**Information for 2022-2023 school start for Kindergarten**

To the parents and guardians of our kindergarten students,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year at Blakeburn Elementary. Many of you attended the Connecting to Kindergarten sessions in June and received a bag which had the gradual entry schedule. We are sending this to you as a reminder of what the first couple of weeks of the school year will look like to our Kindergarten students. Having a gradual entry schedule is recommended by the province and our district and is based upon the developmental needs of children and wanting students to have a positive start to the school year.

The demands of being in school full time is very wearing on students and for our kindergarten students it can be very tiring. The gradual entry schedule allows them to be acclimated with the site of the school, get used to being with other students, become comfortable with the new adults who will be in their life and get them used to being in a new setting, working towards being here for a full day. You will find that in the first month or two that some students will be exhausted when coming home and may need more sleep and or more downtime in order to process and adjust. We recommend that extracurricular activities are kept at a minimum until after they have made the adjustment to school.

The schedule allows for students to have times both in the morning and the afternoon for coming in and gradually increases the time at school until they are at a full day by the Monday of the 3rd week in session. We also have smaller groups of students for the first 4 sessions so that the students are not overwhelmed by all the new people.

We have two groups for the students for these first sessions and then students will move to their permanent classes and have a full class of classmates.

If your child’s last name starts with A-L they will be in Group #1 and if their last name starts with M-V they will be in Group #2. Please see the schedule for exact times. We will post which students go to which classrooms on door # 1 and #2 which are at the southwest corner of the building. Students should wait by the door that is assigned on these lists for a teacher to come collect them each day. As well students will be picked up by parents/guardians at this same spot at the end of the day.

Please see the schedule and information following for more details.

**Kindergarten Parent Gradual Entry Information**

**Blakeburn Elementary**

**2022-2023**



Take Care of Yourself

Take Care of Others

Take Care of This Place

**Welcome to Blakeburn Elementary School**

**KINDERGARTEN 2022-2023**

Transitioning to Kindergarten goes well when we take the time for children to familiarize themselves with their new surroundings and teacher. Welcoming Week is designed to gradually transition children from home/preschool to a larger classroom setting. The first two weeks of school is gradual entry for all Kindergarten children in the school district.

During the last week of August, you will receive an email with the group number your child has been assigned to. Your child will attend during the times indicated for their group number. This schedule will notinclude a teacher name or your Welcoming Conversation time. *That information will be provided at the end of the first week of school.* You will receive an email from your child’s permanent teacher on Friday, September 9th with your Welcoming Conversation time the following week.

**The schedule for the first two weeks of Kindergarten is explained below:**

**Group 1 – students with last names beginning with A-L**

**Group 2 - students with last names beginning with M-Z**

**Wednesday, September 7th** Group 1- 9:00-10:30, Group 2 10:45-12:15 is the first day for all Kindergarten students. Your child will be assigned a gradual entry week classroom. *Please look at the gradual entry* ***temporary*** *classroom list that will be posted on Wednesday, September 7th on door # 1 & # 2 at the south west corner of the school. Please note that this is not necessarily your permanent classroom.* ***Permanent placement decisions should be completed by Friday, September 9th.***

On this day;

* We will share the morning routines (ie. hang up your backpack, change shoes…)
* We will share a story together and review bathroom expectations.
* We will introduce exploration centers.
* We will review end of day routines

**Thursday September 8th** Group 1- 10:45-12:15, Group 2- 9:00-10:30 **and Friday, September 9th** Group 1- 9:00-10:30, Group 2 10:45-12:15**,** students will attend during the times outlined in the tentative schedule for their group number.

**September 12th to the 16th** are **Welcoming Conversations.** Each family will be given 20 minutes to meet with the teacher. Your permanent classroom teacher will be contacting you on Friday, September 9th with your teacher placement and your Welcoming Conversation time.

**Monday, September 12th** Group 1 - 8:45-11:45 OR **Tuesday, September 13th** Group 2- 8:45-11:45students will attend with their Group from 8:45am to 11:45am. Children should bring a recess snack.

**Wednesday, September 14th and Thursday, September 15th** all students will attend from 8:45am to 11:45am. *They will go to their permanent classrooms on Wednesday morning.* Please bring a recess snack.

**Friday, September 16th** all students will attend from 8:45am to 1:00pm. Please bring a recess snack and a lunch

**Kindergarten Gradual Entry Schedule**

Please know that this schedule is tentative at this time and dates and times may change slightly. We will send an email out in the week before school starts with the final days/times. We hope that there will not be changes but changing enrollment and district directions can mean that there may need to be adjustments.

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|  | Wed,  Sept 7 | Thurs,  Sept 8 | Fri,  Sept 9 | Mon,  Sept 12 | Tue,  Sept 13 | Wed,  Sept 14 | Thurs, Sept 15 | Fri,  Sept 16 |
| Morning-  Recess  9:00-10:30 | Group 1  A-L | Group 2  M-Z | Group 1  A-L | Group 1  A-L  8:45-11:45 | Group 2  M-Z  8:45-11:45 | ALL  8:45-11:45  Please go to your permanent classrooms | ALL  8:45 – 11:45 | ALL  8:45-1:00 |
| Recess –  Lunch  10:45-12:15 | Group 2  M-Z | Group 1  A-L | Group 2  M-Z | Recess  Snack | Recess  Snack | Recess  Snack | Recess  Snack | Recess  snack & lunch |
| Lunch –  End of Day  1:15-2:45 |  |  |  | WC  WC  WC  WC | WC  WC  WC  WC | WC  WC  WC  WC | WC  WC  WC  WC | WC  WC  WC  WC |

WC = Welcome Conversations

**Monday, September 19th** Kindergarten students will start their first full day (8:45am - 2:45pm). Both a recess snack and lunch must be provided each day from now on.

**Additional Information:**

## Kindergarten Welcoming Conversation

Complete and bring the Kindergarten Welcoming Conversation Form(green sheet) to the Welcoming Conversation Visit. This information helps the teachers in getting to know your child and their strengths and stretches. **Please bring your child to this conference**.Your permanent classroom teacher will be contacting you on Friday, September 9th with your Welcoming Conversation time. If the time given does not work, please arrange another time with your child’s teacher.

**School Supplies**: if you ordered a Creative Children Package online these will be delivered directly to your home*.*  Supply lists are also available on our website and you are welcome to purchase supplies through other means. Please do not label any of the school supplies. Students do not need their school supplies until they are in their permanent classrooms so please do not send them until asked.

**Inside Shoes and Extra Clothes:** Please bring a set of inside shoes (no laces) with your child’s name on them in the first week(Crocs/slippers and these types of shoes are not appropriate as they need to be used in gym and in an emergency would need to be able to go outside). Every child needs to have a complete change of clothes – pants, shirts, socks and underwear. These clothes will be kept in the cloakroom, just in case an “accident” should happen. All clothes will need to be labeled and put into a bag. When they are used another set should be sent to school to replace them.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school at 604-944-9037, or email [mreid@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:mreid@sd43.bc.ca).