

Welcome to Kindergarten 2020



Welcome to Rochester Kindergarten and if this is your family's first encounter with school, welcome to the community! We hope that your Kindergarten child is excited to come to "big school" and that you are too. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help your child in their transition, either now or in the fall.

Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have experienced a lot of changes to our teaching routines. This means that this year's Welcome to Kindergarten and Gradual Entry sessions may look a little different from previous years. Our primary goal remains to give your child the most gentle and caring welcome as they embark on their first school year with us.

- With this in mind, our Kindergarten team of teachers will be exploring alternate ways to engage with your child before September. This will include the distribution of a WTK Activity bag filled with hands-on learning materials for you to use and explore during the summer. In addition, there will be video instructions available on our school website to help you unpack these materials so that you can make the best use of them. Enclosed in the WTK bag, you will find a questionnaire for relevant information about your kindergarten child (Kindergarten Intake Form). **Please complete this prior to your Welcoming Conversation time in September and have it with you to facilitate discussions about your child's program.** A summer activity has also been included for you to prepare for September.

Our Kindergarten teachers have created a "Who's who at Rochester Zoo" photo montage of the various teachers and staff that they are likely to encounter at some time when 'regular' school resumes next year. Hopefully, this will be a fun way for them to 'meet' the teachers and put names to faces next fall.

- Every kindergarten student and their caregiver will meet with the teachers for a **Welcoming Conversation** scheduled sometime in the fall. However, due to the uncertainty of the times, we are not yet able to set firm dates and times for these interactions. We will try to give you as much warning as we can to help you accommodate these meeting times around your work schedules. More information will be shared at that time, but you can expect to have a 15 - 20 minute personal conversation (or video chat??) with at least one of your child's potential teachers. We will review your completed **Kindergarten Intake form** (purple) with you and check in about any concerns you or your child have about Kindergarten. This meeting time is best if attended only by you and your child. Please try to find alternative childcare for your younger children.
- The gradual entry process is an important aspect of your child's transition to school. We realize that, while some children are "ready to go," others need a little more time. Gradual entry helps ensure that each child has a positive orientation to school and the culture of school. It provides time for the child to learn school procedures, classroom routines, and to slowly begin to function as part of the greater classroom group. This transition also provides time for the teachers to welcome each child individually, which is necessary for establishing positive relationships between the home and school.

Schedules for **gradual entry** will be shared with you closer to the first week of September, by email. Again, the exact schedule and format remains unknown at this time. Please let the office know of any mailing address, email address and other changes to your contact info. Please email all changes to: abuchan@sd43.bc.ca

If you received an email regarding missing documentation for the completion of the registration, or have not yet submitted your child's immunization records, please scan and send them to abuchan@sd43.bc.ca ASAP.

As a gesture of goodwill, we have decided as a school not to charge parents for any basic kindergarten school supplies this year. Your child's teacher may have specific items that may be required later in the year.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school in June or after August 31 at (604) 939-4624 if you have any questions or need clarification for any of the above information. Please also check the Rochester website for current and updated information.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

John Goheen, Principal

Isabelle Forrer, Early Primary Team Leader