

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN!

Richmond Rose Public School



Inspire Learning!

Dear Families,

We welcome your child into our Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) program, and we are sure this year will be an exciting learning experience for us all. We also wish to welcome you as a partner in your child's education. Whether your child is entering junior or senior kindergarten, it is our shared responsibility to make sure that it is a positive and successful year for him/her. As partners, we will always keep the lines of communication open in order to make this new beginning a secure and joy-filled experience for your child. If you ever have questions, concerns or any matter you wish to discuss, please do not hesitate to call us, or to place a note in your child's communication folder. If we are not available at the time you call, leave a message, and we will get back to you as soon as possible. The school phone number is (905) 737-4311.

The Kindergarten program is based on the premise that children are unique and that they develop at different rates. We will make an early assessment of your child in the first weeks of school, and then tailor each child's program and our expectations to meet individual needs. This will involve incorporating many "open-ended" activities where each child can experience success at his/her own level.

We believe that Kindergarten is not merely a preparation for things to come. It is an exciting and vital experience in its own right. In Kindergarten, we take the time to enjoy the magic of small moments and the wonder of daily and significant happenings. In these ordinary experiences some of the richest and most profound learning takes place.

On the following pages, we would like to share with you some information regarding our program. We hope you find this booklet helpful.

Looking forward to a great year together!

Sincerely,

The Kindergarten Teachers of Richmond Rose



LUNCH SNACKS



School hours are 8:35 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. Morning recess is scheduled from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. The lunch hour is from 12:25 p.m. to 1:25 p.m. The children will be supervised both in the classroom and outside by a lunch supervisor during this time.

We encourage parents to pack a lunch each day.

If a parent is dropping off a child's lunch during the school day or just before the lunch hour, the lunch bag should be placed on the bookshelf outside the main office (with your child's name on it). Students will be sent down at the beginning of the lunch hour to pick up their lunches. Parents are not permitted to bring students' lunches directly to the classroom. Due to our late lunch, it is important that students come to school with a couple of small snacks aside from their lunch foods. These snacks are eaten in the classroom prior to morning recess. We encourage families to pack nutritious snacks that students can open and close independently. Please label snacks and lunches accordingly so students don't eat their "lunch" as their "snack". It is never too soon to have children participate in choosing and packing their snack and lunch. This is a great way to build independence and to continue conversations about healthy food choices.

Due to life-threatening allergies in our school and Kindergarten classes, it is of utmost importance that parents avoid all peanut, nut and citrus (e.g., oranges, mandarines, lemons, limes) products when packing children's lunches or any other food items to be shared in the classroom. Please make sure students wash their hands and face before coming to school so we can do our best to make school a safe place for all students.



SCHOOL BAGS



When selecting a backpack for your child, please consider the following:

Ensure that the bag is large enough to easily place a big library book or duotang inside. Your child will often carry home paintings, crafts and library books. Small bags can make this task very challenging!

Top loading backpacks with zippers are usually the easiest way for young children to independently pack and unpack their bags. Clips and buckles are often difficult for small fingers to press. Have your child practice opening and closing the backpack before you purchase it. Students need to independently open, close and pack their own bags.

Label your child's backpack and lunch bag with his/her name.

BIRTHDAYS



For your child's birthday, you are more than welcome to send a small toy or loot bag for each student in the class. Due to life threatening food allergies in our classroom and/or school, food items will not be permitted as part of birthday celebrations.

INDOOR SHOES



Since we have regularly scheduled physical education classes, each child is encouraged to leave a pair of running shoes at school for the year. These will be used for gym classes and will serve as their indoor shoes at school. If your child cannot tie shoe laces, velcro shoes are a must as students need to put on and take off their shoes independently. Please label your child's shoes, including all other belongings – jacket, snow pants, hats gloves, etc.

OUTDOOR PLAY



We value and encourage healthy active play each and every day. Except in extreme weather conditions, the students will play outdoors either in the enclosed Kindergarten area or in another designated area on school property, or on the adjacent town playground/tarmac. It is very important that students are dressed appropriately for the weather. Snow pants, winter boots, hats and mittens/gloves are essential during the colder months. Students will still go outside when it is cold, or sometimes when it is damp. This is why we encourage students to dress appropriately.

CHANGE OF CLOTHES



In case of accidents of any kind, students must have a change of clothes. These clothes are left in the classroom. Please send these clothes (individually labelled) in a plastic bag with your child's name clearly marked on the outside. If students do have an accident students will need to independently change into their new clothes.

There is often duplication of clothing items in kindergarten and things can be misplaced. Please be sure all removable clothing is labelled with your child's name, e.g. running shoes, jackets, mittens, scarves, lunch bags etc. Hopefully, this will eliminate a big lost and found problem.

Every few weeks, unclaimed clothing will be placed in the school's central Lost and Found bin.

NOTES AND ABSENCES

If your child is going to be absent from school, please notify us by phoning the school prior to 8:25 a.m. and leaving a message on the office voicemail. This will save office staff from having to contact you during our daily attendance check. The school phone number is (905)737-4311. **If the school doesn't have information about an absent student it is school policy to call the police to report a student missing. PLEASE make sure to report your child's absence each day he or she is away.**

Please let us know by way of a note or a phone call to the school of any changes in your child's routine. For example, if your child is being picked up early for an appointment, or if he/she is going home with someone else, please inform his/her teacher. Teachers will only dismiss students to the adults identified by you on the Parent Dismissal form, unless otherwise notified. Students who leave school early will need to be signed out at the office.



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Although students are excited to start school it is not uncommon for some students to struggle with a new routine. All Kindergarten students need to enter the school through the Kindergarten gate. As difficult as it may be for some children/parents, we ask you to please say "goodbye" at the gate, in order to establish the regular routine from day one. Families are not allowed in the kindergarten area or in the kindergarten classrooms. If your child appears to be very upset when you leave, and you are concerned, you may call the office and the secretaries can check in with us and let you know how your child is doing.



PUNCTUALITY

Our warning bell rings at 8:33 a.m. and students enter their classrooms at 8:35 a.m. We would encourage all parents to ensure that their child arrives at school on time. When students arrive late, after morning activities have begun, it is disruptive to the child and to the other students. We would really appreciate all efforts to get your child to school on time.

Please note that you can drop your child off in the kindergarten yard any time after 8:20 a.m. At this time, there will be teachers on duty to welcome and supervise the children. If your child arrives after the bell, he/she will have to be signed in at the office and will be given a late slip to present to the classroom teacher.



DISMISSAL

School ends at 3:05 p.m., at which time children are brought out to the kindergarten yard for dismissal. Parents are asked to wait outside the gated area for their child. A staff member will be responsible for picking up kindergarten bus students and escorting them to the bus. For those children attending the after-school program, Le Club staff will pick them up in their kindergarten classrooms at the end of each school day.



PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We welcome any parents who are willing and able to volunteer some of their time in our classrooms. Whether you are available once a week or once a month, your help will be very much appreciated. Once we have established rules and routines, a note will be sent home and teachers will draw up volunteer schedules beginning sometime in October. We will try our best to accommodate all. Parent volunteers will also be needed for field trips and other special events planned through the year. **A Vulnerable Sector Screening, obtained from Police, must be completed for any parent(s) who may possibly supervise students outside the supervision of a teacher. Please ask your child's teacher for more information. The school does not cover the cost of the VSS.**



HOME READING

Within the first few weeks of school, all Kindergarten teachers will start their Home Reading programs. Your child will bring a book home each day to read with/to you. Please remember to have your child return this book every day, so that he/she can bring a new one home to read. Regular participation in this program is very important in helping your child practice reading skills being learned at school, and in fostering a love of reading. He/she will look forward to this sharing time at home.



BUSSING

The York Region District School Board policy states that children in Kindergarten to Grade 3 who live greater than 1.2 kilometres from school shall be eligible for bus transportation. These students are picked up and dropped off at a point near to their homes as designated by the Board's Transportation Department. For school bus stop information please visit www.schoolbuscity.com. Upon arrival at school, a staff member meets all students in the bus loop.

All Junior and Senior Kindergarten students will participate in a School Bus Safety program whether they ride the school bus each day or for school trips only. A video will be shown and procedures for safely riding a school bus reviewed. Students will learn how to get on and off a school bus safely and other useful tips such as staying out of the danger zones. Students will practice evacuation procedures using the emergency exits on the bus.



INCLEMENT WEATHER/BUS CANCELLATION/ SCHOOL CLOSING

In the event of bus cancellation or school closing due to bad weather or plant breakdown the following radio stations will provide information:

CFRB 1010 CHFI 98.1 CHUM 1050 CKEY 590 CFTR 680

Please Note: If busses are cancelled in the morning, they are automatically cancelled in the afternoon. Parents transporting their children to school must also arrange transportation home after school.

PERSONAL ITEMS



Please keep all toys at home unless otherwise requested. We find that these items often interfere with our program, especially when they are lost or misplaced. Your child's teacher will let you know when seasonal or theme-related items may be brought into school for sharing purposes.

As Kindergarten teachers, we strive to provide enriched and positive learning experiences for your child. These experiences will be the building blocks for your child's future academic and personal successes. We look forward to developing a strong bond between home and school. By working together, we can make Richmond Rose Public School a wonderful place of learning.

The Kindergarten Staff

