



Welcome to  
Kindergarten!



# We Welcome All Languages!

For families who have a first language that is not English, there is a link being posted in the chat that will provide you with instructions to view the information in your first language.



Hola



Здравствуйте



مرحبا

ਸਤ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਕਾਲ



नमस्का

hello

र



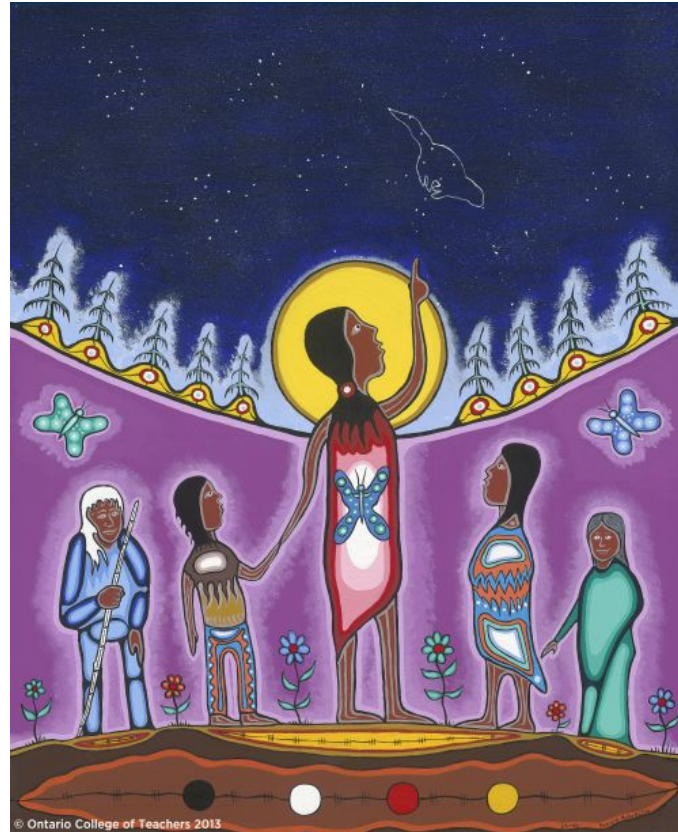
Kamusta



# Territorial Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge the traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe, and Neutral peoples who have walked softly on this land for thousands of years.

We thank the Indigenous people for sharing this land and their knowledge.





# Country Hills PS

## Cardinals







# Principal's Welcome Message





Welcome to Country Hills Public School and the home of the Cardinals. We are thrilled that you will be joining us in September. There is nothing better than seeing the beautiful smiling faces of students on the first day of school, especially our smallest and newest Cardinals. We have a group of dedicated Kindergarten staff who will make students feel comfortable and cared for as they enter a new world of learning.

The Kindergarten program is play-based which means that creativity and exploration are the foundation of learning. Guidance, facilitation, motivation and expansion of ideas at the heart of the program. Country Hills' professional educators provide this on a daily basis and welcome your child to a positive and exciting learning environment. Your children are in very safe hands and will love all the great things Country Hills has to offer.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, celebrations and/ or concerns you have throughout the year.

Proud Principal - Beth Creighton





# Kindergarten Educators at Country Hills PS







## The Kindergarten Team (DECE and Teacher)

### DECE

- knowledge of early childhood development
- assist with observation and assessments
- bring a focus on age-appropriate program planning that promotes each child's physical, cognitive, language, emotional, social and creative development and well-being

### Teacher

- knowledge of elementary curriculum, assessment, evaluation and reporting, and child development.
- responsible for student learning, effective instruction and evaluation, and formal reporting to parents.



## Let's See A Kindergarten Team in Action!





# Your Welcome to Kindergarten Bag...

Your Welcome to Kindergarten bag is filled with many amazing materials and resources for talking, reading, singing and playing together!

Pick an item or activity that you can enjoy together every day!



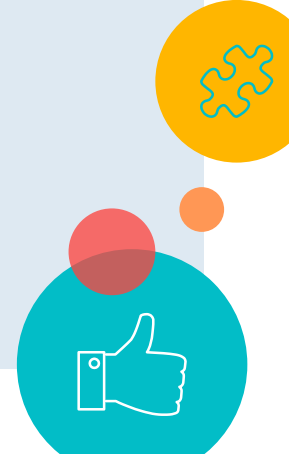
*click on the picture to see a video about what's in the bag*

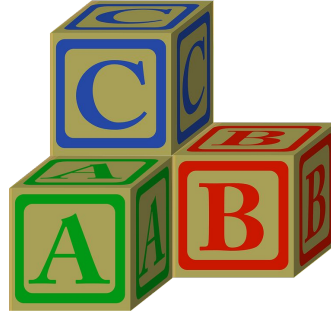


## Welcome to Kindergarten Packages

Inside these bags, there are many items that will allow you and your child to explore some of the learning and play that take place in the classroom.

Click the links below to learn more about how you can use these items to help prepare your child for Kindergarten.

- [Learning Through Play](#)
  - [The Reading Center](#)
  - [The Play Dough Center](#)
  - [The Magnetic Letters and Numbers Center](#)
  - [The Environmental Print Center](#)
  - [The Creative Play Center](#)
  - [The Activity Ball and Music Center](#)
- 



# Learning Expectations in Kindergarten



There is more to  
the Kindergarten  
Program than  
meets the eye...



play

inquiry

curriculum

learning



## Why is Kindergarten so Important?

### Goals of The Kindergarten Program:

- to establish a strong foundation for learning in the early years;
- to help children make a smooth transition from home, child care, or preschool settings to school settings;
- to allow children to reap the many proven benefits of learning through relationships, and through play and inquiry; and
- to set children on a path of lifelong learning and nurture competencies that they will need to thrive in the world of today and tomorrow.

The learning expectations for the Kindergarten program represent the first in a series of steps leading to Grade 8. What your child learns in Kindergarten, will prepare them for successful learning experiences in Grade 1.

(source: The Kindergarten Program – Ministry of Education, 2016)



## Typical Experiences in Kindergarten

- Reading books and stories
- Writing experiences
- Learning mathematical concepts
- Singing, moving, and participating in play activities
- Talking and sharing
- Frequent library visits
- Small group work with educators
- Daily physical activities (e.g. classroom, outdoor play or gym)
- Making connections between what they know and what they are learning







# The Kindergarten Outdoor Education Program



## Outdoor Education Promotes...

- Structured/unstructured play: taking turns, sharing, developing positive behavioural skills;
- Exploration about the world around them, using their own abilities;
- Curiosity and self-directed play (for longer periods of time);
- Collaborative play with peers - communication, cooperation and organizational skills;
- Increased happiness and mood; and
- Appreciation and respect for the environment.

Please make sure your child is always prepared with the correct clothing (labelled) for any type of weather expected for that day.



## What You Need to Know about Outdoor Clothing



All classes will be going outside for the Outdoor Education portion of the school day. Please ensure that your child is prepared for any type of weather.

**Rain:** Splash pants, waterproof boots and jacket.

**Snow:** Snow pants, winter jacket, hat, scarf, waterproof gloves, and snow boots.

**Warmer Days:** Sun hats, sunscreen and cool clothing for the hot weather.

Unless there is an extreme weather warning, we will be going outside to enjoy the learning opportunities of our outdoor learning environment.





Belonging &  
Contributing



Self  
Regulation &  
Well-Being



Demonstrating  
Literacy &  
Mathematic  
Behaviours



Problem Solving  
& Innovating





## The Four Frames

In the Kindergarten program, four “frames,” or broad areas of learning, are used to structure thinking about learning and assessment.

**Belonging and Contributing**  
**Self-gulation & Well-Being**

**Demonstrating Literacy & Mathematics Behaviours**  
**Problem Solving & Innovating**

They are designed to support an approach that aligns with the way children’s learning naturally occurs and that focuses on aspects of learning that are critical to young children’s development. The frames reflect the integrated way in which learning occurs during children’s play and inquiry in Kindergarten.

WRDSB Kindergarten Program





# Play-Based Learning

## in Kindergarten





“Play is often talked about as if it were a break from serious learning. But for children, play is serious learning.”

*Mr. Rogers*





## Learning Through Play

Play-based learning is an essential part of a child's development. Play provides opportunities to integrate all areas of learning. Children have opportunities to participate in activities that support their own interests. As well, educators guide children during play and extend and support their learning in various play centres throughout the day.

For more information visit: [Ministry of Education](#)





## Play-Based Learning

Students explore a range of play-based learning areas within the classroom:

- Block and building activities
- Dramatic play areas
- Book corners and class libraries
- Writing and drawing centres
- Math centres
- Art centres
- Technology experiences
- Science and discovery centres
- Listening centres
- Puzzle and game centres
- Sensory centres such as sand, water, and play dough







# Preparing for Kindergarten





Your child will need the following items for their first day.



Velcro please



OR



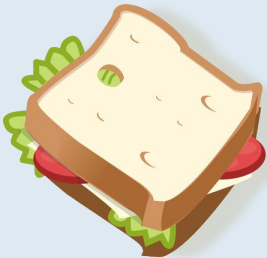
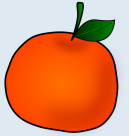
Change of clothes



# What You Need to Know about Nutrition Breaks



- There are 2 nutrition breaks a day (mid morning and mid afternoon);
- Lunches are to be peanut free;
- Marking containers with a "1" and "2" will help so your child understands what your expectations are for them to eat at each break;
- A reusable water bottle is highly recommended. We **discourage** the use of **drinking boxes**.
- Boomerang Lunches: All items in student lunches will return home. This includes all containers, wrappers, garbage, fruit peels, etc. Packing ziploc bag for messy utensils and garbage is recommended.



# What You Need to Know about Backpacks



## Do's

- Clearly label with your child's name
- Large enough to hold an 8 1/2 x 11 book, as well as lunch bags, artwork, library book, snow pants, etc.

## Don'ts

- Small backpacks
- Personal items (e.g., toys, stuffies, etc.)





Independence is important, especially with social distancing playing a big part in our return to school plan!

## What You Need to Know about Indoor Clothing

### What to Pack:

- Pair of **velcro or slip on** indoor shoes to be kept at school. (Please practice putting the shoes on at home to make sure that they are able to put them on easily!)
- Extra pair of pants, short sleeved and long sleeved top, underwear, and socks that can be kept at school incase of toileting or indoor/outdoor play mishaps.

\*\* If your child has frequent toileting issues then please include multiple pairs of pants, underwear and a pack of flushable wipes (Please let us know if toileting is a concern for your child so that we can help them feel comfortable about asking us for help).



**Lastly, LABEL EVERYTHING!**





# Preparing Your Child For Kindergarten





A few things that you can do to prepare your child to be successful in kindergarten.



## Preparing Your Child for School



There are many ways to prepare your child for school...

- Get your child excited about school;
- Visit your child's school to get them comfortable with coming to school every day;
- Let them pick out their backpack and lunch bag;
- Practice taking shoes and outdoor clothing on and off independently;
- Practice going to the bathroom independently;
- Practice packing and unpacking lunch bag and backpack, as well as opening containers;
- Practice writing their name;
- Read, sing and play with your child;
- Explore a variety of sensory experiences such as play dough, sand and water; and
- Explore numbers and letters in your environment.

[Kindergarten Early Learning Parent Guide](#)







# The Extended Day Program





**Goal: To provide equitable access to high quality child-care, for parents and children across the Region.**

## Extended Day Program

The extended day program offers play based pedagogy and makes use of shared resources and shared common spaces to create a seamless system of early learning for children and families.

WRDSB believes that all children should have access to before and after school programs and is committed to expanding before and after school programs in every school. Extended day programs have no waiting lists and parents can register for full-time or part-time care. Offering affordable, accessible, flexible programs to meet the needs of all families is an important part of a responsive, supportive system that promotes child and family well-being.





Visit our website for additional information:

<https://www.wrdsb.ca/beforeafter/> or direct your questions to  
[care@wrdsb.ca](mailto:care@wrdsb.ca)



# Community Partners





# Community Partners



Welcome to  
Kindergarten  
2021





# Community Partners

Looking for more opportunities in your community? Click the images below to learn more!

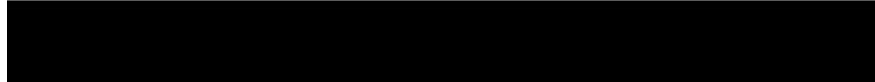


Welcome to Kindergarten 2021

Learn more about your local community organizations

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Brought to you by:



Community Supports in  
Kitchener



## **Community Health Partners**

[Family Compass](#) is a guide to services for children and youth in our community.

[Looksee Checklist](#) by NDSS is an easy-to-use checklist that has been helping children reach their developmental potential for 25 years.

[Unlock Food](#) provides expert guidance about everyday healthy eating for families.

[Eye See...Eye Learn Program](#) helps children begin school with good vision and healthy eyes. If needed, your child may qualify for complimentary glasses.





## Community Resources

### [Kitchener Public Library](#)

Country Hills Library  
1500 Block Line Road, Kitchener  
519-743-3558







A message from WRDSB's SLP team!



# Getting to Know Country Hills PS





Where to drop  
off your child on  
the first day of  
school..





Click on the links below to “visit” our school, Country Hills PS!  
(Try moving the pictures. They are 360° photographs!)

[A3 Kindergarten Classroom](#)

[A4 Kindergarten Classroom](#)

[A5 Kindergarten Classroom](#)

[Library](#)

[Gymnasium](#)

[Main Hallway](#)

[Kindergarten Playground Area](#)





Let's go visit a  
Kindergarten  
Classroom!





# Student Questionnaire

Complete before leaving the presentation!

[Click here!](#)





# Thank you!

We can't wait to meet all of you in September!









# Additional Resources

Download the  
Welcome to  
Kindergarten  
app

## There are more WTK Resources to Explore!

Visit the [Welcome to Kindergarten](#) website

- Key Messages are available in 27 languages!
- Parent Resource is available in 29 languages!

