

# Mme Chalifoux's 2016/17 ABCs of Kindergarten

## Absence

If your child is ill or absent, please either call the office (780-458-1112) or email: [EMPabsences@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:EMPabsences@gsacrd.ab.ca) in order to officially inform us of your child's absence and the reason for it. Please cc my email as well!

## Attendance

A successful school experience is the responsibility of the child, the parent and the school. Your child's progress, both academically and socially, is influenced to a great extent by daily participation. Regular attendance without tardiness is key.

## Arrival and Dismissal

Students should arrive between 8:45-8:55 AM. School begins at 9:00 AM and dismissal is at 11:40. If you pick up your child, please wait outside the kindergarten door. If you are late, look for your child in the office.

## Allergies

Due to the number of students and staff with severe nut allergies, some of which are life threatening, our school is a **NUT-SAFE SCHOOL**. This means that students must refrain from bringing any products that contain nuts to school, including peanut butter! This ensures a safe environment for all students. We welcome the safer alternatives like pea butter, soy butter, etc.

## Backpacks

To help your child carry messages and information to and from school, you are asked to provide a FULL SIZED backpack.

## Birthdays

Birthdays are special occasions for young children. We will celebrate birthdays once each month. Please send in a special treat to celebrate your child's birthday on the monthly party day. We will celebrate our summer birthdays in June!

### **Book Orders**

Most months I will send home a package of Scholastic Book Club Catalogues for you and your child to look over. These clubs offer wonderful books at reduced prices, which is a great way to build your home library! If you choose to order, please either make the cheque payable to Scholastic Books or use the Parent Pay option online.

### **Behaviour Management**

I believe students thrive on positive recognition and praise. I work hard to create an environment of friendship and respect in the classroom. I teach students that life is about choices and I expect them to make appropriate choices. I strive for consistency and will start the school year with clear expectations. I strongly believe that all students have the right to learn in a safe and productive environment. When problems arise, they are dealt with naturally and logically.□

### **Bravos & Warnings**

In an effort to recognize the positive choices that the children make, I have developed what I call Bravos - which they will often refer to as getting a pink clip.. Basically, at any point of the day, should I noticed your child doing something positive I will call attention to this choice, explain why it is such a great choice, and put a pink clip beside their name. I will naturally ease from the use of these clips at certain times of the year and then use them more when behavior troubles start to creep up.

In conjunction with the Bravos, I will occasionally give a child a warning, a blue clip.. These situations are most often repeated talking, turning, touching of others during circle time... If dangerous behavior occurs (physical aggression, running in class, etc) then the child will be given a short Time Out. As a general rule, I will either let you know at pickup time or send you an email if your child is earning numerous warnings or Time Outs, however I don't normally message home for the odd blue clip or a single Time Out

### **Budget**

The program fees that you pay at the beginning of the year are used to create our annual kindergarten budget. From this cache of money we will need to pay for our craft supplies, cooking supplies, classroom supplies, and field trips. We may on occasion ask you to send in a food item as contribution for a cooking day.

We also request that you send in either a package of baby wipes, a container of Lysol/Clorox wipes, a large box of Kleenex, a box of large ziplock bags, or a bottle of hand sanitizer (preferably alcohol-free). These items tend to add up quickly as the year goes on and make quite a significant dent in our budget.

### **Bus**

Regardless of whether all students take the bus home on a daily basis, we will still discuss Bus Safety in class. We will usually take a bus to and from our field trips. Unfortunately, if all 3 classes attend the same field trip and share a bus for transportation, parent helpers will need to follow the bus in their own vehicles. If our class is alone on the bus there will be room for parents to ride the bus, however the bussing company insurance usually does not permit siblings on the bus.

### **Bullying**

Our school has put into practice the Dare To Care bully-proofing, prevention and early intervention program. Please feel free to check out their website at [www.daretocare.ca](http://www.daretocare.ca) for more information.

### **Calendar**

I will send home regular emails with important information on upcoming dates. I will also try to keep the class calendar on my web page up to date! I will usually send an email letting everyone know when changes have been made to my web page, however you are welcome to refer back to my page for information as needed. I will not send home a monthly paper copy of our class calendar as so there are often changes, additions, & modifications.

To view our class information including the calendar, please visit our school website: [www.emp.gsacrd.ab.ca](http://www.emp.gsacrd.ab.ca) then click on ETEACHERS and select my name...

### **Confidentiality**

The safety and well-being of our students is our number one priority, which is why we insist that any conversations or observations made while in the school setting should not be discussed in or out of school with anyone other than the teacher. Please feel free to approach me with any questions or concerns that you may have. While I can't discuss the confidential information of another child, I can often offer some clarification.

### **Conferences**

Parent/Teacher conferences are held in November and again in March.

This Fall I will be completing the EYE (Early Years Evaluation) for each of the children in our class. When we meet in November I will have a copy of your child's EYE printout, which is generated for you to keep. We will have some time to discuss any flags that may pop up. Although I will provide more information on the EYE at that time, you can in the meantime look up details at [www.earlyyearsevaluation.com](http://www.earlyyearsevaluation.com)

In March, you will receive your child's report card and we will discuss your child's accomplishments, strengths and overall progress. There will be a final report card handed out on the last day of school, June 20, 2017.

Please feel free to schedule additional conferences at any time throughout the year if the need arises.

### **\*Directory**

In order to facilitate communication between families, we will be preparing a class directory. If you wish to be included in our directory, please be sure to complete the consent form. Please note that the names and numbers will only be shared with the families in our class and will not be used for any other purposes.

### **E-mail**

You can usually contact me via my email address: [nschalifoux@gsacrd.ab.ca](mailto:nschalifoux@gsacrd.ab.ca) and I do check my work email on a daily basis. If you need to discuss something more urgently, please let me know and I can give you a call. I strongly encourage parents to check their email often as I prefer to send out almost all class information via email. I also enjoy taking photos of our students and will email many of those out to you!

### **Emergency Card**

Please complete and return the emergency card promptly (if you have not already done so). If your home or work phone number changes, inform the office so you can be located quickly if an emergency occurs.

### **Emergency Closings**

Our school will almost always be open, however, buses may not run on a cold or snowy day. The local radio and TV stations will make an announcement, generally by 7:00 A.M. Please also check our division website at [www.gsacrd.ab.ca](http://www.gsacrd.ab.ca).

### **Early Dismissal**

If your child needs to leave school before the regular dismissal time, you must go to the office to sign him/her out. Our secretary will call for your child to meet you in the office. Please do not send another person to pick up your child without informing myself or the secretary.

### **Field Trips**

We plan several field trips that are both fun and educational for the children. We often need parent volunteers on the trips and chaperones will be chosen on a first come, first served basis. All parent volunteers need to have completed a Criminal Record and Child Welfare check. Permission slips will be sent home in advance informing you of all the details regarding

the trip. Please return permission slips as soon as possible after they are sent home. The field trip forms will also be available on my web page, in case you need to print another copy.

### **Fire Drills**

Fire drills are held throughout the year. All students, staff and volunteers will participate and are expected to walk quickly and quietly to their designated exit. We will practice and become familiar with procedures before our first scheduled drill.

### **\*Friday Envelopes**

This plastic envelope houses everything the students and parents need to keep up with what is going on at school. No more wrinkled papers in the bottom of our backpacks! No more lost notes, newsletters or calendars! Everything is in one envelope, which comes home every Friday. Please return it to school on Monday.

### **Goodbye!**

Please remember to always ensure your child says goodbye to me before leaving. Often the children are so excited to see their parents at the end of the day that they take off running. If I'm not aware of them leaving with you, I will worry and send out a search party!

### **Grenouilles**

are given to students who make an effort to speak in French while at school. By working together to collect students can earn special rewards such as Crazy Hair Day, Pyjama Day, etc.... Classes that have collected a certain number of , by the end of each month, will be able to participate in that month's reward.

### **Groups**

We will work in groups and these groups will change roughly once a month throughout the year. If your child talks about a child often, they are likely in the same group. If your child complains of not getting along with another child, please let me know so that I can make changes to our groups and ensure that our kindergarten experience is as positive as possible!

### **Gym**

Our class will have one 35 minute gym class each week. The children are asked to wear sneakers for gym class and girls might consider wearing pants on this day. This year our Gym class will be Wednesdays.

### **Hands-on Learning**

I feel that the best way to help children learn is to make learning fun. There are times when seatwork is required and necessary, however, important kindergarten concepts can also be

learned through meaningful hands-on activities. Our classroom will be an active learning environment.

### **Health**

Please let me know of special circumstances which may affect your child. These could include medication that may make him sleepy, a death in the family, a loved one who is out of town for an extended period of time, etc. Also, please let me know of any allergies your child may have, especially food allergies. We sometimes cook or do food activities to complement lessons in kindergarten and it would be helpful to know when I plan our recipes.

### **Help at Home**

Here are some kindergarten skills you can help your child practice, in English, at home:

Recite (tell): □ Full name, Address, Telephone number, □ Parents names, birthday (month & date), alphabet, count to 10

Identify (name): colours, basic shapes, numbers to 10, letter names and letter sounds

Print / Draw: first name beginning with a capital letter and the rest in lower case, basic shapes, numbers to 10, letters (upper and lower case), person with body parts □ □ □

Personal Care: tying shoes, dressing, packing school bag

These skills will be worked on and developed throughout the school year. Extra help at home really makes a difference!

### **\*Home Reading Program/Literacy Bags**

Beginning in January, the children will begin taking home our Literacy Bags to read at home. This is wonderful practice to build reading fluency and interest in learning to read. When they return the Literacy Bag to school I will send another bag home. Completing these activities and enjoying the books will go a long way in helping your child develop better early reading skills!

### **Homework**

Kindergarten students do not have assigned homework. Families are encouraged to set aside time for nightly reading and playing games to assist with letter and number recognition. It is important to note that some students may require extra home support to acquire their kindergarten skills.

### **Illness**

The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. It is important, however, to keep

your child home if he/she is ill. This helps to make them more comfortable and prevents others from becoming ill. Children function more effectively in the classroom when they are healthy. We will call you to come get your child should they develop a fever, diarrhea or vomit. Please do not send them to school if they have had these troubles within the last 24 hours.

### **Journals**

One strategy that will be used to help convey the vital concept that print conveys meaning is the use of journal writing. In these journals the kindergartners combine their emerging writing skills with their drawing skills. We will write both in French and English this year, as well as copy some words and sound out others.

### **Kindness**

Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class with kindness and respect. Bothering others and interrupting learning may result in a loss of play time and/or a time-out.

### **KinderCooking**

We will be cooking in class at least once a month, occasionally more often. We will need at least 1 or 2 volunteers for these activities!

### **Lenten Journey**

In the weeks before Easter, we will be discussing Lent and the children will each get a turn to bring home our Lenten Journey bags!

### **Library**

The children go to the library on Monday mornings. In the library Mme Lina will entertain them with a story. They will then choose a book for our classroom library, for all of us to share throughout the week. When the children begin to attend school all day, after spring break, they will be given a reusable green bag and will be able to take their library books home. Please note that they can't take a new book out until the first is returned. Also the green plastic bags will need to be returned before the end of Kindergarten as they are reused for grade 1.

### **Literacy Centers**

During literacy centers, children practice reading and writing skills while the teacher works with individual children or small groups. The center activities are designed to strengthen letter/sound knowledge, listening skills, oral language expression, rhyme, letter formation and cooperation.

### **Late Arrivals**

If you bring your child to school later than 9:00 AM, you will need to walk with them to the office and sign them in. The kindergarten door will be locked after 9:00 AM. Please use the main office door.

### **Math**

The kindergarten mathematics curriculum provides students with mathematical experiences that help them develop number sense and a positive attitude towards mathematics that will continue through their school career and their lives. We employ a hands-on, problem solving approach. We will learn about shapes, play with dice, dominoes, count forward and backward from 0 to 10, as well as discuss concepts like heavy/light, long/short.

### **Music**

Our music teacher, Mme Dominique, will be teaching the children the basics of music education and will be sharing many wonderful songs! We are scheduled to have music for two 35 minute periods weekly, Mondays and Thursdays. Of course, I will be singing and enjoying music with the children daily as well.

### **Names on everything!!**

Please ensure your child's name is on their shoes, boots, coats & backpacks. It never fails to surprise me that children can wear an article of clothing to school and then forget that it is theirs before the end of the day! They are often adamant that a particular item is not theirs! We also often end up with several children who have similar footwear. With over 80 children sharing the same bootroom, it is not unheard of for another child to grab the wrong pair of boots/shoes and wear them home. Having your child's name inside makes clearing up these issues much simpler.

When you come in to our class you will see that I have also put your child's name up on the bulletin board - this area will be where the bulk of their crafts will be displayed. With printing varying in legibility at this time of year, it is often much easier if we keep each child's activities all in one place!

### **Newsletter**

Our school newsletter, The Poburan Post, is usually emailed home at the end of each week and any additional paper information will be sent home in the Friday envelope. This newsletter will keep you informed about what is happening in our school. If you do not get the email, please



let the office know so that they can ensure you're on their list. The newsletters are also posted on our website.

### **\*Occupational Therapists and other specialists in our classroom..**

We will have a variety of therapists visit our classroom throughout the year. These specialists will be there to work with our students, to consult with staff and to provide ideas on how to assist any children in need. Should we feel that your child will need extra support, we will contact you directly.

### **\*Photos/Memory book**

I will take quite a few photos throughout the year. Many group photos will be emailed home and the occasional photo of your child may be emailed to you. At the end of the year we will put together some of the best photos in some sort of Memory Book and I will put all of the photos that I have taken on a CD for you to keep. I will need you to confirm if your child's can be in the photos before I can begin emailing home.

### **\*Printing**

When practicing printing with your child, please be sure that he/she always prints his/her letters from **top to bottom**. We will use the Magic C method, please encourage your child to follow this same format at home.

### **\*Parent Involvement**

We are always happy to have your help in the classroom and from home. My door is always open and I appreciate any help you can offer! I hope that you can come and join in the fun! All volunteers must have completed their Criminal Record and Child Welfare checks. Extra request forms are available at the office.

### **Parent Council**

Please consider attending at least a few of the Parent Council meetings throughout the year. We have an amazing group of parents who do so very much for our children and they always welcome new parents to join the group!

### **Parties & Celebrations**

There are usually four main parties each year in Kindergarten --Halloween, Christmas, Valentines Day, and End of Year. We will ask that parents help with food and drinks for these celebrations. We will also need volunteers on these days, please check your email.

### **PD days**

Once each month we will have a non-school day where the staff are able to focus on professional development and attend our staff meeting.

### **Photos**

If you are helping in class and wish to take a picture of your child, please remember to ensure that there are no other children in the background, especially if you intend to share the photo on social media. Many parents do not want photos of their children on Facebook.

### **PIP POST**

In early March you will be sent out a copy of the PIP Post, which will provide you with all of the details for the upcoming progression to full day kindergarten.

### **Playdough**

We enjoy having our playdough centre open and appreciate it when parents can make us a fresh batch of homemade playdough. If you are interested in providing playdough for our class please indicate this on the orange volunteer form. We will make up a schedule of when each family has their turn to send in playdough once we see how many volunteers we have. Most years we have enough helpers so that we only need make playdough once every 6-7 weeks.

### **Playground**

When the weather permits and we have time in our day, we may go out to the playground to enjoy some exercise. This will most often occur Fridays as we do not have other activities out of our classroom. Please ensure your child is dressed warmly enough to be outside for 20minutes each Friday just in case.

### **Questions**

Since so many of you are new to École Marie Poburan this year, I am sure that you may still have some unanswered questions. Please feel free to email me any time!

### **Recess**

We will have 2 recesses once we begin attending school all day. I will take turns providing outdoor supervision at that time. More information will come in the PIP Post.

### **Religion**

Religion is a huge part of our school and such will be a large part of our daily activities. We talk about God and Jesus often, we marvel at his miracles and share his story. We will put particular emphasis on Advent, the birth of Jesus, Lent and Easter.

### **Repeating Kindergarten**

While we don't often recommend children repeat kindergarten, there are certainly times where it would provide a significant advantage for a child. If we feel this may be the case for your child, we will begin these conversations in November and continue them throughout the rest of the school year. Generally, children will learn all year long and continue to show improvements in their skills, but may still benefit from that extra year of play. This discussion is often a difficult one for parents, yet is really intended only to provide a heads up that there may be a significant amount of support needed in the future. Many parents choose to have their child continue to grade 1, knowing that they will need to work with them much more than we would normally request, in order for them to reach their grade level skills.

### **Report Cards**

Kindergarten report cards are only issued in March and June. I will provide you with a simple progress report in November. These reports reflect the progress your child has made toward various kindergarten objectives and uses a grading system that reflects the developmental nature of kindergarten learning.

### **Restrooms**

Please have your child use the restroom shortly before coming to school. We have an individual restroom in our class for student use. Please make me aware of any medical problem that might require more frequent restroom trips.

### **Rotation**

The students will work in groups and go through several activities in our class on a rotation basis. Each day their group will go to snack, centres, working with Mme & possibly working with a volunteer.

### **Routines:**

Our classroom routine begins with the children putting their boots on the shelves in the bootroom, opening their backpacks for me at the classroom door, then going in to the class to take out their snack bag, hang up their backpack and coat. The children then take their shoes to put on at their bench in our circle time area. It is important for the children to maintain this routine throughout the year.

### **School photos**

School photos are currently booked for October 7<sup>th</sup>. Please check the Marie Poburan Post for confirmation any changes to this date as it draws near. There will be a retake day scheduled as well.

### **Science**

The focus of the kindergarten science curriculum is on developing environmental awareness. Through scientific inquiry, concepts will be presented in the life and earth sciences, including the study of animals and plants, the five senses, and the four seasons. These areas will be explored utilizing a literacy based, hands-on approach.

### **Seating Plan**

We have an assigned seating plan in our class so as to avoid conflicts between the children. If your child complains that someone sitting near them is causing them anxiety, please let me know asap so that I can change a few people around.

### **Shared Reading**

Shared reading is an interactive process used with the whole class. As the teacher reads a story, children join in on phrases or words that they know. During subsequent re-readings, children read more and more of the text, until they are able to read the story independently. Shared reading is an opportunity for the teacher to model conventions of print and the use of reading strategies.

### **Show and Tell**

We do not have a formal Show and Tell program where toys are brought in to show our friends. I do however have a Show and Tell program where we bring in specific items each week as part of our social studies program. This program will begin after Christmas.

### **Snack**

This should be a healthy snack that is quickly eaten (about 10 minutes), such as: cheese and crackers, yogurt, veggies, piece of fruit, etc. If you choose to send a drink, consider a reusable container, as many of the children do not finish a full juice box. NO PEANUT OR NUT PRODUCTS PLEASE

### **Social Studies**

The kindergarten social studies curriculum focuses on the students and how they relate to others in their families, classroom, school, and community.

### **\*Speech**

Please let me know if you notice ANY speech concerns with your child! They are often considerably more quiet the first few weeks and it takes me some time to hear if they are not pronouncing sounds correctly. Many of these sounds are age appropriate yet it is crucial that we have the SLP check them in order to ensure they will not effect your child's ability to learn to read and write.

### **Supplies**

Although the students do not need to bring school supplies, we need baby wipes for messy fingers, Lysol/Clorox wipes for messy tables, and Kleenex for runny noses. Lots of Kleenex!

### **Tabs**

My family has been fortunate enough to receive assistance through Alberta Easter Seals and so we like to pay it forward and as such we collect the tabs off cans for their Tabs for Wheels program. Please send in any tabs you can collect!

### **Take Joy Kits**

Much like the Lenten Journey bags, we will send home the Take Joy Kits during Advent. They provide a simple family activity that can be done together so as to enrich our Christmas experience. Please remember to send the kids back asap as there will be other families waiting for their turns.

### **Terry Fox Run**

Our school Terry Fox Run will be Friday September 30th, please send in a loonie or twonie donation with your child that day! Please ensure they wear comfortable shoes for their short run!

### **Toys**

Bringing toys to school is discouraged because they distract the children from learning. Also, if a toy is accidentally lost or broken, feelings can be hurt.

### **Transportation Changes**

If your child's transportation for any given day changes, please alert me by sending a note with your child or by calling the school office. If a child fails to bring a note and is supposed to do something different from the normal schedule, the child will not be permitted. (i.e. If your child is normally a bus rider, but thinks he/she is getting picked up but does not have a note, the child will be sent home on the bus.)

### **Visitors**

All guests (including familiar faces) are required to check in at the school office. École Marie Poburan welcomes and encourages family involvement. It is important to remember that while

this may seem inconvenient to frequent visitors, it is the goal and responsibility of the school to create a safe learning environment.

### **Writing**

Our writing program builds on what each child already knows. Writing begins with scribbles and proceeds to lines and circles, random strings of letters, words and spaces and eventually sentences. Your children will be encouraged and praised for all attempts and accomplishments in writing. Providing a risk-free environment is paramount to your child's progress in writing. If possible, please provide your child with writing tools, such as pencils, crayons, markers and paper at home.

### **eXtra Clothes**

As accident can sometimes happen, please send an extra set of clothing in a large ziplock bag, it will be kept in a tub in our classroom washroom.

### **Younger Siblings**

I generally offer parents the option to bring along the younger siblings when they volunteer. Some parents do choose to make childcare arrangements, however please know that I don't mind having the siblings in the classroom!

### **Zzzzs**

Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give to your child. It will help them to be alert and ready to learn each day!