

Kindergarten Information

Dear Parents,

May 2018

We are delighted to welcome you and your children to Kindergarten here at Ralph McCall School. We know this will be a wonderful year for everyone and look forward to getting to know you and especially your children. The following are a few points to let you know what is going on and things we need your help with!

Morning and Afternoon Kindergarten

Morning Kindergarten is Monday to Thursday.

Afternoon Kindergarten is Monday to Thursday afternoons and Friday mornings.

Pancake Breakfast

This year, our School Council sponsored Pancake Breakfast is on Friday, August 31 from 8:30-10:00. Class lists are posted at this time. There will be an Open House to meet your child's teacher from 9:00-11:00.

Split Entry - Class Lists

The first day of school is **Tuesday, September 4th** but all **Kindergarten students will each attend for only one hour**. This is a quieter transition for the children and an opportunity to see their classroom, meet their teacher and half of their classmates on this introductory day. You will receive an emailed letter, at the end of June, indicating which hour you are to bring your child on September 4th. The regular Kindergarten schedule will begin on Wednesday, September 5th.

Drop Off and Pick Up Times and Routines- All times are tentative - you will be informed when they are confirmed.

The morning Kindergarten program starts at 8:00am and ends at 11:20am. The afternoon Kindergarten class starts at 12:05pm and ends at 2:45pm. The Kindergarten doors face Canals Boulevard on the east side of the school. These will be our entry and exit doors all year. The children should line up there until the bell goes, at which point we will open the doors and enter the school by class. Please wait with your child until they come into the school.

At pick up time we will have the children ready to leave through the same doors. Please stand close enough to the doors to be visible to us and your child. If there is going to be a change in your child's pick up routine, please let us know in writing in advance or call the office.

Please be aware when parking not to block any driveways or entrances, even if it is only for a few minutes.

We know that separation can be a difficult thing. It is helpful if your drop off routine is short and done outside at the drop off point. If you are positive and encouraging your child will feel your support.

Friday Classes

The afternoon kindergarten classes will attend school on Friday mornings from 8:00-11:20 (***Tentative time***).

Attendance

Regular attendance is important to your child's school success, however, if your child is ill, please keep them at home. This is more comfortable for your sick child and prevents the "bug" from spreading like wildfire in the classroom. Please call the school's safe arrival line 948-7030 to notify the school when your child will be absent.

Personal Items

Please label all jackets, shoes, backpacks, lunch kits, etc. with your child's name. It is always advisable to label items on the inside, where the name is not visible to a stranger.

Shoes

Kindergarten students are required to have two pairs of shoes at school: indoor and outdoor shoes. We are very active in kindergarten and the most appropriate indoor shoes are runners. Please ensure that these are labeled and are left at school. **Please only send Velcro or slip on shoes.**

Snack Time

Children will bring their own snacks to school. A simple healthy snack (junk food like pop and chips are not acceptable) that can be eaten in about ten minutes is great! Please, no messy snacks as they are difficult to clean up. We are not aware at Ralph McCall. If there are any nut allergies in your child's class you will be notified and we ask you to be aware of those allergies when you are packing snacks. Water is the best drink for school. Please send a full water bottle as we do not have sinks in class.

Home-School Bags

We have purchased fabric home-school bags. The bag is intended to help keep books and papers clean and dry. Newsletters and other items from school will be enclosed in these bags. If you need to let us know anything, write a note and place it in the home-school bag. The bag needs to come to school every day. This bag belongs to Ralph McCall School and must be returned at the end of the year. Please take care of it so it can be reused next year.

Money

Periodically your child will need to bring money to school. We encourage everyone to pay online with our School Cash system. You will get the login information for this during the first week of school.

Supplies

Students who have a last name beginning with **A - i**

Please send the following supplies:

- 2 containers of wet wipes (these are used for cleaning hands at snack)
- 1 box of kleenex

Students who have a last name beginning with **J - R**

Please send the following supplies:

- 2 containers of wet wipes (these are used for cleaning hands at snack)
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer (Unscented)

Students who have a last name beginning with **S - Z**

- 2 containers of wet wipes (these are used for cleaning hands at snack)

- 1 box of Band Aids

Field Trips

Throughout the year we will schedule field trips to support our curriculum. Permission forms will be sent home prior to each trip. In addition to the individual excursion forms you must also ensure that you have signed the Annual Authorization form for the school. This will be included in the office paperwork that will be coming home in the first week of school.

Parent Volunteers

You will shortly be getting some forms for volunteering from the office. We organize our volunteer program with an online service. When we are ready for volunteers you will receive an email and can sign up for times that work for you. Parents are an integral part of the learning process in our program and we greatly appreciate your help. **You must have a Criminal Record (including Vulnerable Sector) Check in order to volunteer at the school.** Forms are included in the forms package and must be submitted to the RCMP, not the school. Parent volunteers must be available without younger children. Thank you for making child care arrangements for younger siblings.

Class Email

All communication such as updates on what we are doing in class and any special activities or events will be emailed or on the teacher's blog. **Please ensure that the school has a correct email address.**

Report Cards and Power School

Ralph McCall School reports formally to parents on a trimester system. The reports will come home in December, March and June. There will be opportunities to meet with the teachers throughout the year. Please check Power School to see your child's monthly progress. You will receive your login information during the first week of school.

Library

Students will be allowed to take one book home at a time. The books need to be returned each week. Library will start after September 17th, 2018.

Book Clubs

Scholastic offers some wonderful books at very reasonable prices through their book clubs. We will send home order forms each month. For every book you order, the class earns points and coupons towards FREE class books. So the more we order as a class, the more the kids benefit! Please remember that payment must be made online *as we can't mail cash*.

Birthday Procedures

You may choose to send a special treat on your child's birthday, if you wish. Cupcakes are very messy and are often not eaten by the kids. We have found that cookies, rice krispie squares, or brownies make great birthday treats. Please let us know in advance so we can plan a bit of extra snack time and make accommodations for allergies. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND TREAT BAGS TO SCHOOL TO BE DISTRIBUTED.**

Rocky View Schools Support Services

Our school division has an Early Intervention Team to assist in providing students with any required support. Any support will be assessed in the early part of the school year and parents are an integral part of that process. Every child will be bringing home a parent questionnaire for you to complete. This will help us get to know your child.

Allergies and Administration of Medication, etc.

While it is not the mandate of the school, we understand that there are certain occasions where staff may be required to administer medication or medical treatment to students. In order to administer medication, or medical treatment (for example, in the case of allergies), we require detailed instructions and signed consent, **from a parent and physician**. It is the responsibility of parents to inform the school when a child is prescribed medication that needs to be taken at school or when a serious allergy is diagnosed. Please do this at the beginning of every school year. It is also the responsibility of the parent to complete and return the required forms, signed by a physician, at the beginning of the school year. More information and copies of the forms and procedures are available from the office.

Thank you for making a note of so many little things to help us all get off to a great start!
If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask us.

Sincerely,

Ralph McCall School Kindergarten Team

