

# Welcome to Kindergarten

2023-2024

Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic School



*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 teachers 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

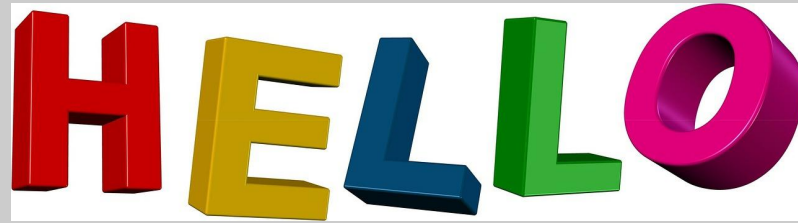


**Todd Jamieson**  
**YCDSB Knowledge**  
**Keeper**

*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.*



Hello and welcome to all of  
our new Kindergarten  
students and their families!

Let us introduce ourselves.



# Kindergarten Program Information

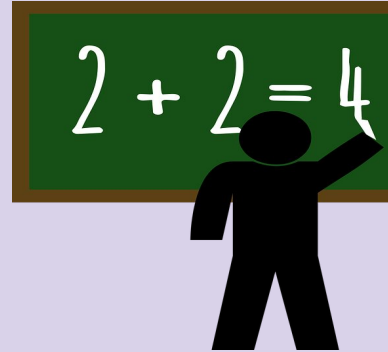
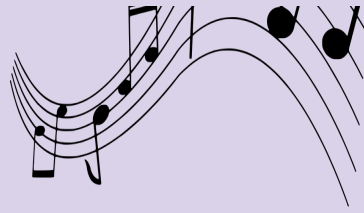
Kindergarten is a two-year program.

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



The Kindergarten Program is a balanced one, with teacher instruction, purposeful play, inquiries, and hands-on experiences, that are developmentally appropriate and child-focused.

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



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

The Ontario Kindergarten Program Document can be found at:

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



# The Kindergarten Team

- Consists of the Classroom Teacher
- An Early Childhood Educator (usually)
- A Physical Education, Dance/Drama, Health Teacher
- A Music Teacher
- A Teacher-Librarian, and
- A Special Education Teacher for students who require those services



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

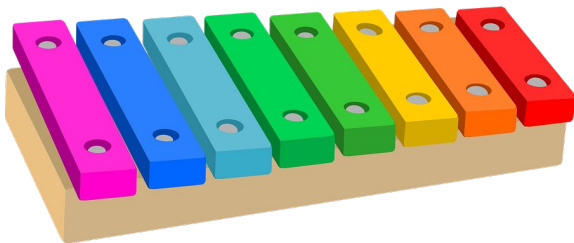




This is Ms. Puopolo. She is the Teacher-Librarian. Students visit the library weekly to participate in storytime, book exchange, and some other curricular activities such as coding, led by Ms. Puopolo.



The students also have a Music Teacher who comes to our classroom once a week.





Below are our school's administrative assistants,  
Mrs. Palermo and Mrs. Sferopoulos.



This is our Principal, Mr. Kwon. He leads our school community.





# 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 lunchtime 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.

In September, the OLR Parent Council will send home hot lunch order forms with each child. Parents can order the lunches if they choose to. There are 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 bite allergies, seasonal allergies, etc. No NUIS 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 (12:05 p.m.-12:45 p.m.), weather permitting. Please dress your child 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 a complete set of extra clothes to school in a large Ziploc bag labelled with your child's name.

**IMPORTANT!** Please select a backpack for your child, that is big enough to fit a lunch bag, a 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

A Washroom is 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.



# Oral Language

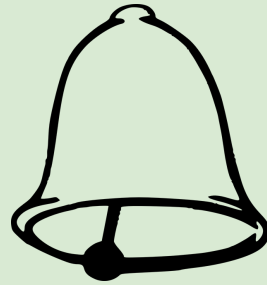


When your child speaks, they should be understood most of the time.

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 [www.childdevelopmentprograms.ca](http://www.childdevelopmentprograms.ca)

# School Procedures



School begins on Tuesday, September 5th, 2023. 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 from school, the office will provide a sticker for your child's backpack indicating their bus number and drop off location. Bus students will be met by a staff member as they come off the bus when they arrive at school in the morning, and they will be escorted by a staff member to their bus at the end of the school day.

# STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

For information on bus routes, stop locations, late arrival, cancellations, and general information, please contact **York Region Student Transportation Services School Bus Information** at 1-877-330-3001 or visit the website ([www.schoolbuscity.com/](http://www.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](tel:1-855-856-7862) or visit [go.SchoolmeSSenger.ca](http://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.

When a child arrives late, it is disruptive as it takes away from lessons, discussions, etc. that the other students are participating in. If your child arrives late, you must go to the office to let them know your child is late. The office will then call the classroom teacher who will come to pick up your child.



# 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.

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 Supervisor, MS. Fabia DiSotto at 905-660-3527 or by email at: [disotto.fabia@gmail.com](mailto:disotto.fabia@gmail.com)

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



# Hallways and Classrooms



Parents are always welcome in our classrooms and parental involvement is encouraged. There are instances though when parents enter the classroom or gather in the hallways when they should not.

Adults in the school can be seen as strangers by the other staff members or students and pose a potential safety risk.

Please bring your child to the outside fenced-in area when dropping them off. Do not leave your child unattended in the classroom or hallway before the bell rings.

## Custody/Access Order

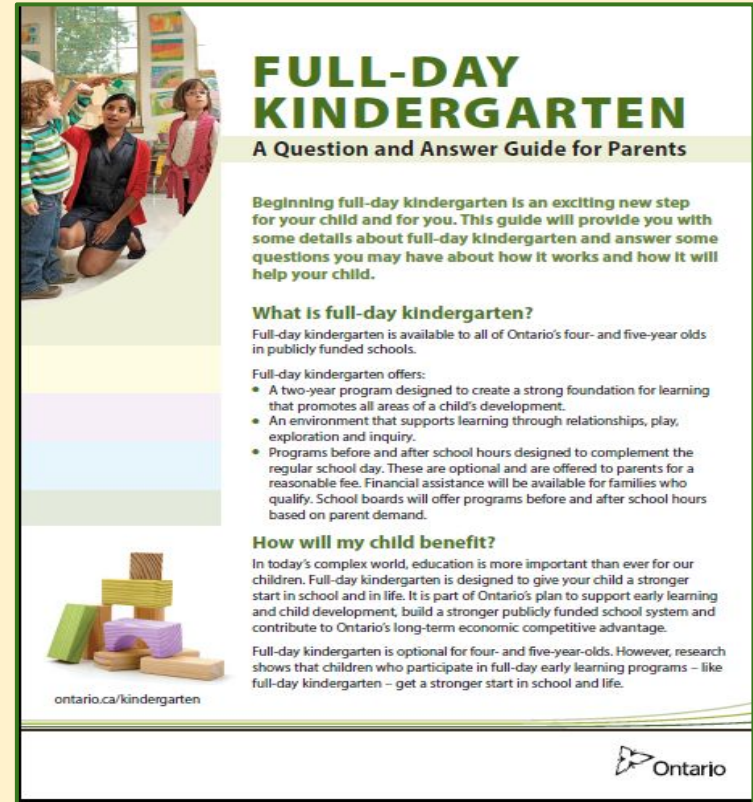
Should your child be subject to a Custody and/or Access Order, please let us know. The School requires this information in order to ensure the safety of your child. All information is kept confidential.



## **Here are some suggested activities that you can do with your child, to help them 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 with magnetic letters and numbers.
- Provide opportunities for your child to use pencils, crayons, glue, 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.
- Participate in community programs, such as library programs, etc.

# ADDITIONAL PARENT RESOURCES



York Catholic District School Board:

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

Ministry of Education: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/kindergarten>

EarlyON Child and Family Centres:

<https://www.york.ca/support/childrens-services/earlyon-child-and-family-centres>

# Questions???



Thank you for taking the time to attend this session. We look forward to welcoming you and your child to our School Community in September!

If you have any questions, you may reach us at:

[nadia.ecclestone@ycdsbk12.ca](mailto:nadia.ecclestone@ycdsbk12.ca)

[heather.prechner@ycdsbk12.ca](mailto:heather.prechner@ycdsbk12.ca)

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

*Thank you,*

*Ms. Ecclestone and Mrs. Prechner*