



I am very happy to be teaching your child this year in Kindergarten!! I am looking forward to learning together as we work our way through the first year in school. We have been singing, reading, drawing, sharing toys, and meeting new classmates already. Our class has 22 students who have already shown themselves to be very enthusiastic and willing to take on all new tasks. Below you'll find lots of information about our class and our classroom routines.

Allergies:

Please let me know if your child has a food allergy or if your child has any special dietary restrictions if you have not done so already. We occasionally have edible treats and snacks and the children will be doing some baking during the course of the year. However, it is our policy that children not share food they have brought for snacks or lunches. **We do have nut allergies in our class so please be considerate when packing lunches and send nut-free items only.**

Arrival and Dismissal:

At Lochside Kindergarten students start and end the day 5 minutes earlier than the rest of the school to help with traffic in the parking lot. I will come to bring in the children at the first bell, 8:35am. Children can line up and wait for me against the wall to the left of the double doors by the Kindergarten classrooms. I will bring the class to the same doors for dismissal each day at 2:43pm. When the children leave I like them to say good-bye to me and show me that their adult is here to pick them up. Please let me know if someone other than you or the regular caregiver will be picking your child up so that I know they are safe. Please register and email Morning Watch at lochsidesafearrival@sd63.bc.ca if your child will be late or absent from school.

Big Buddies:

Across our school older and younger classes are paired up as "buddy classes". We read, play, and work on various classroom and seasonal activities with our Big Buddy class. We line up next to them for earthquake and fire drills. This year our big buddies are Mr. Niedjalski's Grade Three class.

Class Lists:

I would like to send home a class list with phone numbers, addresses and parent's names so that the children can contact each other for play dates etc. outside school. If you DO NOT wish to have any or all of this information included please let me know before Wednesday, September 30th. Thank you.

Field Trips:

In order to expand our group experiences and to enrich our school curriculum we go on field trips outside of the school many times in the school year. I will notify you of upcoming field trips on the blog as soon as the information becomes available. I try to use school buses when I can but do use parent drivers when our allotted bus money runs out. Parents who are driving on field trips must complete a 'School Use of Private Vehicle' form and a Criminal Record Check each year before driving on any field trips. If you will be driving on a school field trip I recommend that you complete these forms well in advance of a field trip. Booster seats are mandatory for all field trips. Please send a booster seat to school with your child whenever we are going on a field trip requiring parent drivers. All children must have a field trip form signed by a parent or a guardian in order to go on each field trip.

French:

Kindergarten children receive French as a Second Language (FSL) instruction every day with our wonderful French teacher, Madame Tate.

Home School Communication:

I feel that close communication between home and school is essential to your child's success at school. I have already had the chance to meet many of you, but if we haven't met, I encourage you to drop by the classroom any time that is convenient for you. You can also give me a phone call with questions or concerns you may have or just to check with me about how your child is doing at school. The school phone number is 250-658-5238. The best way to get in touch with me is by email, which I check a few times a day. My email address is snorris@sd63.bc.ca. Also I will post weekly information on our class blog so you can keep up to date with our class as well as information about upcoming events and other important dates. You can find our class blog on the Lochside website under 'Students', 'Teacher Pages' then 'Miss Norris'.

Library:

Starting soon we will be going to the library once a week. **Thursday** is our book exchange day with our amazing teacher-librarian, Mrs. Heppell. Children borrow two books each week and need to return it by the following Thursday. The Library program helps teach children to choose appropriate, good quality literature, and to take responsibility for returning their books each week. You can help support this by ensuring that library books are always kept in the same place at home. One suggestion is to hang the library book bag on the back handle of a bedroom door so that it is not misplaced.

Lunches:

The children begin their lunch hour by playing outside at 11:14. The bell rings at 11:45 for them to come inside and eat their lunch. It may be helpful to your child if they know which food is intended for snack time rather than for lunch and have it packed separately to avoid lunch food being eaten at snack time.

Parent Support:

I like to get parents involved when I can and appreciate all the time you are willing to give to support your child in school. We often need parent drivers for field trips. I will also need many helpers with seasonal activities, special project days, gluing artwork into the scrapbooks, driving on field trips, etc. Thank you in advance for your support in these areas.

P.E.:

We have P.E. (Physical Education) in the gym or we play outside, weather permitting, every day. Therefore children need to be dressed in clothes that they can be active in. Children need inside shoes that are dry and clean and safe for running in the gym. It works well if inside shoes are labeled and kept by their hooks in the classroom.

Read Around the Room:

I would like to start Read Around the Room **every Friday morning** starting October 9th. Parents are invited to stay and read with small groups of children in our classroom first thing on Friday mornings. Every child does not need an adult so please join us any time you can. You are invited to bring a book from your house or use the Kindergarten and library books available in our classroom. Preschoolers are welcome if they are able to sit with you and listen as you read.

Scholastic Book Orders:

A Scholastic book order will be coming home soon. I find this is a great way to get current, usually good quality books, at very fair prices. However, please don't feel obligated to purchase these books. Orders are due within the week of the booklets going home. Scholastic orders must be paid by check, not cash.

Snacks:

The children have approximately 20 minutes in the morning for their snack time. A small nutritious snack, for example half an apple, some cheese, and water that can be eaten in a short amount of time, is sufficient. I would appreciate every child bringing a water bottle each day. This is not only a healthy drink but your

child can also have a drink of water in the classroom when they need it rather than having to leave the room to go to the water fountain. If you are going to send a drink for your child, we encourage water or plastic re-useable juice boxes rather than disposable ones as we don't have recycling for tetra pack juice boxes at Lochside.

Special Helper:

We have one child who is the "Special Helper" each day. Their jobs include finding the calendar number, counting the children, standing at the front of the line up, and helping me with many tasks in the day. I will send home a class Special Helper list on the monthly calendars. I encourage children to colour in one square each day at home so they can see when their day is coming up. This is a great tool for counting and reading. If a child is absent or late on their Special Helper day, we move on to the next child on the list and go back to that child when they return. Could you please ensure that the special helper list is also kept in a safe place at home? The Special Helper for Monday, the 21st is Jack.

Supplies:

Please label all clothing, shoes, backpacks, water bottles, and lunch kits. School supplies will be shared communally in the classroom. Each child will keep a personal toolbox, with a few supplies, and their duotangs, portfolio, and exercise books will be theirs too. Please bring supplies as soon as possible or by Wednesday, Sept. 16th.

Treats and Birthdays:

If you would like to send a special snack to school to celebrate your child's birthday or for a seasonal treat, that would be great. However, don't feel that you need to! If your child's birthday falls over a weekend or holiday you are welcome to choose an alternate day to celebrate. We would ask that you keep our goal of healthy schools in mind for treats as well as snacks when possible. If your child has birthday invitations for classmates please hand them to me and I will hand them out discreetly so as to avoid hurt feelings if someone feels excluded. Thank you!

Washroom:

Half way through the morning and afternoon and before we eat lunch I take the children to the washroom where I encourage all of them to go to the bathroom, whether they think they need to or not, then they wash their hands before we start eating. They can also go to the washroom with a classmate at any other time if they need to and if they ask me first so I know where they are. However,

despite these precautions accidents sometimes still occur! It is a good idea to send a change of clothes (left in the classroom in a plastic bag or even at the bottom of their backpack) in case we need it at school. If you should have some extra clothes (Kindergarten sized pants, underwear, socks) to donate for spares for our classroom it would be most appreciated.

Thank you for taking the time to read over our yearly plan.

I feel very fortunate to be working with Kindergarten children this year! I look forward to wonderful times of learning and lots of fun. Again, feel free to contact me about your child's progress or any other concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Miss Sherisse Norris

snorris@sd63.bc.ca

