

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the wonderful world of Kindergarten! Please read this letter carefully as it contains important information for you.

<u>FIRST DAY OF CLASSES</u>
<p>Monday/ Wednesday Class – <u>Wednesday, September 3</u> 8:45 AM – 11:30 AM (Last Name A-K) OR 12:15 PM – 3:00 PM (Last Name M-Z)</p>
<p>Tuesday/ Thursday Class – <u>Tuesday, September 2</u> 8:45 AM – 11:30 AM (Last Name A-G) OR 12:15 PM – 3:00 PM (Last Name H-Z)</p>

Please line up with your child at the MARKED ENTRANCE 'K'

Please ensure you park in the Southeast parking lot.

On the first day of school, **you are required to stay with your child**. This will be an important step for a smooth transition into Kindergarten. You will be able to observe a shortened version of some of the activities that your child will participate in during a typical day. During the half day, parents will go to an **Orientation Meeting** with the Teachers while the Learning Assistants show children a video or play outside (a snack will be provided). At the meeting, we will give you an overview of the Kindergarten program. We will also be filling our volunteer positions and you will be given a chance to ask questions.

This information is valuable to you as a parent and will enable you to better prepare your child for the year ahead.

(Please do NOT bring siblings and only 1 parent as space in our classrooms is limited)

<u>KINDERGARTEN SUPPLY LIST</u> <u>(to be brought on the half day orientation)</u>			
	Indoor running shoes (with non-marking soles) to stay at school for indoor use. NO DRESS SHOES OR LACES, VELCRO ONLY.		Water bottle - labeled
			Lunch kit - labeled (on the first full day)
	Full-Size sturdy backpack. Absolutely NO Wheels.		
In addition you can choose to bring a cheque for \$20 payable to Heritage Christian Academy for classroom supplies <u>OR</u> purchase the following items yourself (not labelled):			
	12 pack fat Crayola Markers – No skinny/extra colors		24 pack Crayola Crayons – No larger packs, please do not label
	4 large glue sticks - Elmers		1 bottle white glue
	2 fat pencils		1 pair of blunt end scissors
	24 pack pencil crayons - Crayola		1 pack multi-colour dry-erase markers
	1 white eraser		1 box of Kleenex

Please be sure your child's name is on all personal items such as footwear, mittens, hats, scarves, etc.

We are looking forward to working with your child this year and getting to know you – the parents. We hope that you will find this information helpful as you prepare to send your child to kindergarten in the fall. Please call the school if you have any questions.

If you are wondering about things you could work on at home, here is a list of some basic kindergarten skills: reading books together, drawing, singing, moving to music, talking and asking questions, using details, and practice listening to directions and steps, reading, writing, colouring, creating, pretending, and sharing activities.

Social Skills

- Uses words to solve conflicts, uses manners
- Adjusts to new situations /attempts new tasks
- Interacts appropriately with adults and peers
- Respects the rights, property and feelings of others, follows simple safety rules
- Works cooperatively (listens to others, shares and takes turns) and follows instructions
- Demonstrates increasing self-control
- Takes responsibility for own belongings (lunch, coat, etc.), able to dress self, clean up

Language Skills

- Talks in sentences and uses two or more ideas
- Follows one- and two-step oral directions
- Uses descriptive language (details)
- Pretends, creates and makes up songs or stories/ Tells or retells stories and experiences
- Asks and answers questions with clarity
- Says full name, address and phone number

Reading Skills

- Looks at books or pictures on their own
- Pretends to read books by reading the pictures, puts events of a story in order
- Tries to read in everyday situations (signs, labels, etc.) and relates stories to experiences
- Recognizes rhyming words, common words in print, many uppercase and lowercase letters
- Recognizes some letter sounds

Motor Skills

- Puts puzzles together, parts of a toy together
- Cuts with scissors, uses glue sticks
- Holds and uses crayons, markers, pens and pencils correctly (3 finger grip)
- Builds using blocks, tries to tie own shoes
- Bounces, kicks, throws and catches a ball
- Enjoys outdoor activities, like running, jumping and climbing
- Moves to a beat, follows actions in a song

Writing Skills

- Tries to write, scribble or draw with increasing detail (a house, a person, a situation)
- Asks you to write words or notes to others
- Attempts to write letters, shapes, own name and recognizes own name in print

Mathematics Concepts

- Compares the size of groups of objects using language such as "more," "less"
- Arranges objects in size order (big to small, or small to big), and colour groups
- Understands concepts *some*, *none* and *all* and *more than* and *less than*
- Identifies and draws a square, circle, rectangle and triangle
- Correctly counts four to ten objects
- Recognizes and counts numbers 1 – 10