

# Welcome to Kindergarten

2024



## Kitchener Elementary School

1351 Gilmore Ave South

Burnaby, BC, V5C 4S8

604-296-9017

### School Administrators

Principal- Dino Klarich

[dino.klarich@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:dino.klarich@burnabyschools.ca)

Vice Principal- Grady Hunter

[grady.hunter@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:grady.hunter@burnabyschools.ca)

### School Administrative Assistant

Evette Denum

[kitchener.info@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:kitchener.info@burnabyschools.ca)

### School Head Teacher

Livia Chan

[livia.chan@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:livia.chan@burnabyschools.ca)

We are very excited to welcome you to Kitchener Elementary School and are looking forward to meeting you! Included in this package, you will find important information about our school that will be helpful as you transition to kindergarten.

### Welcome to our School Kindergarten Orientation

Kitchener will be hosting a Welcome to our School Orientation on Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup> in two different sessions (1:00-1:45 and 2:00-2:45) Look for an email coming out shortly to sign up for one of the orientation sessions. The kindergarten orientation is an important time for you and your child. During this orientation you will be receiving information about our school, our programs, what to expect during gradual entry and how to best support your child with their transition to kindergarten.

### Welcoming Conversations

Welcoming conversations are a meeting between you and one of our kindergarten teachers. If you would like to meet with a kindergarten teacher to answer any further questions that have not been addressed in this package, please ensure you sign up for a welcoming conversation time slot during our Welcome to our School Kindergarten Orientation on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Gradual Entry Schedule

Each kindergarten student will be assigned to a gradual entry group. Look out for an email coming soon with your child's gradual entry group and a calendar with their specific times to attend. All kindergarten students will attend the Welcome to our School Orientation on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, as well as attend during their specific gradual entry times.

### Daily Bell Schedule

8:55 am- Welcome bell  
9:00 am- Classes begin  
10:15-10:30 am- Recess  
12:00 pm- Lunch  
12:48 pm- Entrance bell  
12:53 pm- Classes begin  
3:01 pm- Dismissal

\*Students arriving after 9:00am will be marked late.

\*Kindergarten students will have 15 minutes to eat their snack before going outside for recess.

\*Kindergarten students will have 25 minutes to eat their lunch. We will begin to eat lunch at 11:50am.

## Recess Snack and Lunch

All students are expected to bring a recess snack and lunch to school every day. Please send a small and nutritious snack for your child to eat before going outside for recess (something your child could eat with minimal assistance in 15 minutes such as fruits, yogurt, cheese and crackers etc.). Please no pop or other sugary snacks or drinks. It is suggested that your child helps plan and pack the recess and lunch food. Families need to send spoons and forks from home. We will not heat up food at school. Snacks and lunches should be stored in washable or recyclable containers to reduce waste. Your child will also need to bring a reusable water bottle to school daily. Our school has a refilling station where students can refill their water bottles as needed. In kindergarten, we start lunch early to give additional time for students to eat. Kindergarten children will have about 25 minutes to eat their lunch. Please practice eating lunch within this time frame over the summer.

Kitchener has a School Meal Program which provides a nutritious lunch to participating students every day of the week. For \$70 per month, students will receive a meal containing a main dish, fruits/vegetables, and a milk. Please note that for the month of September only, the price for Kindergarten students is \$35. This is due to Kindergarten students participating in a gradual entry to school and will miss some days of the School Meal Program. September Meal Program for kindergarten students begins on Monday September 16<sup>th</sup>. Before this day, you must pack a lunch from home. School Meal Programs are month by month, you may choose to sign up for one month and not another. Payments must be made before the due date.

No late payments will be accepted.

Please be aware that our Kindergarten classrooms are NUT-SAFE. Do not send snacks or lunches that contain any tree nuts or peanuts, as we have many students in the school with severe nut allergies. If your child has any food allergies or medical concerns, please notify us as soon as possible. Your child's well-being at school is a priority.

## School Supplies

Supplies for the classroom are purchased in bulk (pencils, scissors, crayons, markers etc.) and shared amongst all the students in the class. For \$30, kindergarten teachers will order your child's supplies based on classroom needs. You will pay for this supply fee through your School Cash Online account during the first

week of school once you find out who your child's permanent classroom teacher is. You do not need to purchase school supplies elsewhere before kindergarten starts.

Students need to bring a large backpack to school every day. Backpacks should be big enough to fit notices, artwork, library books, communication folders, and snack/lunch containers.

### Change of Clothes

Kindergarten students are required to bring a full change of clothing (shirt, pants, underwear and socks) in case of accidents, getting dirty/wet from being outside, or getting messy during learning activities. The change of clothing should be placed in bag labelled with your child's name. It will remain on your child's hook in the coatroom all year long for emergencies. Children will also need a pair of inside shoes, with non-skid soles, that will be kept at school for gym and to change into during rainy days. Please label all clothing items and shoes with your child's name.

At Kitchener, unstructured time to play is important for children's physical and social development. Children will go outside for recess and lunch everyday, rain or shine. Please ensure your child is prepared for each day and dressed appropriately for the weather (boots, rain gear, gloves, an umbrella, warm clothes for cooler days, and on hotter days sunscreen and hats). Students should be able to independently get dressed. Shoes, jackets (especially with sleeves that get turned inside out), zippers and buttons can all be tricky for them so please work with your child to build their confidence and increase their independence.

### Reporting Your Child's Absence From School

Please ensure that you are monitoring your child's health each day and if they are not feeling well keep them home to rest.

Always let the office and the teacher know if your child will be away. The office is responsible for knowing where all students are during school hours, this is a matter of safety. The office spends extra time each day trying to track down where missing students are. If you know your child will be away, please send an email to [kitchener.info@burnabyschools.ca](mailto:kitchener.info@burnabyschools.ca) to report their absence.

## Kitchener School Website

<https://kitchener.burnabyschools.ca/>

Go to the above address to view Kitchener Elementary School's website. The school site contains all the information that you need to know about the school. Information, helpful links, and a calendar of events are easily accessible from this site. Additional information about the happenings at our school will be sent to parents by email.

## Building Independence and Supporting Learning

Teaching your child to be independent will allow for a smoother transition to kindergarten. Encourage independence by helping your child to:

- ✓ learn that they can help by doing their job (cleaning up their toys, looking after their things, helping to set the table, etc.)
- ✓ look after their snacks and meals (feed themselves, open and close recess and lunch containers, look after their water bottle)
- ✓ look after their clothes (close and open zippers on jackets and backpacks, pulling out jacket sleeves that are stuck inside their jacket, doing up buttons, put on and tighten shoes, etc.) Please do not send your child to school with lace-up shoes unless they are independently able to tie them up.
- ✓ carry their own backpack and pack their own items inside, including lunch bags and containers
- ✓ use their words to express their feelings and to solve problems in peaceful ways
- ✓ learn how to make safe choices
- ✓ learn appropriate protocol for blowing noses, and coughing/sneezing around others. Hand washing is the best method for keeping sickness away.
- ✓ develop washroom independence. Your child must be able to clearly state when the washroom is needed, use the washroom without any adult help, wipe independently, wash their hands, and do up their own pants and other clothing.
- ✓ print their name with a capital letter first followed by lower case letters (i.e. Maria)
- ✓ practice drawing, cutting, colouring and gluing

We look forward to working with you as partners on your child's educational journey.

Have a great summer and we will see you in Kindergarten!