



# Bienvenue à la maternelle

2016-2017

It must be hard to believe that this special first day has arrived. We hope we can help make your child's transition to school life as smooth as possible. Welcome back to the families of our Year 2 (SK) students. We're looking forward to another year together!

This booklet has been compiled to provide you with information about our classroom routines and the Kindergarten program. Please keep it for future reference. We are excited for the year ahead! Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

## Welcome!

**School Phone Number – (519) 824-0028**

**Teacher: Madame Margie Johnson**

[margie.johnson@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:margie.johnson@ugdsb.on.ca)

**ECE: Madame Emily Nofall**

**Teacher: Madame Patty Horack (2 mornings per week)**

[patty.horack@ugdsb.on.ca](mailto:patty.horack@ugdsb.on.ca)

Principal: Madame L. Newman

Vice Principal: Monsieur O. Cutz

Office Staff: Mme Lambkin & Mme Rice

## Contact Information

Each child will be provided with a labeled plastic Ziploc bag, referred to as a "sac de communication" (communication bag). All notes and forms from the school will be placed in the bag. **Please return this bag each day.** Any notes you write to us should be written in the communication booklet located in this bag. When you write a note, please leave the booklet open, so we know that you have written something.

When you send money for book orders, trips, milk etc., please put it in an envelope labeled with your child's name and what the money is for. Place any money envelopes in the "sac de communication".

All information, news, weekly updates, photos etc. will be posted on our class blog. Monthly school newsletters and activities will be posted on the school website.

**Please take a few minutes to subscribe to both our class blog and school blog.**

These will automatically notify you of updates, requests etc.

[www.madamemjohnson.weebly.com](http://www.madamemjohnson.weebly.com)

[www.ugdsb.ca/jmc/](http://www.ugdsb.ca/jmc/)

Please let us know if you will require paper copies of notices (for those who do not have regular Internet access).

# Communication

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### **Lunch and Snacks**

We will have two nutrition breaks during the day. The first break is from 10:30 to 10:50 and the second from 12:55 to 1:15. All meals will be eaten in the classroom. Please try to send items that your child can open on their own and that don't spill easily. Please encourage your child to help in choosing nutritious snacks as healthy eating is an integral part of the Kindergarten program. Please avoid sending anything in glass as accidents can occur. **Please be advised that we have students with peanut, nut and milk allergies in the classroom. There will be no peanut or nut products allowed in the classroom. Please do not send yogurt tubes.** A parent volunteer and/or teacher/ECE supervise the children during the nutrition breaks and outdoor recess time. If you would like to volunteer at lunchtime, please return the volunteer form included in this package. A schedule will be sent home when available.

### **Water Bottles**

Each day your child should bring a labeled refillable water bottle to school.

### **Milk/Pizza**

Through the school's milk program, you can pre-order white or chocolate milk, or juice (available daily or on the days of your choosing). There is also a weekly Pizza program. More information and order forms will be sent home in the coming weeks.



# Lunch and Snacks

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**Kindergarten students will need: (items in bold will stay at school)**

- A backpack – large enough to hold small projects, lunch box and “sac de communication”
- **Velcro running shoes (to be used as inside shoes and for gym)**
- **A full change of clothing in a labeled Ziploc bag (for accidents / spills)**
- **A VERY small blanket or beach towel for quiet time**
- A lunch bag and containers that your child can open

**Label...label...label... EVERYTHING!**

Things in our Kindergarten classroom can get easily mixed up. Please be sure to clearly label everything (shoes, boots, clothing, lunch boxes, containers etc.).

**Clothing**

Please encourage your child to wear comfortable, easy-care clothing. Kindergarten is an active program involving experimentation, paint, outdoor / forest play, etc. Choose clothing and shoes / boots that your child can independently put on and remove.

**Rain and Cold Gear**

We will be spending time outside everyday in ALL WEATHER. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately, especially in rainy or cold weather.

**Classroom Supplies**

A separate list is included which indicates classroom materials (markers, etc.) which we would appreciate receiving. These materials are shared with the class, so they do not need to be labeled.

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# School Supplies



### Safe Arrival and Departure

If your child is ill or will be absent from school for any reason, please notify the office as soon as possible. Please call before school starts (or the night before) and leave a message explaining your child's absence. By making a quick call in the morning, you save our office a lot of time phoning to locate your child. The school phone number is (519)-824-0028.

If there is a change in your child's arrangements for after school, please advise us with a note in your child's "sac de communication". **Before allowing a change to the normal routine, we need to receive notification / parental permission.**

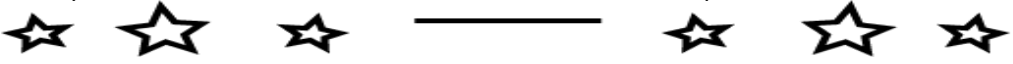
### Transportation, Before and After School

Beginning at 8:20, teachers and ECEs supervise the arrival of the buses and the students in the Kindergarten yard. Children should not be dropped off prior to 8:20. Students remain outdoors until their teachers greet them (following the bell at 8:35). During inclement weather (e.g. pouring rain, extreme cold) a bell will ring early to allow students inside.

Older students are our school bus patrollers. These students take the children to and from buses. At the end of the day, teachers and ECEs supervise the students in the Kindergarten yard, at the crosswalk and at the buses. If you pick your child up from school, please arrive by the 3:05 dismissal bell. If you arrive after dismissal, you will need to collect your child from the main office.

### Bus Tags

Please ensure your child's bus tag is securely attached to their backpack. This helps teachers, bus patrollers, and the bus driver know where your child should be.



# Attendance & Transportation

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In the Kindergarten program, **four "frames"** or broad areas of learning are used to structure our thinking about learning and assessment. The frames are:

- Belonging and Contributing
- Self-Regulation and Well-Being
- Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours
- Problem Solving and Innovating

These frames are embedded in a **play-based** and **inquiry** approach to learning. Assessment and evaluation of students will be based on these four frames. This is a two-year program, and our class is composed of both Year 1 and Year 2 Kindergarten students. To view the full **Kindergarten Curriculum**, Google "Ontario Kindergarten Document", click [Kindergarten - edu.gov.on.ca](http://Kindergarten-edu.gov.on.ca), and select [\*The Kindergarten Program, 2016\*](#).

In our Immersion program, **French** is used throughout the day. The children will learn French through routines, activities, interactions, songs, poems and chants.

**Outdoor learning** is an important part of our program. Our beautiful natural environment at John McCrae includes a forest and river. We spend a portion of each day exploring our surroundings, which stimulate curiosity, learning, and physical development.

You can **help prepare** your child for Kindergarten by helping them develop various skills at home. Some suggestions include basic self-care skills (dressing, toileting, eating), printing his/her first name, counting, letter recognition, cutting and gluing).

# Our Program

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The following are some goals for our Kindergarten students:

- to enjoy school and develop a love of learning
- to learn social skills and self-regulation
- to become familiar with school routines
- to develop self-confidence and self-esteem
- to develop a comfort level with the French language

### Daily Schedule

8:20-8:35	Arrival of Students - Supervision on Yard
8:35	School day begins - Entry of Students
8:35-10:15	Instructional Time
10:15-10:35	First Nutrition Break in class
10:35-11:00	Recess - Children play in the Kindergarten yard
11:00-12:40	Instructional Time
12:40-1:00	Second Nutrition Break in class
1:00-1:25	Recess - Children play in the Kindergarten yard
1:25-2:45	Instructional Time
2:45-2:55	Students prepare for home
2:55-3:05	Dismissal/Bus

School begins at 8:35 and punctual arrival is very important. Our morning routines are a great way for the children to develop French language skills and we often spend time outside in the morning, including walks and activities off the school property.

At dismissal time, bus students will be met by their patrollers and taken to their buses. Walkers and YMCA students will be dismissed by the teachers / ECEs. **Parents and caregivers are asked to wait outside the Kindergarten area until the children are dismissed at 3:05.**

# Our Day