



Welcome to Kindergarten!

It is going to be a hoot!

Information for Parents

Can you believe it? You are the proud parent of a kinder student at Mary Montgomery School! Kindergarten is such an exciting time of growth and change in a child's life and I am looking forward to guiding your child to be their best! I hope that this booklet will answer some of the questions that you may have about this exciting new adventure. I will also have a chance to answer more of your questions on our meeting prior to the first day of school.



Meet Your Teacher

Back to school time is a time of year that I look forward to every year and I hope that you and your child are excited for the first day of school! I have had the opportunity to meet some of you at our screening day, but would like to take this time to introduce myself. My name is Cheryl Klassen and I am a graduate of Brandon University's education program. I have taught at Mary Montgomery School since 2010 and taught at Oak Lake prior to this. This will be my fourth year teaching Kindergarten and I have loved working with this age group! When I am not busy having fun at school, I live in Oak Lake with my husband John and our two children.



Parents- My Teaching Partners!

Parents are a very important part of a student's school career. Being involved in your child's education from day one will help them to be successful in their many years of schooling! Talking with your child about their day allows them to review what they have learned while keeping you informed. Getting information from your child about their day is sometimes difficult. For this reason, I will make every effort to communicate with you what is happening in our room (weekly updates, Facebook, texts, etc). You can use these updates to start specific conversations with your child. Instead of asking the famous question, "What did you do at school today?" and getting the standard response of "Nothing!", you can ask them, "What did you learn on your nature walk exploring trees today?".

Another way to stay informed is to check your child's backpack EVERY NIGHT! You will always find their clipboard and often notes and schoolwork. Even when you are busy, please take the time to read each note that comes home. They contain important information and reminders that are often time sensitive.

Important Information/Procedures



Drop-off/Pick-up: Our kinder students enter through the side door which faces 9th Ave S. Doors will open for students at 8:45 am. **Please do not drop students off prior to 8:45 as there is no supervision for them.** If you bring your child early, please wait at the bench by our Kindergarten door as the classroom door is not open until the morning bell rings. Bus students are dismissed at 3:30 pm. Town students are dismissed at approximately 3:35 pm, after the buses have left. To avoid congestion and confusion, we ask that town parents pick up students at the kinder entrance. Once bus students are gone, I will walk the town students down to the entrance to ensure all students are picked up. Please use the crosswalk on 9th Ave and we would encourage you to walk your child across the street. Please DO NOT use the bus loop for pick-up and drop-off. Please remind grandparents, other family members and friends to not use the loop. Also, please do not park in the staff parking lot.



After-School Plans: **If your child's after-school plans are different than normal, please write a note in your child's clipboard!** It is VERY important that you keep me informed of your child's after-school plans. Simply telling your child what he/she should do after school is not enough. Often little ones become confused or uncertain and this can cause them to worry all day. It is also important for me to know that the plans are coming from their parents, not a playdate that the child has arranged themselves! Trying to straighten out plans at the end of the day is very difficult. Your weekly clipboard sheets will have a space to tell me after-school plans. **If I have not received communication that there has been a change, I will send your child home as usual.** When possible, please arrange after-school plans at home in the morning or the evening before. If plans need to change during the day, please call the school office and I will be informed of the change. Parents are responsible to inform bus drivers of any changes.

Attendance: Regular and prompt attendance at school is vital for your child's success. Much of our learning will be hands-on and group-based, making it very difficult for students to catch up at home. If your child will have a planned absence, please let me know ahead of time. If your child is ill or another unplanned absence arises, please call or email the school office (bhayward@flbsd.mb.ca or lcantelo@flbsd.mb.ca) or inform me via text or phone call. If we do not hear from you in the morning, we will call to check on the location of your child.

Access to the School: During the instructional day, only the main door of the school is open. If visiting the school during the day, please check in with the school office.

Lunch and Snack Time: In addition to lunch, students will also be given time for a morning and an afternoon snack. Healthy eating will be encouraged in our room. Students will be given 10-15 minutes for snack, so please send something that they can eat within this time and that is easy to tidy up (cut up fruit/vegetables, cheese and crackers, etc). Please pack your child's lunch in a bag/box with their name on the outside. Please send your child all cutlery and dishes needed for their meals. Due to sanitary concerns, we will no longer be providing cutlery for students. Please send food that is PRECOOKED. We do have microwaves available for use each day at lunch (and an adult to help), but it really helps when student's lunches only require 30 seconds of microwave time to warm-up. Also, please cut and peel items for your child as needed. Please send condiments (ketchup, etc) from home if required. Chocolate and white milk is available for purchase at lunch. Milk is \$1.00 per carton and a milk card is available to purchase for \$20.00 (20 milks) to make things easier for all. We have students at our school with nut allergies. When packing lunches and snacks, please do not send items with peanuts/nuts. Once a month, our school has a hot dog and/or hot meal day. Approximately a week before these special meal days, an order form will go home with your child. These days are marked on the school calendars and class newsletter. Please pay special attention to the deadline as orders are not accepted past that date.

Money: Occasionally, you may need to send money to the school with your child. Please send money to school in your child's clipboard. Please place it in a sealed envelope or baggie with your child's name, the amount of money and what it is for (hot meal, field trip, milk card, etc.).

Important Information/Procedures Continued

Homework: Working at home can help reinforce concepts being covered in class and can help you stay involved with your child's education. Your support in this area can make the difference between struggles and successes for your child. Activities such as alphabet books and home reading will be introduced throughout the year. Please complete and return materials with your child promptly.

Parent Volunteers: If you are interested in visiting or volunteering in the classroom, you are always welcome. As a volunteer, you may help with an activity for a small group of students, act as a scribe for individual or class books, read with children and/or help prepare for class activities (i.e. cutting, putting up students' finished work, etc.). If you are interested in volunteering, but are unable to come to the classroom, classroom jobs can be sent home to be completed and then sent back to school. Please chat with me at any time if you are interested!

Library: Students will have library 1 time per cycle. These will be marked on your clipboard sheets. Please be sure to return library books the day of library or earlier so that they can take a new book home. It is important to develop good "library habits" from day one, so please help your child choose a safe spot for keeping their library books and to take good care of them when they are at home. Parents will be responsible for lost/damaged books.

What to Bring to School: Your child needs to bring their backpack (labelled with their name on the outside) every day. Please label their names on all materials, footwear and clothing. Be sure to send appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather, keeping in mind that they will be spending recess and part of lunch hour outside. We also spend lots of time learning and exploring outside in a variety of weather conditions. Please consider keeping personal toys at home. We cannot be responsible for toys sent from home and they often cause arguments or stress when misplaced.

Adverse Weather: School is sometimes closed due to extreme cold or stormy weather. Please check the Fort La Bosse website and/or listen to local radio stations for information. Staff is not available at the school on these days, so it is very important that you know when school is cancelled so that you do not send your child.



Parent/Teacher Communication

In addition to our regular report cards (November, March and June) and conferences (November and March), I am always open to meeting with you or speaking with you. If it is not urgent, please send a note in your child's clipboard and I will respond as soon as possible. The best way to get in touch with me during the school day is to text me as I will check these during breaks. Contact cards will be provided for you with my information. You may call the school (204-748-2575) and leave a message with our admin assistant for me to call you back on break. I will also use Facebook to communicate general information, but please contact me using these other methods for more specific issues or questions.

I am so excited to share your child's kindergarten experience with them! Thank you for allowing me to be your partner in your child's learning!

-Mrs. Klassen