



Welcome to
Kindergarten!

École St. Paul School

Kindergarten
Welcome Booklet

2021-2022

Bienvenue à la
maternelle!

École St. Paul School
1527 Alexandra Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3C1
(306)659-7430
st.paul@gscs.ca
<http://www.gscs.ca/PAU>

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Bienvenue/Welcome to École St. Paul School! Beginning Kindergarten is an exciting time for both child and parent and I would like to sincerely welcome you to the school community. Although we have been experiencing so much uncertainty surrounding Covid-19 during the past year, one thing that is for sure, we cannot wait to work with you and your little ones.

This welcome booklet will provide you with an overview of the Kindergarten programming as well as provide answers to questions you might have.

École St. Paul School offers a French Immersion experience that provides students with unique experiences and opportunities to develop and to reach their full potential academically, socially, and spiritually. École St. Paul School is a welcoming community where we nurture faith, encourage excellence in learning and inspire students to serve others, making the world a better place.

Parents are an integral part of their child's journey as a learner. We look forward to working with you to make this a most enjoyable and successful educational opportunity for your child. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

Claudette Degagné-Ellis

Acting Principal

(306) 659-7431



Dear Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to Kindergarten! My name is Lachlan Fraser, and I will be your child's teacher for this upcoming school year.

Having been born and raised in Saskatoon, and attending a French Immersion program within the GSCS division, I was very excited to start working at École St. Paul School two years ago. For the past 11 years, I have worked as a Chiropractor in Saskatoon after graduating from Northwestern Health Sciences University in Bloomington Minnesota in 2010. I had a strong desire and passion to teach, so, with encouragement from my wife, I pursued and completed my Bachelor of Education degree. My wife, Erin, currently works as a Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine and she recently began working as a casual EA with GSCS. We have 3 children: Duncan (Grade 4), Elliott (Grade 2), and Kate who will be starting Kindergarten next fall!

As a teacher, I believe that connection is an integral part of the success of the classroom, ensuring every student is excited to come to school every day eager to learn and have fun. I am excited and look forward to teaching and learning alongside your child next year!

Specific to our French Immersion program, your child will be introduced to the French language in an authentic manner. Learning an additional language occurs the same way your child learned their first one. By living this language throughout the day, your child will slowly begin to understand what is being said, to repeat words and phrases, and to express basic sentences. Comprehension of an additional language is enhanced through play, gestures, songs, and stories related to the vocabulary and concepts being taught. Connections are constantly being made to previous experiences in the child's life.

Typically, we have an open-door policy in Kindergarten. We love for families to visit us. We are still waiting to see what SHA will tell us in the fall, but hopefully we will be able to invite you all into our school and classroom! Please stay tuned for more information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at lfraser@gscs.ca. I look forward to meeting you and your child in September!

Lachlan Fraser
Kindergarten Teacher

Kindergarten Orientation (First Day of School) Schedule

The first few days of Kindergarten are very important to your child's happiness and transition into school. We aim to have your child **ease into their first schooling experience** with a **staggered start**, in a way where they are unlikely to be overwhelmed.

Normally, we invite a parent or guardian to spend a morning with their child at school. For the upcoming school year, we do not know yet if this will be allowed. We will let you know as soon as we know.

Wednesday, September 1st is the first day of school (**FULL DAY**) for Gr1-Gr8 students.

Thursday, September 2nd: Half of our Kindergarten students (last names L-Z) will attend for the whole day (9:00 am to 3:30 pm).

Tuesday, September 7th: The other half of our Kindergarten students (last names A-K) will attend for the whole day (9:00 am to 3:30 pm).

Thursday, September 9th: All Kindergarten students will attend for the whole day (9:00 am to 3:30 pm).

Our Kinders will be attending school: Tuesdays, Thursdays & some Fridays.

KINDERGARTEN – FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	
<p>Thursday, September 2nd <i>Students with last names L-Z (ish)</i> <i>An email will be sent to parents</i></p> <p>Next full day of classes: Thursday, September 9th</p>	<p>Tuesday, September 7th <i>Students with last names A-K (ish)</i> <i>An email will be sent to parents</i></p> <p>Next full day of classes: Thursday, September 9th</p>



EDSBY: How we will communicate with each other.

In order to keep you informed as to what is happening in the classroom, our teachers will be using an App called Edsby. Edsby is a next generation K-12 learning management system (LMS) with the broadest set of capabilities available in a single app for K-12. More information will be sent to all École St. Paul School families.

- ✓ **Communicating Your Child's Absence** – Parents/guardians can easily submit an absence for their child using their smartphone and the Edsby app.
- ✓ **Booking Your Three-Way Conference** – When it is time for three-way conferences, parents/guardians will receive the schedule in their Edsby mailbox. Parents/guardians will be able to schedule and easily change or remove bookings.
- ✓ **Viewing Your Child's Progress Report Online** – Once the school has submitted the progress reports online, parents/guardians will have access to view the report within Edsby.

BEFORE YOUR CHILD ATTENDS KINDERGARTEN

To ensure your child can learn to the best of their ability, please have their eyes and hearing tested before they come to school.

Your child's vision plays an important role in how he or she will do at school...

Did you know:

- More than **80%** of all learning is through vision.
- **1 in 4** children have undetected vision problems and if a common condition called lazy eye is not addressed before ages six to ten years, the child is left with irreversible loss of vision.
- Eye Exams are **free** for children under the age of 18! They are covered by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health one time per year.



To ensure your child has the best chance of succeeding in the classroom, we are inviting families to have their son or daughter's eyes examined by a Doctor of Optometry. Again, there is no charge for any child up until age 18. A list of Optometrists in your area is on the reverse of this letter. Thank you for your help in ensuring you child has equal access to learning opportunities through optimal vision. Further information can be found at <https://optometrists.sk.ca/childrens-vision-esel/>.

Questions You May Have . . .

Question: What is the best way to get in touch with the teacher if the need should arise?

Answer: It is best to email teachers with non-urgent communications. If there is an urgent need to get in touch with the teacher during class hours, please phone the school at (306) 659-7430 and leave a message with the Office Coordinator. The Office Coordinator will be able to contact the teacher in the classroom.

Question: How do I report my child's absence from school?

Answer: Parents/guardians can easily submit an absence for their child using their smartphone and the Edsby app. More information will be shared with all École St. Paul School families.

If there is an unreported absence, parents/guardians will be contacted via the SchoolMessenger Communicate automated notification system. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

Question: What steps are taken if my child becomes sick while at school?

Answer: The school attempts to first contact the parent/guardian at home or at work, then the child's emergency contact person or babysitter. The child can lie down in the nurse's office (isolation room) until someone can come and get him/her. If we are unable to contact someone and the child must go to the hospital, a staff member will stay with the child until someone is contacted.

Question: If I am planning to take my child out of school for part of the day or for an extended vacation, who should I contact?

Answer: All absences should be communicated to the school through the Edsby app (i.e. late arrivals, medical appointments, leave & returns, early departures, etc.). The school needs to be notified if the child is to be taken out for part of the day or for lunch or recess. For an extended absence, the teacher should also be notified by email.

Question: If I, or someone I designate, is to pick up my child at the end of the day instead of the child going on the bus as usual, who should I notify?

Answer: If your child is not going home as per usual, the school must be notified by phone call to the school at (306) 659-7430. If applicable, the bus company/driver must also be notified.

Question: What time is the lunchtime routine?

Answer: Lunchtime begins at 12:00 noon and the children have 20 minutes to eat lunch, then they go outside for 25 minutes (45-minute noon break).

Question: Are the children supervised at lunchtime?

Answer: Yes, there is adult supervision rotating in the classrooms while the children have their lunch.

How to Help your Child Transition into Kindergarten

1. **ARRIVE ON TIME.** Our first bell rings at 8:55 and, at that time, I ask that all children be seated on the carpet. It is best if your child arrives around 8:45 so they can get settled and have a few minutes to play with their classmates. Arriving late often makes it harder on a student to adjust to our program. If there is a reason that you are habitually arriving late, please inform me.
2. **LUNCH AND SNACKS:** Provide your child with a nutritious lunch and a *minimum* of TWO healthy snacks. I invite the children to eat any time during the day when they feel hungry, except when we are learning at the carpet.
3. **ILLNESS:** Please keep your child home if he/she shows signs of possible illness such as a runny nose, a sore throat, chills, skin rash, coughing, fever, etc. We are not permitted to give your child medication at school.
4. **MEDICAL INFORMATION:** Discuss with the teacher any medical problems your child may have. If your child requires an EPIPEN, please bring one to the Front Office on the first day.
5. **ABSENCES:** Use the Edsby app to report all student absence before 9:00 a.m.. More information on the Edsby app will be emailed to all École St. Paul School families.

Covid-Related Procedures

We will send updated information on procedures, such as drop off, pick up, masking protocols, social distancing, parents entering the school, etc. as soon as it becomes available to us for the fall of 2021.

Bus - Transportation

A two-way transportation service at no cost to parents is provided to students enrolled in the École St. Paul School French Immersion Program who live within of the school bussing boundaries - Lawson Heights, River Heights, Richmond Heights, City Park, Downtown, Riversdale (to Avenue H), Caswell Hill (to Avenue H), and Mayfair (to Avenue H). Busses drop off and pick up the students on Edward Avenue. Phone: 306-374-5161.

First Student late bus line is 306-343-3300.



If you are dropping and/or picking up your child at the school, please use the main entrance on Alexandra Avenue so that children do not need to move around the school buses.

Newsletters

With the new GSCS website that was launched in June 2021, we will no longer be using Newsletters, but will communicate via posts on our new school website. Stay tuned for more information!

Birthdays

M. Fraser will send information to K Parents by email towards the beginning of the school year in regards to Birthdays.

Nut Alert School



Please note that École St. Paul School is a NUT FREE SCHOOL! Please do not send anything that might cause an allergic reaction. Please note that Nutella falls in the nut category.

Scent Alert School

Please note that École St. Paul School is a SCENT FREE SCHOOL! Please do not wear anything that might cause an allergic reaction.



Reporting

Our formal reporting for Kindergarten consists of 3-Way Conferences (parent-teacher-student) in the fall and spring. There is also a progress report in the spring and at the end of the school year. There will be no progress report for your K child in the fall.

School Day Hours

School Hours - 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

First Bell – 8:55 a.m.

Classes begin – 9:00 a.m.

First Recess – 10:30 to 10:45 a.m.

Lunch Hour – 12:00 to 12:45 p.m.

Last Recess – 2:00 to 2:15 p.m.

Classes end – 3:30 p.m.

Office Hours – 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

School Contact Information

Address - 1527 Alexandra Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3C1

Phone – (306)659-7430

Teacher – M. Lachlan Fraser

Principal – M. Ron Georget

Vice Principal – Mme Claudette Degagné-Ellis

Office Coordinator – Mme Camille Matheson

Email – st.paul@gscs.ca

Website – <http://www.gscs.ca/PAU>

Kindergarten School Supply List

Here is the list of items your child will require the first time he/she comes to school.

- ✓ A large backpack **labelled** with his/her name on the inside flap.
- ✓ A water bottle **labelled** with his/her name.
- ✓ One pair of indoor running shoes (**non-marking**) for gym and in our classroom. **DO NOT send lace up shoes if your child cannot tie the laces alone and quickly.** These shoes will remain at school.
- ✓ A family photo – this does not have to be studio quality. We will display this in our classroom.
- ✓ An extra set of clothes (shirt, pants, underwear and socks) in a Ziploc bag **labelled** with his/her name.

Additional K School Supplies

\$15 supply fee to be paid in September. M. Fraser will purchase necessary items, such as glue, pencils, markers, paper, etc. This option allows him to purchase items in bulk and purchase items on an as needed basis. If there is extra money, not initially spent in the fall, it will be used throughout the year to purchase additional learning material, items that have worn out, or items that will benefit the Kindergarten learning space. Leftover funds may also be used for field trips.