

Welcome to Kindergarten

2021-2022

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School



Ms. Battel and Ms. Ecclestone (Teachers)
Ms. Colella and Ms. Carpanzano (DECEs)

A Prayer For Our Students, Parents, and Teachers



Lord,

*Thank you for the unique gifts of every child
as they transition towards Kindergarten.*

*Fill each student with enthusiasm and
a heart that is excited to learn.*

*Cover them with Your enduring love, give them
confidence, and equip them with the
ability to persevere through trials.*

*Bless these staff with wisdom, understanding, and
a heart to serve as they welcome these new students.*

*Bless these parents as they prepare for this
new phase in their children's lives. AMEN*

YCDSB Land Acknowledgement



Todd Jamieson
YCDSB Knowledge
Keeper

We are gathered on the ancestral land and waters of all Indigenous Peoples, who have left their footprints on Mother Earth before us.

We respectfully acknowledge, those who have walked on it, those who walk on it now, and future generations who have yet to walk upon it.

We pray to the Creator for strength and wisdom that all may continue to serve as stewards of the earth.

Kindergarten Program Information



Kindergarten is a two-year program.

★There are usually 2 adults in the classroom who work together to support your child. They are a DECE (Designated Early Childhood Educator) and a Teacher.

★The children also have a Physical Education/Health/Drama/Dance Teacher who teaches them five times per week, and a Music Teacher, who teaches them once per week.

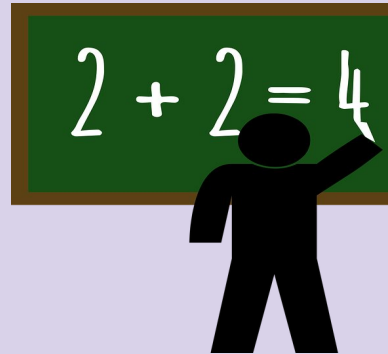
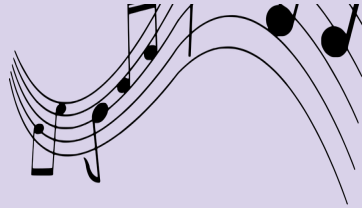
★The children in a kindergarten classroom are comprised of both Year One and Year Two Students (JK and SK Students).

Currently, our classroom model is a HYBRID one, in which both face-to-face students and online students learn simultaneously. This model may continue into September 2021, but Covid-19 rules and classroom models may change.



The Kindergarten Program is a balanced one, with teacher instruction, purposeful play, inquiries, and hands-on experiences, that are developmentally appropriate and child-focused. Due to covid-19 restrictions, students have been provided with individual materials to use and any shared materials are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between individual uses. Parents will be provided with a list of required school supplies soon, to send with their child in September..

Areas of learning include: literacy, math, science, art, music, religion, drama, dance, physical education, health and social skills.



The goal of the Kindergarten Program is to develop the students' love of learning in a safe and caring environment that prepares them for Grade One.

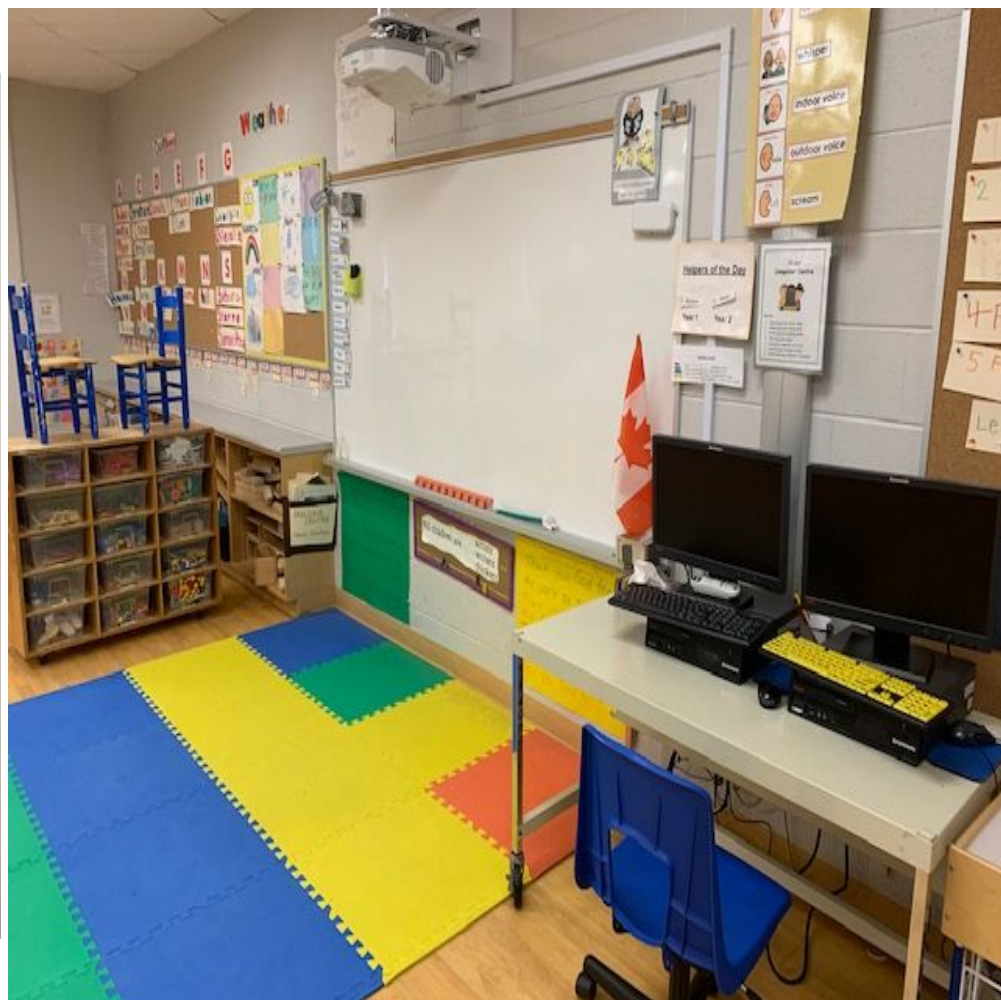
The Ontario Kindergarten Program Document can be found at:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/elementary/kindergarten.html>



*Let's Meet the
Kindergarten Team*

This is Ms. Battel. She is one of the Kindergarten Teachers at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School.



This is Ms. Ecclestone. She is also a Kindergarten Teacher at Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School



This is Ms. Colella. She is one of the Designated Early Childhood Educators (DECE) at our school.



This is Ms. Carpanzano. She is also one of the Designated Early Childhood Educators (DECE) at our school.



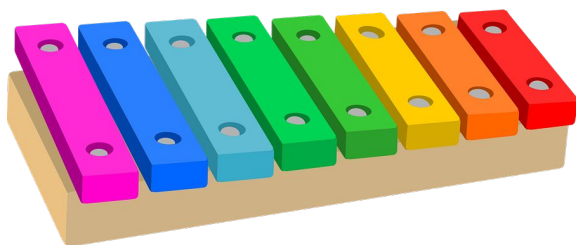
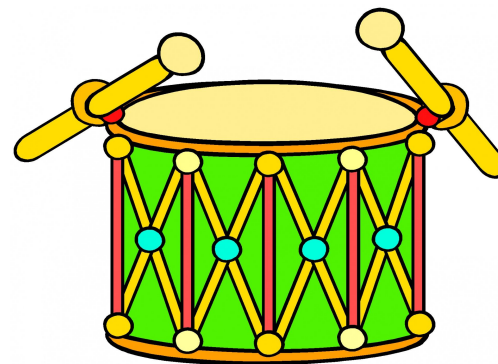
This is Mrs. Tannetta. She is the Physical Education, Health, Dance and Drama Teacher.



This is Mrs. Guida. She is the Special Education (Core Resource) Teacher for Kindergarten to Grade 3.



The Students will also have a Music Teacher once per week. This teacher has not yet been determined.



This is our school's wonderful Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Palermo.



This is our Principal, who leads our school community, Mr. William Kwon.



Hopefully, students will again visit the School library weekly to participate in storytime and to borrow a library book. This previous year, due to covid restrictions, this did not occur.



What Parents Need to Know

NUTRITION



The children eat 3 times a day. Parents are asked to send 2 snacks and a lunch. Please label "1" on their morning snack, "2" on their lunch, and "3" on their afternoon snack. Children must also bring a reusable water bottle. A lunch supervisor assists the children during the lunch period. Lunches will not be heated for the children. Please use child friendly containers and have your child practise opening and closing the containers over the summer months. This will foster a sense of independence.

Please note that at this time, lunches may not be dropped off by parents/guardians due to enhanced COVID-19 Health and Safety measures.

Also, pending approval by the York Region Public Health and the YCDSB, hopefully, in September, the OLR Parent Council may send home hot lunch order forms with each child. If this happens, parents can order the lunches if they choose to. There are usually several options available, such as pizza, pasta, chicken, etc.

Allergies



Please alert the office if your child has any allergies, be it food allergies, insect bites, seasonal, etc. No NUTS of any kind are allowed in the School, as our school is a peanut and nut-safe environment. Please read food packages carefully, including ingredient lists and fine print of any foods/drinks you plan to send to school.

Other allergies in the classroom will be identified in September and a letter will be sent home informing you of any other foods that must be avoided.

All children with a food allergy who have been prescribed an EpiPen, must wear it at all times in a waist pack while at school and while on the school bus. An additional EpiPen must be provided to the school office where it will be stored. If your child has an EpiPen, please check the expiry date regularly.

CLOTHING/DRESSING/BACKPACK

After eating lunch, the children play outside every day, for 40 minutes (12:10 - 12:50pm), weather permitting. Please dress them appropriately for the weather.

In the winter, please send waterproof gloves/mittens.



At home, please have your child practise dressing themselves in their outdoor clothing independently.

On the first day of School, Send your child with a pair of indoor velcro running shoes that will remain at school. White Soled running shoes are most appropriate for physical education class.



Also, please send an extra set of clothing to school in a labelled, Ziploc bag.

IMPORTANT: Please select a backpack for your child, that is big enough to fit a lunch bag, reusable water bottle, library books, duotangs and a communication bag (in which forms/teacher notes etc. are sent home regularly.) **ALSO**, please ensure that all personal items, clothing, lunch bags, backpacks, etc. are labelled with your child's name.

Washroom/Naps

Washrooms are located inside the classroom. There is no lock on the washroom door. The toilet and sink are child-sized. Children use the washroom alone.

Please teach your child how to use the toilet independently and encourage and practise proper hand-washing to help prevent the spread of illnesses.



If your child still naps, please consider weaning them off napping, as there is no nap time in Kindergarten.

Covid-19 Rules

There are currently many Covid-19 rules that must be followed. These may change as the situation evolves. Here are the rules we **MUST** follow at this time:

Visitors will only be allowed to enter the school after they have completed the York Region Public Health [COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#) and have no symptoms.

1. Visitors will use the provided hand sanitizer upon entry to all schools and report to the designated reception area, wear a medical mask at all times and maintain a two-metre/6 foot physical distance as they enter, move through and exit the building. If a visitor does not have a medical mask, the school will provide one.
2. Visitors will follow the directional arrows in the hallways and stairwells.

Meetings:

1. Until further notice, visitor(s) are not to enter the school unless identified through a prearranged exception/appointment.
2. In person meetings with the principal must be prearranged.
3. Visitors will be admitted individually by buzzer; they must remain in the school foyer where

Mask Wearing:

1. **Students in Grades 1 to 8** will be required to wear a **two-layer face mask**, as per Provincial direction and York Region Public Health. Parents/guardians will be expected to provide their child with a two-layer personal face covering to wear at school to reduce the spread of his/her own respiratory droplets to protect others.

Covid-19 Rules Continued:

2. Parents are asked to send 4 masks per day with their child so that soiled masks can be changed following outdoor routines. Students should come to school with a paper or cloth bag to return soiled washable masks home.
3. Students in Kindergarten are strongly encouraged, but not required, to wear masks. Correct mask wearing procedures will be taught, reinforced through signage and verbal reminders. Should kindergarten parents wish to have their child wear a mask at school, they are expected to supply the masks.

Daily COVID-19 Screening:

On a daily basis, ALL students are required to complete the York Region Public Health [COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool](#) prior to entry into the school and have no symptoms.

When students are ill, they must stay at home and can access remote learning.

Should a student present at school with even ONE symptom consistent with COVID-19, the student will be supervised in a designated, isolated area and parents will be contacted to pick up their child immediately. A student symptom letter and parent attestation form will be issued and the student's return to school will be subject to York Region Public Health and YCDSB guidelines.

Oral Language



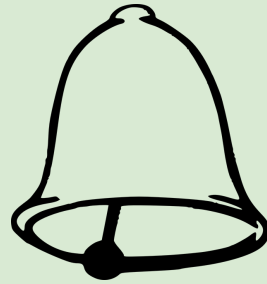
When your child speaks, he/she should be understood most of the time.

If you are concerned about your child's language skills, then you should do the following:

1. Speak to your child's doctor about your concerns.
2. Contact the York Region Preschool Speech and Language program at 1-888-703-KIDS (5437) OR <https://www.childdevelopmentprograms.ca/speech-and-language/>

NOTE- York Region Preschool Speech and Language must be contacted prior to August 31, in the year that your child starts Year One of Kindergarten (JK)

School Procedures



School begins on Tuesday, September 7th, 2021. The school bell rings at 8:50 a.m. and again at 3:20 p.m. when the day ends.

START OF DAY: Bring your child to the Kindergarten fenced-in area before the morning bell at 8:50 a.m. A Supervising Staff member will be on site in this area beginning every morning at 8:35 a.m. Please do not drop your child off prior to 8:35 a.m., as they will not yet be supervised.

DISCHARGE/END OF DAY: If your child is to be picked up at the end of the day, then please come to the outdoor fenced-in Kindergarten area by 3:20 p.m. Your child will be discharged there by their teacher.

BUS: If your child will be taking the school bus to and/or from school, the office will provide a sticker for your child's backpack indicating their bus number. Bus students will be met by a staff member at their bus when they arrive to school in the morning, and they will be escorted by a staff member to their bus at the end of the school day. York Region School bus info: 1-877-330-3001 or at <http://net.schoolbuscity.com/>

Absences

Should your child be absent from school, please inform us by calling THE SAFE ARRIVAL ABSENCE REPORTING LINE at 1-855-856-7862 or visit go.SchoolmeSSenger.ca to report an absence before 8:50 a.m. Failure to do this will result in the Administrative Assistant phoning parents to determine their child's whereabouts.

Arriving on Time

Please make every effort to bring your child to school on time (by 8:50 a.m.). Certain weather conditions may cause the students to be brought into the school at 8:35 a.m. In these instances, bring your child to the fenced-in area and they will be brought into the classroom from there.

If your child arrives late, parents/guardians are asked to buzz the main office by using the electronic door system by the main front doors of the school, and a staff member will admit the student and assist with classroom entry. Late slips will no longer be issued due to COVID-19 Health and safety protocol, and all late arrivals will be noted using our electronic attendance taking procedures.

Also, should your child be picked up during the day for an appointment, they will be asked to remain home for the remainder of the day and access our online learning.

Outdoor Play School Rules

There are some basic school rules, that all students are expected to follow when playing outdoors. They are:

- 1. no physical contact – keep hands and feet to yourself**
- 2. keep the snow on the ground – no throwing/kicking of snow.**
- 3. stay within the fenced-in Kindergarten area**
- 4. play co-operatively**
- 5. use appropriate words to resolve conflicts**
- 6. call the staff on duty when you need assistance, AND**
- 7. always use kind words and kind actions**

Staff assist the students with these rules.

Parking Lot Safety



Those of you who will be driving your child to and from school need to be aware of safety hazards for the students.

Please do not park your car in the driveway at the front of the school as buses need this area to drop off and pick up students. This area also needs to be kept clear for deliveries and in the event that an ambulance or fire truck is needed.

The parking lot is reserved for staff members, so please do not park there. You may park your car on the street in front of the school, following all city parking rules.

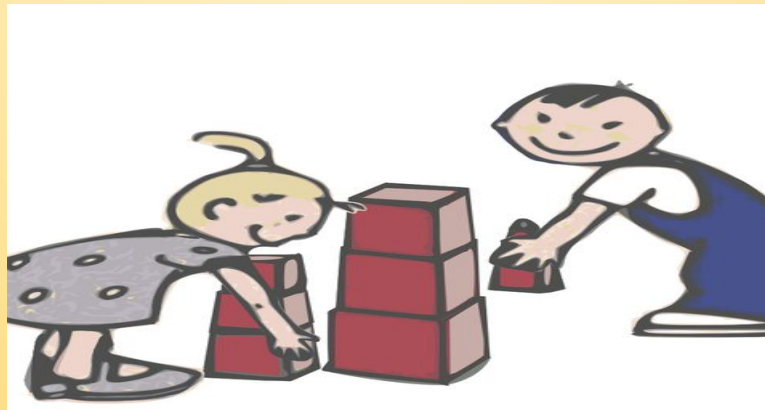
Also, please drive slowly and carefully in the school area.

Before and After School Age Program

If the numbers warrant it, there will be a Before and After School Program for a fee, here at Our Lady of the Rosary School. Doors open at 7 a.m. and close at 6 p.m.

Should you be interested in the OLR School Age Program, please contact the Assistant Supervisor, MS. Christina Svacina at 905-660-3527 or by email: st.josephtheworkerccc@live.ca

Also, please let the office know if you have applied for the Before and After School Age Program for your child. Thank you.



Hallways and Classrooms



Parental involvement in the school is always encouraged, but due to Covid-19 guidelines, only students and staff are permitted in the school. On those instances when parents or visitors need to enter the school, they must buzz in at the main entrance and seek permission to enter. At this time, all persons entering the school must also complete the York Region Public Health COVID-19 School and Child-Care Screening Tool and be symptom-free. This includes all students and staff on a daily basis.

It should also be noted that at this time, all parents, staff and students (from grade one and onward,) MUST wear a mask at all times when they are on school property, both outdoors and indoors. Masks are also STRONGLY ENCOURAGED for Kindergarten students.

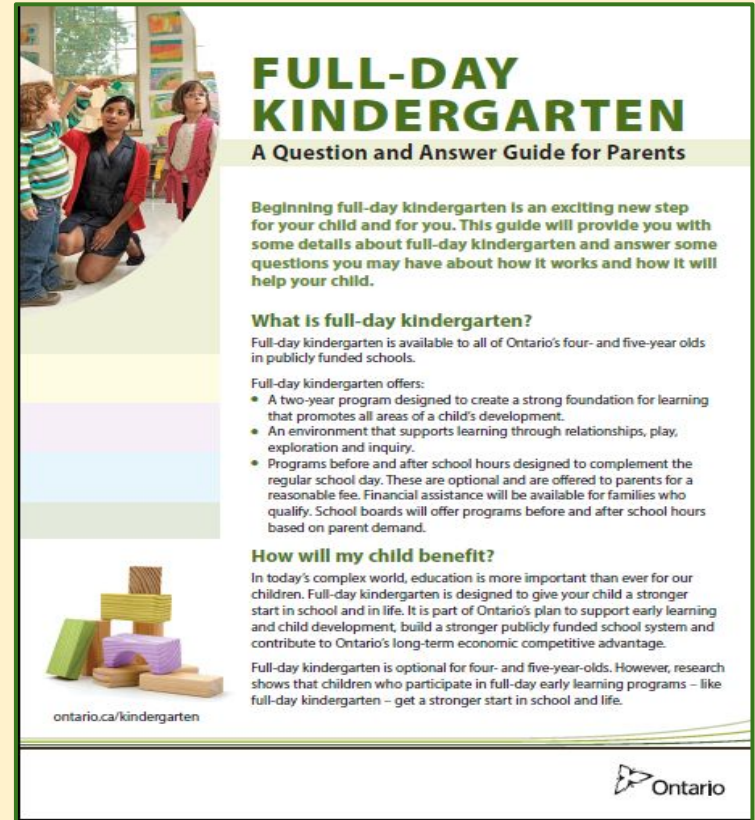
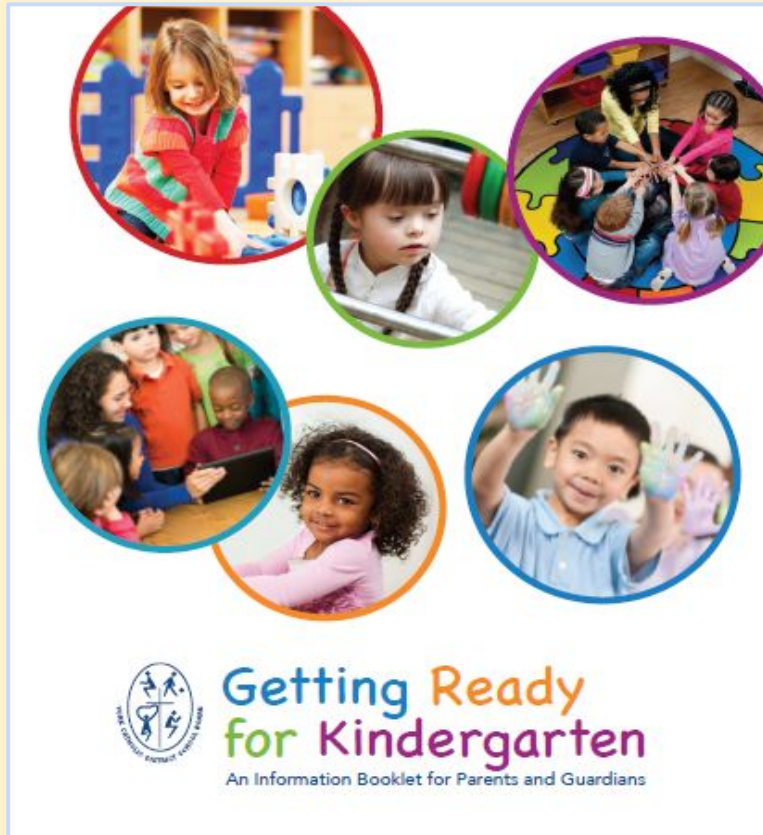
CuStody/ACceSS Order

Should your child be subject to a CuStody and/or ACceSS Order, please let uS know. The School requires this information in order to enSure the Safety of your child. All information is kept confidential.

Here are some suggested activities that you can do with your child, to help him/her prepare for Kindergarten:

- Take a walk near the school and show your child where they will be playing and learning in September.
- Go for walks and look for familiar signs within the community (e.g., STOP signs, street signs, names of places, etc.)
- Use play equipment, such as blocks, cars, sand, water, musical toys, etc.
- Read with your child and ask questions about the story.
- Play with playdough, and magnetic letters and numbers.
- Provide opportunities for your child to use pencils, crayons, paint and scissors.
- Help your child recognize their first name, and the letters in it.
- Have your child practise dressing/undressing themselves in outdoor footwear and clothing, including using zippers.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



<https://www.ycdsb.ca/programs-services/kindergarten/>

AND

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/kindergarten/>

Questions?



Thank you for taking the time to watch/read this Slideshow. We are looking forward to welcoming you and your child this September!

If you have any questions, you may reach us (the teachers) at:
cara.battel@ycdsbk12.ca OR nadia.ecclestone@ycdsbk12.ca

You are also welcome to call the school at 905-669-6690.

Thank you,

Ms. Battel and Ms. Ecclestone