

Welcome to Kindergarten at Pebble Hill Traditional!

We are looking forward to a wonderful, exciting and enriching year of learning with your child.

General Information

The first day of school is on Tuesday, September 3 and Kindergarten students attend in one group from 9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Please refer to the “phase in” schedule that you will receive for the altered start and finish times from September 4 to 13. The first regular day of classes for kindergarten children is Monday, September 16 where the children attend from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Regular dismissal is at 3:00 p.m. On the rare occasion that you are unavoidably detained, please contact the school at (604) 943-0228.



Bell Schedule and Attendance:

8.55 The first bell rings. The children are to line up outside the pod doors and will enter the school when the door is opened.

9:00 A second bell rings at this time and attendance is taken.

3:00 The children will be dismissed at the pod doors. Children will be released to an authorized guardian or older sibling.

Attendance

All children are expected to attend school every day. If you are going on vacation or your child is ill, and cannot attend, please phone the school at (604) 943-0228 before classes begin to report your child's absence. This is for your child's safety. Your call also prevents the office staff from having to phone your home or work place to locate your child.

If your child arrives late to school (after the 9:00 a.m. bell), please take him/her to the office to sign in. The outside Kindergarten doors cannot be opened to late students after the children have been brought to class.

Important Information

- The start of the school day at 9:00 a.m. is a very busy time. If you need to speak to the teacher about something, please keep it brief, or write a note. An appointment may be scheduled at another time for more lengthy discussions. The classroom teacher is usually available before the start of school and after school on most days.
- If you arrive at the school at any time during the school day, please report to the office. The outside Kindergarten doors will not be opened to visitors while classes are in session.
- If you are picking your child up early from school for an appointment or for another reason, please send a note and then arrive 5 minutes prior so that the office can notify the teacher and your child can meet you at the office on time.
- It is helpful, if at the beginning and the end of the school day, parents stay well away from the Kindergarten windows. As you may realize, this becomes a distraction to students. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Clothing

Please dress your child in the appropriate school uniform and shoes for Kindergarten. Ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the outdoors or gym, as we combine physical activity into our daily program. We may also be using the outside playground on a regular basis, especially during the second and third terms of school. Please keep this in mind when dressing your child.

Students always need indoor shoes. If it is rainy or snowy and your child is wearing boots to school, please send shoes in the backpack. You can also keep a spare pair of indoor shoes at the school. It is recommended that you keep a full change of clothes in a ziplock bag at school or in the backpack: pants, top, underwear and socks.

Snacks

Beginning on Tuesday, September 10, each child will need to bring a snack. Please make sure that:

- The snack is small enough to be eaten in 5 – 10 minutes.
- The snack is nutritious (fruit, vegetables, cheese, crackers, muffins, granola bars, etc.)
- Fruits or vegetables are peeled or sliced and ready to eat. Please feel welcome to bring yogurt in a cup with a spoon, but not a tube as it tends to be messy.

Snacks can be sent in bags and will be kept in the children's lunch kit until snack time. Please send water in a tightly sealed bottle (labelled with your child's name) or fruit juice. Please do not send candy, pop or other drinks.

Lunch

We will have a supervised lunch time from 12:20 p.m. to 1:12 p.m.. Starting Wednesday, September 11, your child will be required to bring his/her own lunch and cutlery to school. Please ensure that your child has a healthy lunch that he/she can eat by himself/herself.

- The lunch is small enough to be eaten in 15–20 minutes.
- The lunch is nutritious (sandwiches, fruit, vegetables, a thermos of hot lunch, cheese, crackers, muffins, granola bars, yogurt etc.)

School Supplies

For your convenience, school supplies have been purchased for your child. Some items will be kept in their totes and others like glue sticks and pencils will be shared. The teachers purchase items as they go on sale throughout the year and pass the savings on to the families.

Show and Tell

Beginning in the middle of September, the children will have an opportunity to bring an item from home to share with the class. We ask that toys not be brought for show and tell. When your child brings home the blue bag, please help him/her choose meaningful and special items that fit inside the sharing bag. Do not send expensive items or anything that is treasured and irreplaceable as it is possible for things to go missing or get broken during the school day. Help your child come up with three clues about the object. Write the clues down so we can help your child remember them.

Encourage your child to choose an item that relates to the theme that we are studying at school or is significant in some way in his/her life. Objects from nature, photographs, crafts and artefacts would be appropriate items to share.



Parent Involvement

We welcome parents to help in the classroom during the year. We need regular volunteers for Back and Forth Books, Home Reading and Fine Motor Coaches. As well, at various times of the year and we will ask for parent helpers for field trips and cooking activities. Please sign up at the appropriate times if you are able to help. If you are unable to help in the classroom but would like to assist us, please let us know, as there are many things that you can do at home to help. Parent involvement is most appreciated in Kindergarten at Pebble Hill! We also encourage parents new to Pebble Hill to get involved in the Parent Advisory Committee. This is a great way to meet other parents and support the school.

When a parent gets involved with the teacher and the pupil, we have:

“Two extra ears for listening, hearing paying attention to children.
Two extra arms to hold, to wipe, to mix, to write, to carry, to pick up, to display, to guide.
Two extra legs to run, to walk, to skip, and to jump.
Another person who cares, who shares, who wants children to succeed.”

Adapted from M. Csapo

Scholastic Book Orders

Around the beginning of each month we will send home book orders. Check the back to see when you need to get the order in. If you wish to purchase books please fill out the form and send in a cheque payable to Scholastic Canada Ltd. We have chosen to participate in this program because Scholastic provides free books and coupons for teaching materials and student supplies for the classroom teacher that places an order. It is one way of building up the classroom library collection, as well as, getting new materials to use with the students. We would also appreciate a parent helper to organize the book order and count the money.

Home/School Communication.

A school calendar as well as a newsletter will be available on the school website. Other information and important dates of upcoming events and activities may be sent directly to your email address or sent home in the Back and Forth Books. In addition, we will have a weekly preview to inform you on the Themes that we will be working on in the classroom. We will do our best to adhere to the schedule, however, unforeseen interruptions do occur from time to time and some activities may take longer than we anticipate. Remember to check your child's backpack daily.

Classroom Art and Projects

We hope that you will enjoy your child's art and work as he/she brings samples of work home to you. Please make this an enjoyable, confidence building time for your child by letting him/her share with you what was created. Although some of the first pictures and projects may not seem recognizable to you, your child will have a very clear idea about what was made. Be patient and ask lots of questions. Ask him/her to tell you about the project instead of asking, "What is it?" Encourage your child to tell a story, explain how the project was made or comment on the colours or images. As your child grows and develops recognizable symbols and shapes will begin to appear more clearly to the adult eye. We will be creating a Kindergarten Memory Book for each child this year and therefore, a number of projects that your child works on will not be sent home until June. As well we will keep a Poem/Song Book to send home during various times of the year. Your child will enjoy sharing these familiar chants with his/her family.

Reading and Writing in Kindergarten

How does reading and writing fit into the Kindergarten program? Well, we provide children with a range of experiences designed to develop and extend their knowledge. They, in turn, represent what they know in a variety of ways.

As they TALK, their words represent the ideas they wish to convey.

As they DRAW or PAINT, their pictures represent their perception of things and events.

As they CONSTRUCT with blocks, Lego, dough, etc., their structures represent their version of reality.

As they SING, DANCE, GESTURE, MAKE SOUND EFFECTS and MOVE, their actions represent many other objects, events, actions and ideas.

As they DRAMATIZE, their enactment represents other situations and other times.

In all cases, Kindergarten children become increasingly able to let one thing stand for or represent another.

In this sense, reading and writing are twice removed from reality.

Words can be written down and read in place of a real experience.

READING and WRITING, then are very sophisticated form of representation, but ones that Kindergarten children become increasingly interested in as the year progresses.

So, we want to support the child's efforts at representing his/her knowledge in all possible ways. We use reading and writing as enhancement to other forms of representation. We acquaint children with the purposes of reading and writing. We provide experiences designed to help them become familiar with the characteristics of books and the conventions of written English. We encourage them in their beginning attempts at reading and writing. And we read to them so that they may enjoy their own writing and the writing of others.

By doing these things, we support the child's natural drive towards literacy.

Taken from: Gina Rae