

Back



Welcome to Kindergarten at Christ the King School. My name Sarah McDonnell and I am very excited to welcome you to my kindergarten classroom. This year will be different than ever before but I will do my best to provide a safe and FUN learning experience for all learners. There are going to be challenges but I am ready to be creative and flexible to do the best for my students.

### Who am I?

This year will be my first year teaching at Christ the King. I have experience working with a mix of age groups and learners. I have loved my teaching journey and have been blessed in being able to work at many amazing schools across the board. I am recently married, a huge Disney fan and former Starbucks barista. I look forward to getting to know each of my learners.



### What to Bring to School

- ⇒ Wear comfortable clothes
- ⇒ Bring a full-sized backpack with:
  - Filled water bottle
  - Nut-free snacks and lunch with spoons/forks/straws as needed
  - Shoes that your child can put on independently that stay at school
- ⇒ A change of clothes in a labeled Ziploc bag
- ⇒ A family photo for our family tree (this can also be emailed to me)
- ⇒ A personal hand sanitizer
- ⇒ Following items requested for donation: hand sanitizer (unscented), Lysol wipes, Kleenex, Ziploc bags

\*Please keep in mind the outdoors are an extension of the classroom. We will be spending a portion of our day outside most days of the week regardless of the time of year. Your child should come to school prepared to be outside each day. Jackets or sweaters on cool days, rain boots on wet days, sunscreen (applied at home) on sunny days.

### Important Information

- ⇒ Please familiarize yourself with the Boards opening document (Keep in mind that this is a living document and can be changed as needed). I will keep you updated of any changes that may occur.
- ⇒ I will be communicating through Brightspace. All newsletters and information will be posted there for you to review. You will be given usernames and passwords soon.
- ⇒ Arrival and Dismissal: Students will be escorted to the fenced in Kindergarten area upon arrival. Parents will not be permitted in the school yard. At dismissal, we will be bringing the students to front of the school beginning at 2:50pm. Please gather your child and leave the school area to avoid congestion.

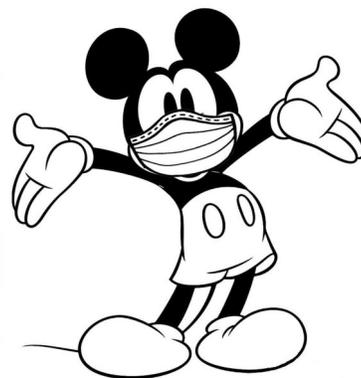
### First Day of School

School will begin with a staggered start. Please attend on your designated days. You will attend based on the letter that your last name begins with.

Sept 7 Labour day	Sept 8 Group A	Sept 9 Group B	Sept 10 Group C	Sept 11 Group D
Holiday	Last name A-C	Last name D-K	Last name L-P	Last name Q-Z
Sept 14	Sept 15	Sept 16	Sept 17	Sept 18
Groups A and B (A-K)	Groups C and D (L-Z)	Whole school	Whole School	Whole school

### Masks

In kindergarten, masks are not mandatory but they are recommended. I will be wearing a mask, why not you too? If you are planning on wearing masks, consider sending something to store the mask in during eating times and recess such as a small container or special bag.



\*If you have any questions please feel free to contact me by emailing me at [sfernandes@bhncdsb.ca](mailto:sfernandes@bhncdsb.ca)

# “I Played Today!”



Have you ever asked your child what they did in school today? And the answer was “I played all day!” Well in kindergarten that’s probably the best answer from your child.

In kindergarten we firmly believe that play is the work of a child and is the best way to learn. During play, children are able to discover, explore and inquire about the classroom and world around them. As the teacher in the classroom, I will set up play based centers that give students the best opportunities to learn such dramatic play center (that allows the child to make decisions, use expressive language, problem solve and use their imagination) and block center (that helps with hand-eye coordination, muscle control, comparisons of shape/size and planning skills). We find that through play children are learning valuable skills without being aware of all the new things they are learning like:

- Math Skills* (sorting, comparing, patterning, shapes, collect data)
- Language Skills* (Letter identification and sounds, familiar words, interests in books)
- Art Skills* (eye-hand coordination, develop creativity)
- Science Skills* (develops their five senses, learns to observe, begin to make predictions and collect data).

Each school day is planned to be carefully balanced to give all children to the opportunity to learn in their own way. As the teacher in the room I will actively participate in the play to help make sure that it is truly meaningful. While your child is playing at home take a moment to play with them and ask them questions you will be amazed with what you hear.

*\*Play is going to look different this school year than in the past but together we will learn and adapt so that each child is successful and will remain healthy.*