



# Kindergarten Program Book 2015-2016

This booklet is intended to provide helpful information to  
parents as part of the registration process.

## **Welcome to McKee School!**

At McKee School we realize that starting Kindergarten is an exciting and sometimes overwhelming step in a child's life.

Kindergarten is a very special year for children. It is a year of new friends, new skills and becoming familiar with school surroundings and routines. Children master these new skills through many different learning and play activities.

This booklet was written to help you and your child understand our Kindergarten program and our school.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the school at 780-435-7140.

We will be happy to speak with you.

Charlene Poynter (Kindergarten teacher)

## **Children Learn by Doing**

Children have busy minds and are ready and eager to learn. So that each child may develop at his/her own rate and to his/her own potential, our program provides for a wide variety of interests and challenges all children at the level of their development. The Kindergarten program provides children

with the learning experiences that promote the total development of the child, with a focus on seven learning areas:

1. Early Literacy
2. Early Numeracy
3. Environment and Community Awareness
4. Creative Expression
5. Physical skills and Well-Being
6. Personal and Social Responsibility
7. Citizenship and Identity

These seven learning areas will be addressed through integrated thematic units on topics that interest and motivate the children. If you are interested in printing out a copy of the Kindergarten Curriculum Overview, please visit the following website:

<http://education.alberta.ca/>

## **Balanced Literacy Based Program**

Kindergarten students at McKee School will participate in Balanced Literacy based programming which focuses on improving student reading and writing comprehension. The program involves shared, modeled, guided and independent

reading and writing activities, designed to increase student confidence and promote an enjoyment of reading and writing.

## Animated Literacy Program

In combination with Balanced Literacy based programming, McKee Kindergarten students will participate in the Animated Literacy program. This program combines songs, actions, stories and amusing characters to strengthen a child's awareness of phonics and promote meaningful reading and writing.

## A Typical Morning in Kindergarten

\*bell rings, students enter through the 107<sup>th</sup> street doors of the school.

\*quiet reading time at the tables, as the students hang up their belongings and put on their indoor shoes

\*Gym time

\*Calendar, weather, daily schedule and morning message

\*Learning Centers

\*Snack and Story time

\*Recess

\*Computer, music, library or play centers

\* Songs and poems

\*Clean-up and ready to go home

\*Dismissal through 107<sup>th</sup> street door

LIBRARY DAY IS MONDAY. Books must be returned each week in order to sign out a new book.

### Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

The Kindergarten hours are 8:35 a.m. to 11:31 a.m. in the morning, and 12:27 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the afternoon, Monday to Friday.

**\*Please note that the afternoon Kindergarten is dismissed at 2:23 p.m. every Thursday.**

In order to promote independence, children should be encouraged to hang-up their own outdoor clothes and put on their own shoes. After the first couple of weeks, we hope to see all of the children coming into the classroom

independently, and taking responsibility for themselves and their belongings.

At dismissal time the parents are asked to wait at the 107<sup>th</sup> street entrance of the school, to relieve congestion in the hallway. All of our students must be picked up by a parent, older sibling, or caregiver. We will not send Kindergarten children home on their own.

**\*Please note, parents are NOT allowed to park in the teachers' parking lot. It is for staff only.**

## Recess

During the first week of classes, we will be going outside with the children to show them where they may play, and where to enter and exit the school. The children will be going out every day, unless the weather is colder than -23 degrees, so please make sure that your child has clothing appropriate for the weather. (We will do our best to make sure that they wear it if you send it). Have your child practice dressing independently if possible; especially when the weather gets colder, and they have more clothes to put on.

## **Absence from School**

Please inform the school office (780-435-7140) if your child is going to be away.

## **Clothing**

Kindergarten is a busy and sometimes messy place. Please send your child to school in play clothes that can be washed; in case of any accidents or spills.

## **Special Day**

Each day one child is named as our Special Helper. This is their day to help with the calendar, do jobs around the classroom, and be the first person in line.

## **Birthdays**

Birthdays are a special, day for everyone! We will celebrate your child's birthday with special recognition in class (sing Happy Birthday, etc.) If you would like to send cupcakes, or some other healthy treats, to school on your child's birthday, please feel free to do so.

## Snack Break

Parents are required to provide their child with a daily snack, which is to be eaten before recess. This snack break is an important part of our day, as it allows children an opportunity to refuel, socialize, and learn about good eating habits and manners. Some snack suggestions include: muffins, vegetable sticks, fruit wedges, half a sandwich or crackers. Nutritious snacks are preferred. Due to allergies, please avoid bringing nuts or nut products to the Kindergarten room. As we do not have dishes or cutlery in the classroom, please remember to include any utensils that may be required for your child's snack. Please remember to peel and cut fruit, as it makes it easier to eat.

Children will be given access to the water fountain, or if you wish, you may provide individual water bottles as part of your snack. Pop or drinks in cans/cups and juice boxes are not allowed in the classroom due to spillage problems.

## Field Trips

We will be going on a few field trips throughout the school year. We may also have visitors come into the classroom to provide us with fun or information. It is very important that you return the field trip permission slip, with your signature on it for each trip. Parent helpers are encouraged and needed for our field trips.

## School Supplies

- **1 pair of Velcro or slip-on, non-marking runners** to stay at school for inside wear. (no tie shoes if possible, please, as Kindergarten students are rarely proficient enough at tying shoes to be independent in this area.
- **1 backpack** to bring to school EACH AND EVERY DAY, for library books, and crafts. Each student will also have a pouch to put notes and work in.
- **1 box of Kleenex (morning class only)**
- **1 box of unscented baby wipes or Lysol wipes (afternoon class only)**

All other school supplies will be purchased from the Kindergarten fees. This year's fees are \$100.00, and that will pay for school supplies (crayons, pencils, smelly markers, glue, erasers, duo-tangs and scribblers) as well as field trips, craft supplies, homework prizes, and special party supplies for Halloween, Christmas, Valentine's Day and the 100<sup>th</sup> Day of school.