

September 2014

Welcome to Kindergarten for the 2014-2015 School Year at Alderson

The little school with the big heart

Dear Alderson Kindergarten families,

On behalf of the Alderson staff, I am delighted to welcome you and your family to the Alderson learning community. This is a wonderful community with a strong professional staff. We look forward to getting to know you, as we work together. Research shows that the most effective schools are ones where parents and teachers support children's learning by working together as a learning community. Our Kindergarten to Grade 5 school enrolls approximately 200 children and has a staff of 25.

When the school year begins, we will immediately commence the gradual entry process for Kindergarten.

First Two Weeks

On the first day (**Day 1**), Kindergarten parents simply come to the library to check in and confirm that their child will be attending Alderson Elementary. This should only take a few moments and your child **does not stay at school that day.** Please do not take time off work for this. It is not mandatory to come to the school for this attendance check, as long as you call the school (604-939-8301) or e-mail our secretary at alderson@sd43.bc.ca by 9 am on the Day 1 morning to confirm that your child will be attending Alderson. If we do not hear from you, we will assume you will not be attending and the spot will be given to another child.

On **Day 2 and Day 3** your child will attend school for the morning from 8:50 a.m. to 11:40 am. On **Days 4 and 5** there are NO classes for kindergarten students. The teachers take this time to meet individually with each family. Kindergarten students and their parents will be invited to the school for a half hour "Welcoming Conversation" with a kindergarten teacher. You will be able to sign up for your welcoming conversation on Day 3 when you pick your child up at 11:40 am. On **Day 6**, the children will be in school for the full day (8:50 a.m.-2:50 p.m.).

What to bring

For Day 2 and 3, children will need indoor shoes and a healthy snack for their morning break. Be sure the containers are things that your child is familiar with and can manage on their own. Remember that your child is now part of a community of more than 200 learners so **put your child's name on absolutely everything!** Your child's teacher will let you know when to bring the school supplies. You will find a list of the required school supplies on our Alderson website.

Once children begin to attend for the full school day they will need a healthy lunch in addition to their nutritious morning snack. Our school is fortunate to be part of the District Lunch Program. Parents are encouraged to take advantage of the lunches that are delivered daily to the school for a nominal fee. Information about the lunch program is sent out with weekly newsletters. As well, Alderson is part of the Breakfast Clubs of Canada Program. You and your family are welcome to take part in the breakfast program which operates daily commencing at 8 am. There is **no charge** for the wonderful breakfasts.

I'm sure you are well aware that this is not a 'typical' start to the school year. Together we will have patience and flexibility to make sure all children have a wonderful year of learning and exploring at Alderson.

Happy New Year and Welcome!

Yours truly,

Sandra Meister
Principal