



Mrs. Speelman's Kindergarten Newsletter—September 2017



Welcome!

Welcome to all our kindergarten families. Newsletters are an important communication tool in Kindergarten. Please read them thoroughly. I hope you are all feeling comfortable, as your child sets in to life in kindergarten. Please feel free to ask me questions at any time.

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Communication Information



You will receive a monthly newsletter with important dates and information. Beyond that, my preferred mode of communication for reminders about field trips and special events will be through email or you can check our kindergarten blog at <http://mmhkindergarten.weebly.com> for updated information.

If you do not have a computer or internet access I will post and also place additional hard copies in a folder on the Kindergarten bulletin board just outside the classroom. There will also be copies of the special person calendars in the appropriate places. On top of kindergarten news, please remember to also check out the MMH School Monthly Newsletter and Calendar which can be found on our school website. Please read all of these very carefully and save them on your fridge for reference throughout each month.

My email address is: sherese.speelman@lethsd.ab.ca

Drop off and Pick Up

Just a reminder that students **cannot** be dropped off prior to 8:15am or 12:10pm as there is no supervision for students in the classroom prior to this time. Prompt pickup at 11:25am or 3:20pm is also very important as there are often meetings or activities scheduled directly after school. Students will be dismissed from the classroom door promptly at the end of each kindergarten day. Thanks so much for your cooperation.

Important Dates

September 12: Meet the
Teacher Night

*bring your own picnic 5-6

*meet and greet 6-7

September 14: Picture
Day

September 18: All about
me take home projects
due

September 21: Walking
Field Trip to the
Fire Hall

AM- leave @ 9:00am

PM-leave @ 1:00pm

September 26: Tom the
Turkey take home project
due

September 28: Speech
screening consent forms
due

Upcoming Events:

Skating @ Nicholas Sher-
an -Oct 12, 26, Nov 30 &
Dec 7.

*Please make sure that
you can have 1 adult to
come help at skating.

Our First Fieldtrips! Volunteers Needed!



Our first field trip of the year will be on **Sept21**. We will be walking to the Westside Fire-hall. If you'd like to come along as a parent volunteer, please let me know. We will be **leaving from the school at 9:10am** to arrive at the fire hall for a **9:30-10:30am** program or **leaving the school at 1:00pm** to arrive at the fire hall for a **1:30-2:30pm** program. (Please dress your child appropriately!)

Birthdays

Your child's special day will be arranged as close as possible to his/her birthday. Birthday treats are not expected and due to the large number of allergies, we ask that if you choose to provide a special birthday treat please ensure that it is individually packaged for students to take them home rather than sharing at school. Regarding invitations, students quickly figure out what those little envelopes in their mailboxes mean and this has gotten to be quite an issue in the past. Therefore, birthday invitations are to be left in children's backpacks, rather than their mailboxes. If you have invitations to distribute and aren't sure whose backpack is whose, Darli or I would be happy to distribute them for you. Thanks so much for your cooperation!!



Student Special Day'

Each month you will receive a calendar indicating which day you are invited to join our class as parent helper. If there is a specific day of the week or month that works best for you, please let me know ASAP and we will accommodate you. If you cannot stay or do not have an alternative adult that can come to help on your child's special day, please let us know so that we can adjust our plan as we do have a station planned for parent helpers to run. This is also your chance to witness the abilities and growth taking place in your child over the course of the year.

SNACKS

Each child will bring their own nutritious snack and water bottle each day. This is different from past years so please be aware of this change. We also have a nut allergy in our Kindergarten class this year.



There is a '**party snacks sign up sheet**' on the Kindergarten Communicates Bulletin Board in the hall. If you haven't already, please sign up to bring a snack for one of our parties!!!

Please bring party snacks for : AM CLASS: 20 students plus extra
PM CLASS: 20 students plus extra

Do not send party snacks containing nuts.

Bedtime Stories Boost Brain Waves

When you snuggle with your child and read him/her stories, you stimulate many senses at once, making the experience pleasurable and creating positive associations with reading. Start with short reading sessions and increase their length as his/her attention span grows. When you point to words in the text with your finger as you read, you are helping to train your child's eyes to automatically follow words and symbols from left to right. Very soon we will begin our Story Take Home Program! Stay tuned for more information!

[Source: Scholastic Parent & Child, April/May 2001]

Forms, Forms, Forms

During the month of September, parents are bombarded by forms and for that I apologize. (I promise that only happens at the beginning of the school year.) As strange as some of them may seem, they are very important. I will be keeping track of them as they come in. If I have not received all of the necessary information from you I will send a little reminder. If you have lost or misplaced any forms please feel free to ask and I will supply you with new copies. A particularly important one will be a pink form for speech and OT screening consent. This is extremely important to hand back as it will allow a speech-language pathologist and an occupational therapist to screen children and give me much needed support on how best to help all of the students in our class. If you would prefer not to participate, please write refused across the form and still hand it back in so I know your wishes. Thanks so much!



Scholastic Book Orders

Once per month, Scholastic Book Club order forms will be sent home with your child. Please do not feel obligated to order, but if you are interested in buying books for your child, **please consider buying them through the book club**. Each order gives our classroom points, which earns us free books and classroom goodies. **Prices are EXTREMELY reasonable! The first orders are due Sept 20.**

Picture

Day

Picture day is
Thurs, Sept.
14th.



Things to Work on at Home This Month

Some things to practice... when your child is printing his or her name at home, at this point in the year, uppercase OR lowercase is fine. At school we will be teaching them to use uppercase for the first letter and lowercase for the remaining letters. If your child is not writing his or her name, and you'd like some activities to help out with this at home, please let me know and I'll pass some things along!

Thanks!

Kindergarten children should know their **phone number** and **address**. This is an important part of their personal safety.

Please work on these things at home this month. Thanks!

Show and Share

For the month of September and into the beginning of October, we are asking students to share their "All About Me" page which will be sent home on Sept 11th. You will find this home project along with instructions in your child's backpack soon!

Kindergarten Skating is Coming Fast!

WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Kindergarten skating will take place on October 12, 26, November 30, and December 7. On each of these days we will be taking a small trip to Nicholas Sheran arena to learn to skate together! I can't stress enough that we need as much help for these trips as possible **ESPECIALLY** if your child is not able to skate. Without their own parent helper, your child is not guaranteed 1 on 1 support for the entire time. I am sending home a form soon and asking for it to be returned to me, letting me know which **SPECIAL PERSON** (mom, dad friend, aunt, uncle etc.) is able to help out and when.



MORNING CLASS 9:15-10:15am (we hope to be on the ice at 9:15 am)

AFTERNOON CLASS 1:00-2:00pm (we hope to be on the ice at 1:00 pm)



Siblings are welcome as long as they are fully supervised and **have SKATING helmets (NOT bicycle helmets)**.

Each child needs to bring their own pair of skates. **NO CHILD** (including siblings) **WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE ICE WITHOUT A PROPER SKATING (HOCKEY) HELMET.** If your child does not have a helmet, the school does own some that can be borrowed.

Please contact me if you have any questions, otherwise just keep these dates in mind and I'll send more information soon. Thanks!
