose pants, shirts, coats and especially shoes that your child can put on and take off by him/herself. We will be spending a lot of time outside everyday. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

Rain Gear/Cold Gear

Please make sure your child has items to wear outside during these types of weather. Please make sure you send them to school when this weather is expected.

Classroom Supplies

A separate list is included which indicates classroom materials (markers, etc.) which we would appreciate receiving. These materials are shared with the class, so they do not need to be labeled.

School Supplies

The following are some important expectations of French Immersion Kindergarten students:

- to enjoy school and develop a love of learning
- to learn social skills/self-regulation
- to become familiar with school and school routines
- to develop self-confidence and self-esteem
- to develop a comfort level with a second language

Daily Schedule

8:20-8:35	Arrival of Students - Supervision on Yard
8:35	School day begins - Entry of Students
8:35-10:15	Classes
10:15-11:00	Nutrition Break in class
	Recess - Children play in the Kindergarten yard
11:00-12:40	Classes
12:40-1:25	Nutrition Break in class
	Recess - Children play in the Kindergarten yard
1:25-2:55	Classes
2:55	Students prepare for home
3:05	Dismissal/Bus

School begins at 8:35 and punctual arrival is very important. Our morning routines are a great way for the children to develop French language skills and we often spend time outside in the morning, including walks and activities off the school property.

At dismissal time, bus students will be met by their patrollers and taken to their buses. Walkers and afterschool care students will be dismissed by the teachers / ECEs. **Parents and caregivers are asked to wait outside the Kindergarten area until the children are dismissed at 3:05.**

Our Day