



Kindergarten Newsletter September 2020



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.

School Phone: 403-381-2211

email: sherese.speelman@lethsd.ab.ca

krista.seaman@lethsd.ab.ca

Or send a message on Dojo

Important

Dates

Sept 1-3: Staggered Entry

September 8 : 1st day for everyone

September 10: Picture Day

September 17: All about me digital projects due

October 1: Tom the Turkey take home project due

Communication Information

Please check our kindergarten website <https://mmhkindergarten.weebly.com/> as well as the school website <https://mmh.lethsd.ab.ca/> for a monthly newsletter with important dates, special events, and information. Please print it and post it on your refrigerator and refer to it often.

Class Dojo—You should have received information to create a class specific account. Please make sure you set up a parent account as well as a student account. Both of these need to be set up as we will be using Dojo portfolios this year at school to show you all the wonderful things your children will be accomplishing!

If you ever have any question, my preferred mode of communication for reminders about special events will be through **class dojo or email**. You have received a personal invitation code to sign up. Please do so ASAP so you don't miss any reminder messages. On top of our kindergarten newsletter, 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
krista.seaman@lethsd.ab.ca



Please check your child's backpack daily for both messages from school and completed work. Some notices will need to be returned with a response.

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 Routines

Kindergarten is a wonderfully active place to be. While our daily activities do vary, there are certain activities that fit into our routine each day. Most school days begin with group **circle time** in which we talk about our day, the calendar, and share with each other. Circle time evolves throughout the year as the students learn more and more. Each day also includes a **center time**, in which students will learn in small groups for curriculum-integrated activities such as **math, language, art, and science**. There is a very strong emphasis on letter, sounds and other literacy concepts in our kindergarten classrooms. By the end of kindergarten, students will be printing words using invented spelling, using beginning reading skills, counting, printing numbers, and using beginning problem solving skills.

Students will work individually as well as in small and large groups settings throughout the year. We have time set aside each day for snack, washroom breaks and physical play (outdoor and indoor) Kindergarten emphasizes small and large motor skill development; therefore movement is a priority in our program.

Personal Belongings

*It is important for students to become more independent in kindergarten. It is easier for your child to be independent if he/she has a coat, shoes (Velcro vs laces) and mittens that is easy for him/her to put on and take off **without assistance**. When we have numerous children to assist, this process takes a bit of our day if they are unable to do it themselves. Please make sure that all clothing items are labeled with your child's name. Part of growing independence is encouraging children to hang up his/her own backpack. Your child will need a backpack everyday. School clothes should be play clothes. We love to play and explore, and this can result in dirty clothing. It may be a good idea to have an extra change of clothing contained in a large Ziploc bag in your child's backpack just in case there is an especially messy accident or a bathroom accident that will require changing.*

Forms and Information

During the month of September, parents are bombarded by forms and information. 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. Thanks so much!

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]

Special Days & Birthdays



Children will have a special helper day approximately once per month beginning in October. On this day your child will get to lead our calendar activities and be the special helper for anything that the teacher may need help with on this day. Your child's birthday special day will be arranged as close as possible to his/her birthday. Birthday treats may not be shared at all this year. We are also unable to have special guest or parent volunteers coming in for birthdays and special days. This makes us extremely sad but we will be sure to make this day as special as possible for your child. As of right now, personal items are not to come to school...even for show and share. Your child's first show and share for October will be a digital all about me homework project where they can tell us more about them and your family. Instructions were sent home on the first day of school for this project.

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. Ordering can be all done online, you just have to search for my name on the scholastic website. Each order gives our classroom points, which earns us free books and classroom goodies. Prices are EX-TREMELY reasonable and I am good at keeping secrets if you buy books as gifts!



Picture Day

Picture day is Thursday, Sept. 10th. Please try your best to be here as this will be the only class photo they will take. There will be an opportunity for retakes at a later date if you wish.



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