



# SEPTEMBER

Kindergarten 2023

## OUR LEARNING

Welcome to kindergarten!  
We are so happy to welcome our students and I look forward to a joy filled year learning together! I know that each and every one of your children will bring their own gifts, talents, and interests to our classroom.

## OUR LEARNING

- Please remember to **label all clothing** (especially outerwear and those that may be removed during the day- sweaters, hoodies, etc.), **shoes, lunch kit, containers, and water bottles.**
- Early out is typically the first Wednesday of the month (September 6 this month). Students will be dismissed at 2:13pm-keep in mind that buses will also arrive an hour earlier than usual.
- Please login to PowerSchool and complete EICS yearly consent and medical forms, which will include any relevant information regarding required medications.

## SEPTEMBER FOCUS

To start our year, we will be focusing on our classroom routines, including transitioning away from parents and onto other activities, attending during circle time and working cooperatively with our peers.

We will be exploring numeracy as it relates to our everyday lives and will begin exploring number sense and the language of math. We will have a big focus on phonological awareness as we start building our sound wall.

## GLOW

Our division theme this year is Go Light Our World, an interpretation of Matthew 5:16: **“Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”**

In keeping with our theme, we are going to GLOW by showing kindness, performing good deeds, and inspiring one another to use our gifts and talents to light our world!

## contact

Since most of the day is spent working with students, and dedicated teaching time is of the utmost importance, the best way to reach me is via email. I aim to respond to emails by the end of the day, and if not, by the following school day. If a phone meeting is preferred, please contact me via email to find a time that works for both of us! Thank you!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### First full days of school

Sept. 5&6

### Early dismissal & Spirit Day-wear blue and gold

Sept. 6

### Meet the Staff night & Bottle Drive

Sept. 7

### Terry Fox Day

Sept. 22 (21  
observed)

### Orange Shirt Day (observed)

Sept. 29 (27  
observed)

### National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Oct. 2 (School  
closed)

## NUTS

We are a **nut aware** school-please do not send nut products in your child's lunch (peanut butter, Nutella, some granola bars, etc.)

## DROP-OFF & PICK-UP

- If your child arrives late to school, please accompany them to the front door and ring the bell. Our office staff will let you in.
- Please note that kindergarten students must be accompanied by an adult during drop off and pick up. Guardians are expected to stay with their child at the pink dots until a staff member is present (8:30am) and should meet us on the pink dots at pick-up (3:13pm). Kindergarten students are not permitted to walk alone to guardian's vehicles. Students on the bus will be accompanied by a staff member to and from the bus on the school side, and guardians are expected to bring children to and from their bus stop on the home side.
- If pick-up arrangements for your child must be changed, please let our office know (**by phone call**) by 2:30pm.

## CLASS COMMUNICATION

This year we will be using email and Class Dojo as our main forms of classroom communication. We will use email to send our monthly newsletter, provide field trip information, and anything especially pressing. Class Dojo provides a great platform for sharing photos of student work and classroom activities, as well as casual reminders of upcoming activities. Class Dojo will also be a spot for me

to periodically request parent help-if anyone is interested in helping cut/trace/prep craft activities for me, it would be greatly appreciated!

Our admin team will also be sharing a weekly newsletter (SMORE) with whole-school information.

Subscription to the SMORE can be accessed via the *subscription management page* (located at the bottom of any email from an EICS employee).



Class Dojo QR code



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## VOLUNTEERS

We are so excited to welcome volunteers into our classroom for both field trips and classroom help! Volunteers must complete a volunteer package, including a confidentiality form, criminal records check, and Child Intervention check. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering in the classroom and would like a volunteer package (these are valid for 3 years, contact the office if you are unsure if yours is still valid).

## Kanga Pouches

Kindergarten students will be using Kanga Pouches to help facilitate school-home communication and scaffold organizational skills. Many students use these throughout their career at Madonna-students in grade 1-4 often use them to hold their agendas. If your child has a Kanga Pouch from an older sibling, please ensure to send this to school this Tuesday and Wednesday. Thank you!

## OCTOBER ART SHOWCASE

This October, we have a special opportunity to have our artwork featured in the children's area at the Strathcona County Library! We will be diligently working on our art over the next few weeks and in October, we will be taking a field trip to the library to see our art, as well as tour the library. I will be sending home a library card form for parents to fill out if your child does not already have a library card. Please return these forms by **September 22**.

## FAMILY PHOTOS

We will be learning about ourselves and each other over the next month-we would love if each child could share a photo of their family with the class, which will then be hung up around our "family" board. This is also helpful for students missing home-having a photo of their family available can help to reassure! Please share a photo of your family with Mrs. Fortier via email or sending in your child's kanga pouch.

## Letter Formation and GRASP

Your child's kindergarten year is a wonderful time for your child to learn through **doing**: exploring different sensory materials, using a variety of tools, and taking part in gross motor play to build hand, arm, and shoulder strength-all these experiences will help your child to become a better writer!

If your child is starting to enjoy and explore coloring and writing at home, take a moment to encourage proper grasp and letter formation (if applicable).

A [mature grasp](#) allows for more efficient and precise printing-which is important in later school years when students need to write more, faster. The best way to facilitate a "pinch grasp" is to use broken crayons! [Letter formation](#) is also important, and starting top->bottom, left->right will not only help students write quicker and more legibly, but also helps students internalize the shapes of letters leading to better letter-sound connections, which can facilitate future reading development.



# SEPTEMBER

KINDERGARTEN 2023

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
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4	5	6 Early dismissal (2:15pm)	7 Meet the Staff night 6:30-7:30pm	8 MW
11	12	13	14	15 TTH
18	19	20	21 Terry Fox Day (observed)	22 Terry Fox Day MW
25	26	27 Orange Shirt Day (observed)	28	29 Orange Shirt Day TTH

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Note: October 4<sup>th</sup> is early out.**

Weekly assemblies are held Monday morning (Tuesdays when Monday is a holiday, and other exceptions for specific holidays) at 9:00am. This is a great time for us to come together in prayer and celebration - parents are always welcome!