

Welcome to
Kindergarten

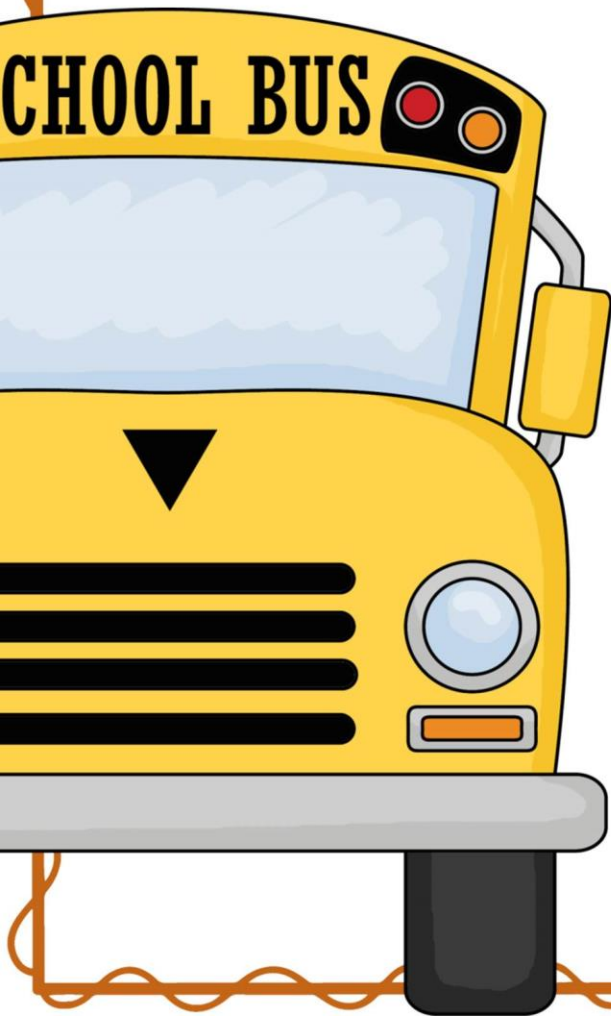
SCHOOL



PARENT PORTAL



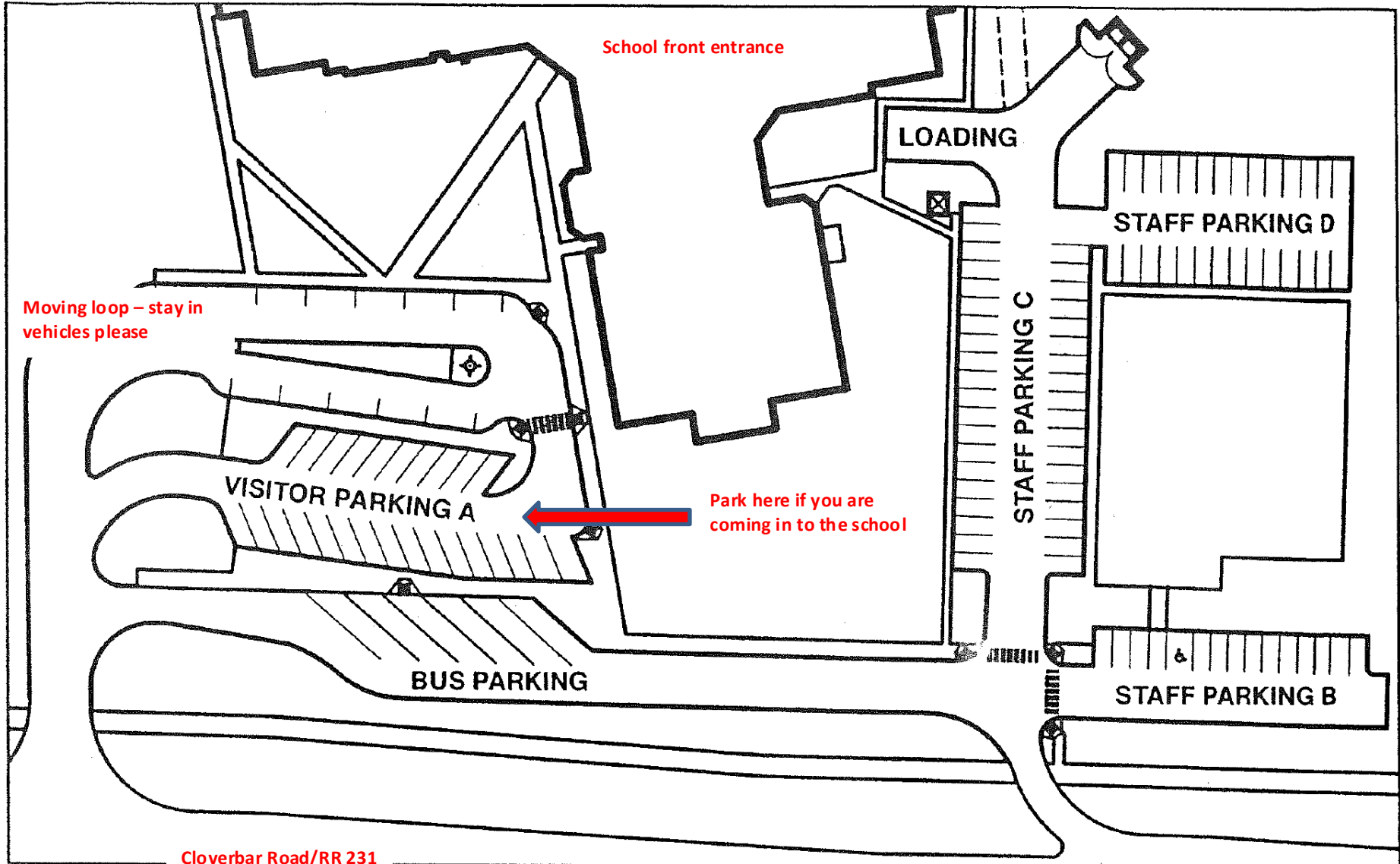
PowerSchool



BUSSING

ELK ISLAND TRANSPORTATION
780-417-8151

PARKING LOT



Communication



File Folders:

- **IMPORTANT:** Please check them daily and return the folder the next school day 😊!
- This is our main way of communicating between home and school. When it is necessary to send notes or return forms, these should always be sent in the file folder.

Forms

Please complete these today and leave in the appropriate class basket.

- **Student Information form:** confidential and just for the teachers to help them get to know your child. *Please complete both sides.
- **Parent Helper Availability**
- **Phone consent**

EIPS Confidentiality form (for all volunteers) & Field Trip consent forms are now in an online format.



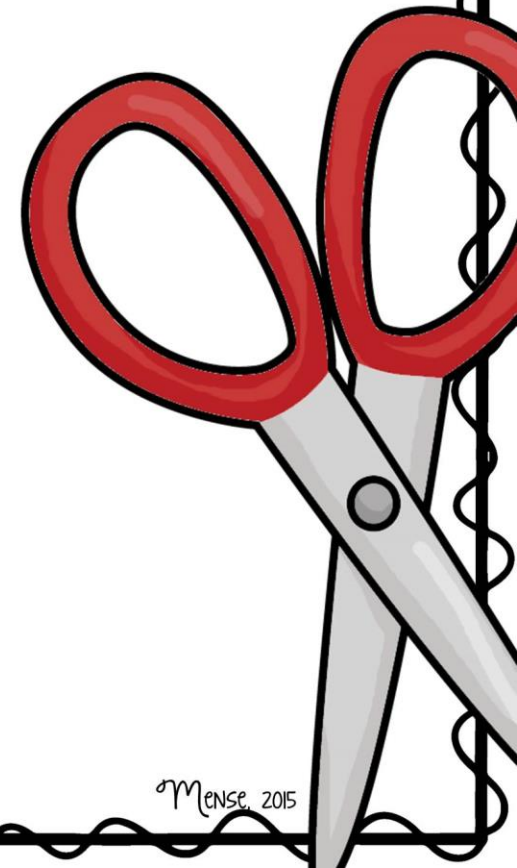
S u p p l i e s

All school supplies (pencils, crayons, glue, a binder, erasers, Kleenex etc.) are supplied through your school fees and have already been purchased.

The only things you need to supply are:

- ✓ LARGE sturdy backpack
- ✓ Extra full set of clothes in a Ziploc bag and labelled (socks, underwear, shirt, & pants)
- ✓ Lunch kit
- ✓ Indoor shoes (suitable for gym - velcro)

* Please ensure all items are labeled.



MEDICATION

If your child requires **medication at school** (inhaler, antibiotics, epi-pen), you are required to fill out a form in the school office.



SCA T-shirt

Students are asked to wear these shirts for special school events (ie. Terry Fox run, Jump Rope for Heart, Field trips).



If you would like to purchase a SCA t-shirt for your child (approx. \$20) you may do so through the Parent Portal.

(Purchase of SCA t-shirts is optional).

Chip Days

Kindergarten chip days do not always correspond with the rest of the elementary school.

*Please look at the kindergarten monthly calendar for dates.

Participation in chip days is optional although almost all students in kindergarten participate.



Chip Days

Preferred method: Order for the whole year at once.

Sign up for 'KINDERGARTEN CHIP DAYS' on the Healthy Hunger website (link on SCA Elementary website) until **September 27th.**

If you choose to order chips each month instead, please be sure to send chip money (\$1.00) in a labeled envelope/baggie in your child's file folder (not lunch kit).



Money

**When sending money to school,
please send it in a baggie/envelope
labeled with your child's name and
what the money is for
(ie/ Susan – Terry Fox Run \$2).**

**As with everything in Kindergarten,
labeling prevents confusion.**



Recess

Please take the time and encourage your child to practice putting on their outside clothes on their own. It really helps us!

- Remember to label your child's outerwear, so that we can easily get it back to its owner.
- Please no tie up shoes or zip boots.
- Buttons on coats (ex. jean jacket) are also difficult for kindergarten students to do on their own.
- Snow pants or splash pants are recommended to wear at recess to keep other clothing underneath dry.
- As it gets colder, remember to send warm outdoor clothes for your child every day (**especially a hat and mittens**).



Kindergarten Program

SCA follows the Alberta Curriculum that covers the following learning areas for Kindergarten:

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Physical Education and Wellness
- Social Studies
- Science
- Fine Arts

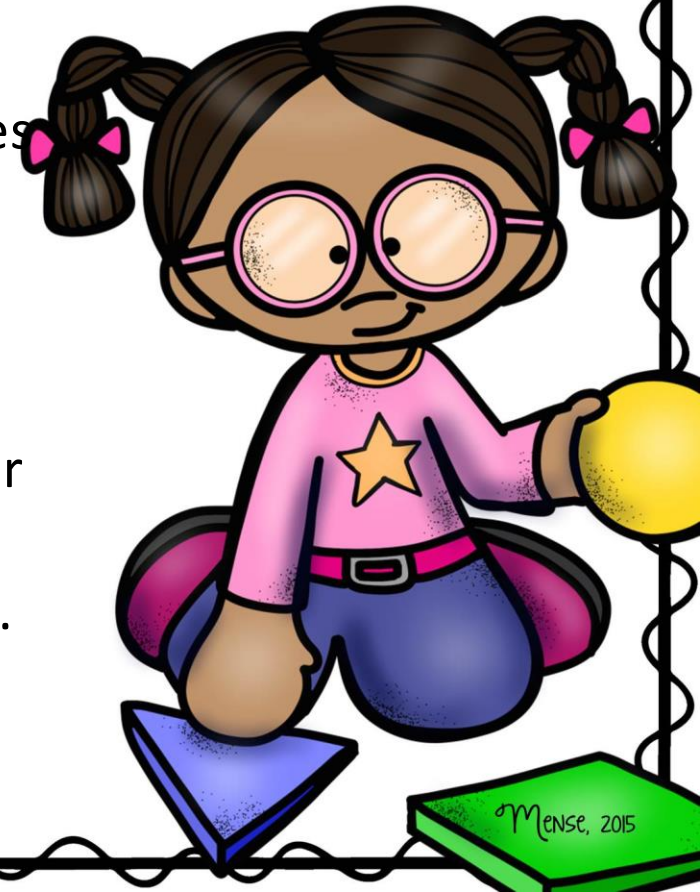


How Do Young Children Learn?

Young children are naturally curious and eager to learn. They are active learners who learn by doing, moving and talking.

Our classroom is set up in learning centers/stations. We carefully plan the activities in each center to develop skills and meet the needs of all the students in the class.

Remember your child will be participating in a variety of creative activities - ie. painting, water table, markers, sandbox, recess, lunch, etc. so comfortable casual clothes are the best option.



Spiritual Development

The mission of Strathcona Christian Academy Elementary School is to challenge students, through Christ-centered education, to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord in order to pursue a life of godly character, personal and academic excellence, and service to others.



- Monthly memory verses
- Bible lessons & activities
- Daily devotions & prayer time
- Whole school chapels

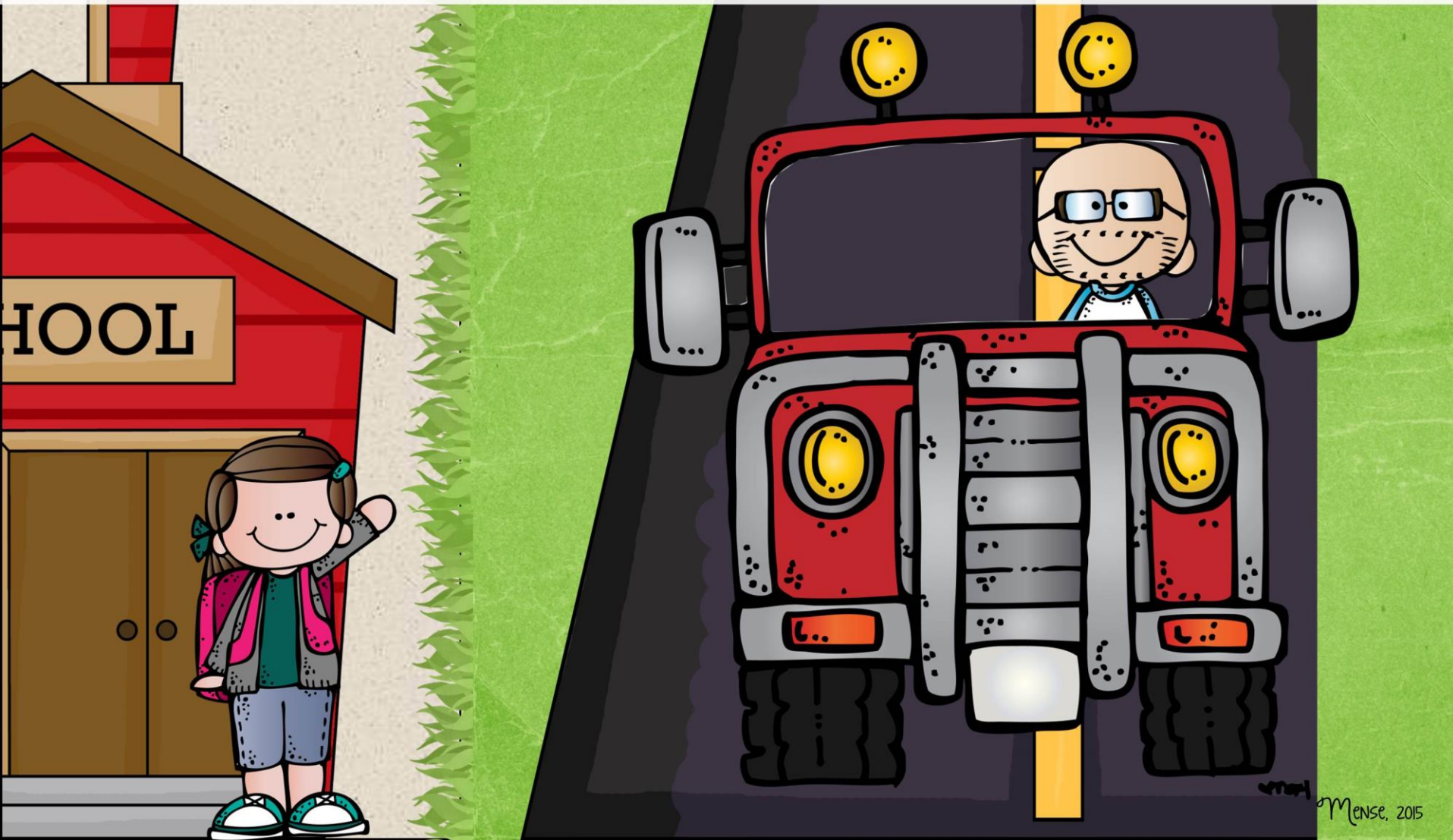
Report Card

Report cards reflect the progress your child has made toward various kindergarten objectives and uses a grading system that reflects the developmental nature of kindergarten learning.

- End of November: EYE-TA (paper copy)
- March: Progress Report (online)
- June: Final Kindergarten report card (online)
- Parent/Teacher interviews occur the end of November and end of March



ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL



ARRIVAL



- Entrances open at 8:20 am. Students will wait in the rotunda until they are dismissed to their class at 8:30 am.
- Kindergarten students will use only the main school doors for arrival and dismissal.
- Kindergarten hours of operation are 8:40 am - 3:15 pm.
- The bell rings at **8:40 a.m.** each morning, so students should arrive between 8:20 and 8:35 a.m. in order to unpack/undress & be ready to begin their day.
- Students arriving **before** 8:20 a.m. will need to wait outside the school with an older sibling/parent until SCA staff open the doors.



- Sometimes a student has difficulty separating from a parent... our experience has been that it's best to say a quick goodbye & let the staff assist the child into the school. Once busy in the classroom, he/she usually settles in well.
- If **dropping off items** for your child (lunch, jacket, etc.), these can be left with the front office staff & they'll be sure to get them to us.

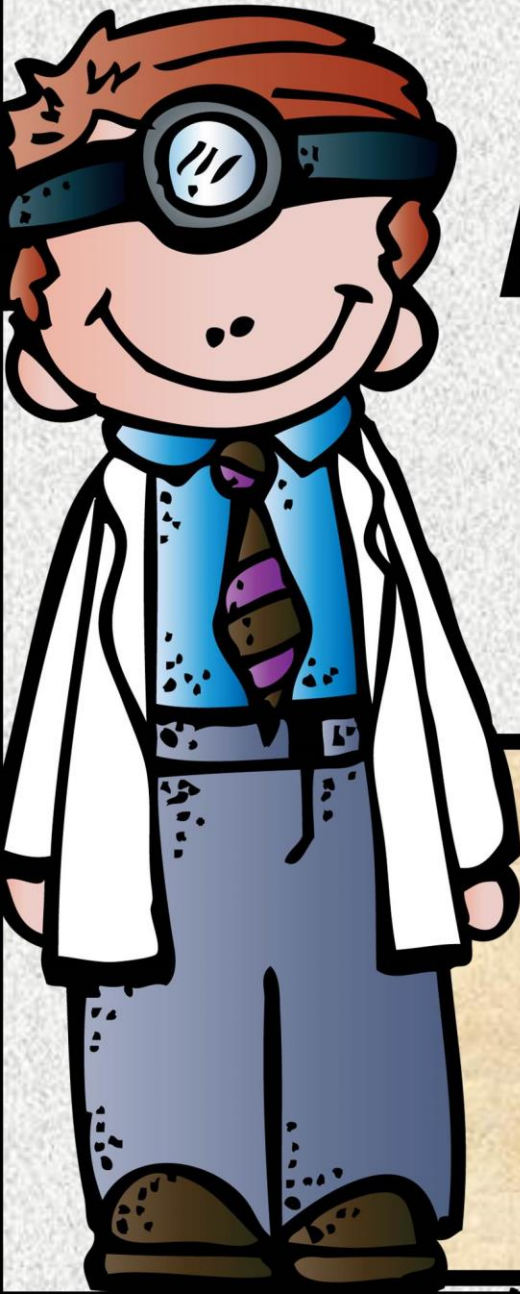
TARDY

To start our day in the best way:

- ❑ Students should arrive at school on time so that they have time to get ready, and do not miss out on activities.
- ❑ If your child is going to be **late**, please contact the school office to let them know.
- ❑ When he/she does arrive at school, please remind him/her to stop in at the office to get a late slip.



School **ATTENDANCE**



ABSENCES

Regular attendance is very important – even for Kindergarten! Social experiences with peers, hands on learning activities, & literacy, math & Bible concepts are difficult to replicate when there are excessive absences.

- Please refer to our **year calendar** as there are many dates to plan vacations when students won't miss school.
- If your child is **absent from school** for any reason, please notify the office (780-449-2787) by 8:30 a.m. If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent (an appointment, vacation, etc.), please notify us (note/email) as soon as possible.

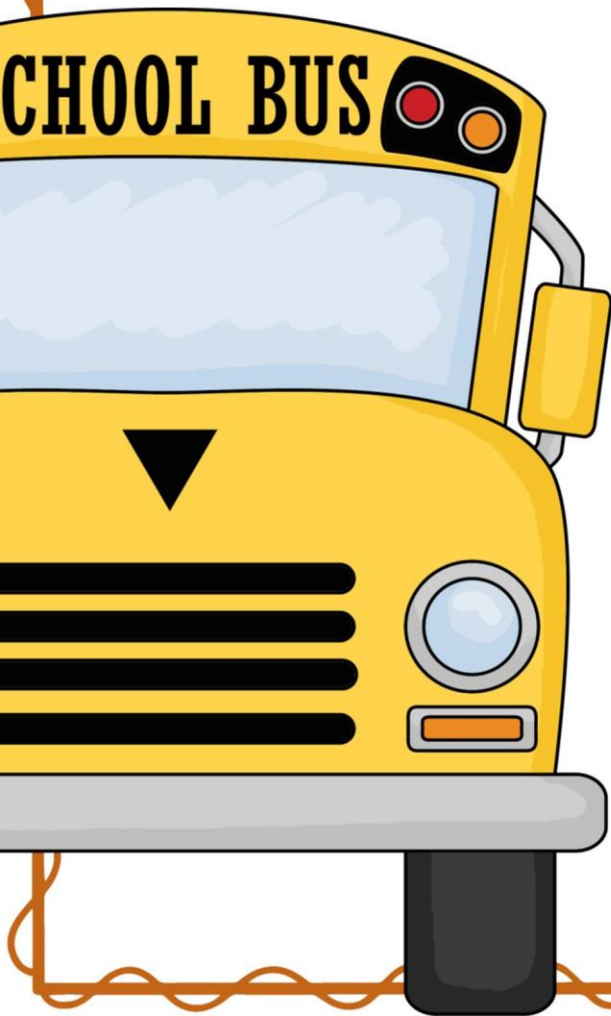


DISMISSAL

- School is dismissed for the day @ **3:15 p.m.**
- Sibling/Parent pick up - All children who are not bused to or from school will be dismissed from a designated area outside. No child is released unless an adult is present to pick him/her up. Older siblings may pick up kindergarten students, but they will need to exit with their class first, pick up their kindergarten sibling and then return to wait with their class. Please notify us if this will be a regular arrangement.
- Loop pick up (without an older sibling) –As students become familiar with the school setting, you can pick them up “in the loop” (they will be waiting outside with an adult supervisor).
- If you pick your child up, please be on time. Should a circumstance arise, please notify the school office that you will be late.



TRANSPORTATION



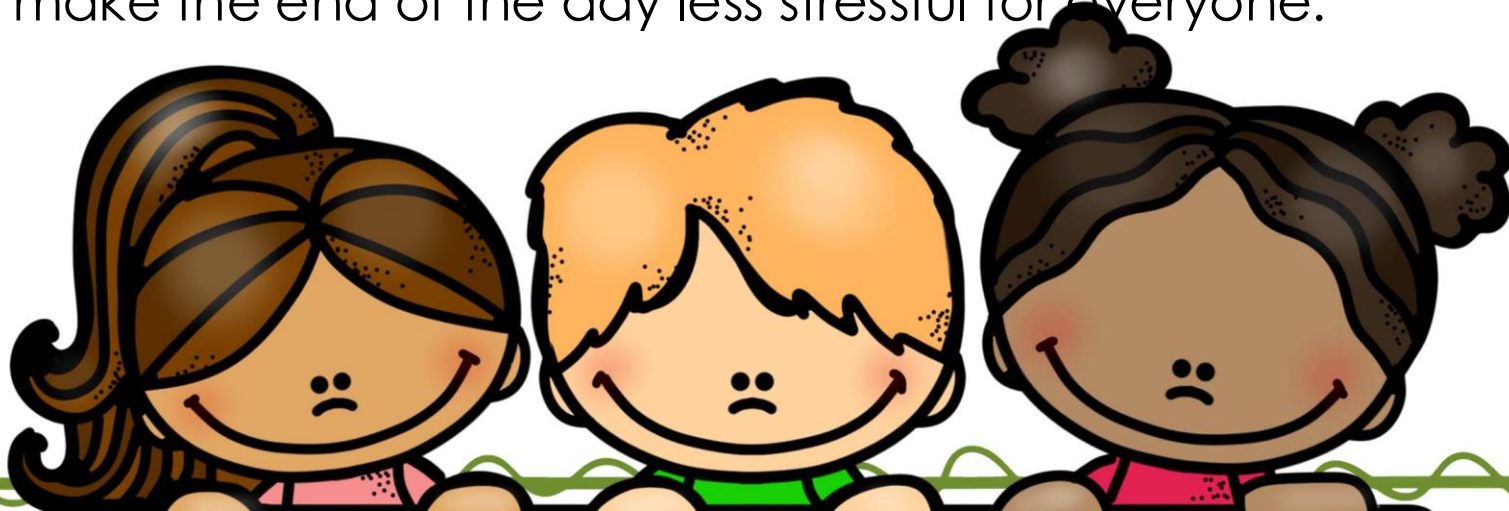
- Using the FREE shuttle bus to the secondary school is a great option if driving your child each day.
- We will be walking the Kindergarten students out and will assist them in finding their buses in the afternoon.
- Older siblings will meet them on the bus.
- If you plan to pick up a child who normally rides the bus, you must **send a written note!** If a written note/phone message is not received, your child will be sent home by his/her usual method of transportation.

End of School Day

If on any given day you wish to change the usual arrangements for your child's transportation home, PLEASE SEND A NOTE in your child's file folder.

** Without notice from YOU, your child will be sent home as previously arranged.**

- ❖ WE REQUIRE WRITTEN PERMISSION TO RELEASE YOUR CHILD TO ANYONE OTHER THAN A PARENT OR SIBLING.
- ❖ Students are easily confused by times and dates, so a written note with any changes to the regular home time routine will make the end of the day less stressful for everyone.



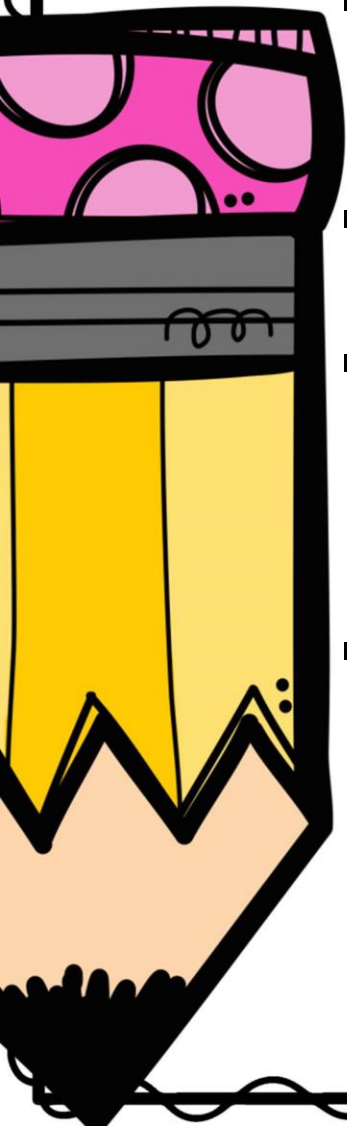
Keeping Healthy

- Students will wash/sanitize hands frequently throughout the day.
- It is important to keep your child home if he/she is ill. Resting at home is the best place to be when they are unwell.
- Should your child become ill during the school day, the school will contact you and request that you pick your child up.
- It is important that we have up to date contact information for each parent/guardian in your household. Information can be updated through your PowerSchool Parent Portal.



Calendars

- Each month you will receive a monthly calendar & newsletter. Please read these to keep well informed of what is happening in your child's classroom.
- The monthly & yearly calendar, newsletter, etc. are always available on our **teacher websites**.
- Kindergarten students will be attending some Fridays. Be sure to refer to the A/B/C/D yearly calendar and monthly calendar as to what Fridays your child attends during the year. They do not necessarily attend every other Friday!
- KA & KC classes - the first Wednesday of each month is **early dismissal**, where the whole school is dismissed at 2:15 p.m. Your child will be arriving home earlier on those days if bussed, and if picked up, will need to be picked up earlier.





SNACK

SNACK TIME

Your child will be choosing something quick & healthy out of their lunch kit to eat for snack – finger foods (cheese string, yogurt tube, piece of fruit, veggies, etc.). They can also take out their water bottle to drink from (juice boxes for LUNCH only).

We are a “nut aware” school, so your child should not have any food in their lunch or snack which contains nuts, nut products, or peanut butter.



Water Bottles



Please send a **NON-SPILL** water bottle to school each day.

Ensure that your child can open and close their bottle independently.

If needed, bottles can be refilled at the classroom sink.

Volunteer

Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 11:55 a.m.
(on specific days depending on class)



- Please be sure that you have filled out an EIPS volunteer form (online).
- Please be on time.
- Sign in at the office and get a volunteer lanyard.
- Please keep details about other students in the classroom confidential.
- Please dress for the weather as you will be going outside with the children to assist the recess supervisor. After recess, your volunteer time is complete.

Volunteer

Your helper days for the year will be assigned (based on the Parent Helper Availability form), and you will receive the yearly schedule by the end of September.

Grandparents are welcome to fill as a parent volunteer as well.

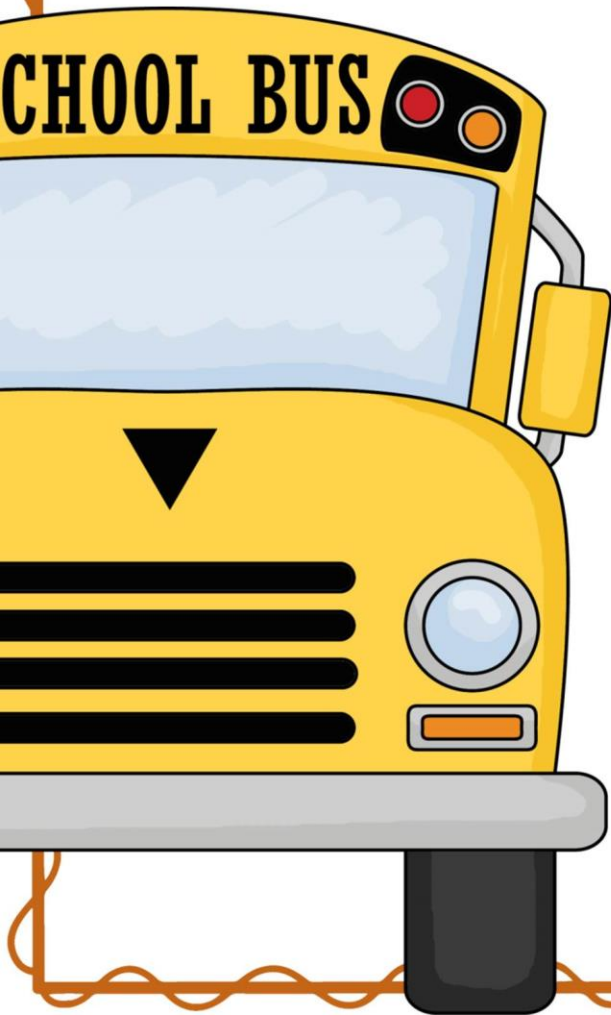
If your scheduled date does not work, you are welcome to switch with another parent in your class. PLEASE NOTIFY THE TEACHER OF ANY CHANGES.

As a reminder, your last name will be listed on the monthly calendar for the date you are parent helper.



FIELD TRIPS

We will be participating in a variety of curriculum related field trips throughout the year.



- Parent permission forms will be emailed to you approx. 4 weeks before the scheduled field trip.
- There will be opportunities for parents to sign up as a volunteer.
- As there may be more people volunteering for a particular field trip than we need, we will draw names and contact **only those parents assigned**. If you have not been contacted, you will be not needed for that field trip.

Cell Phones and Photos

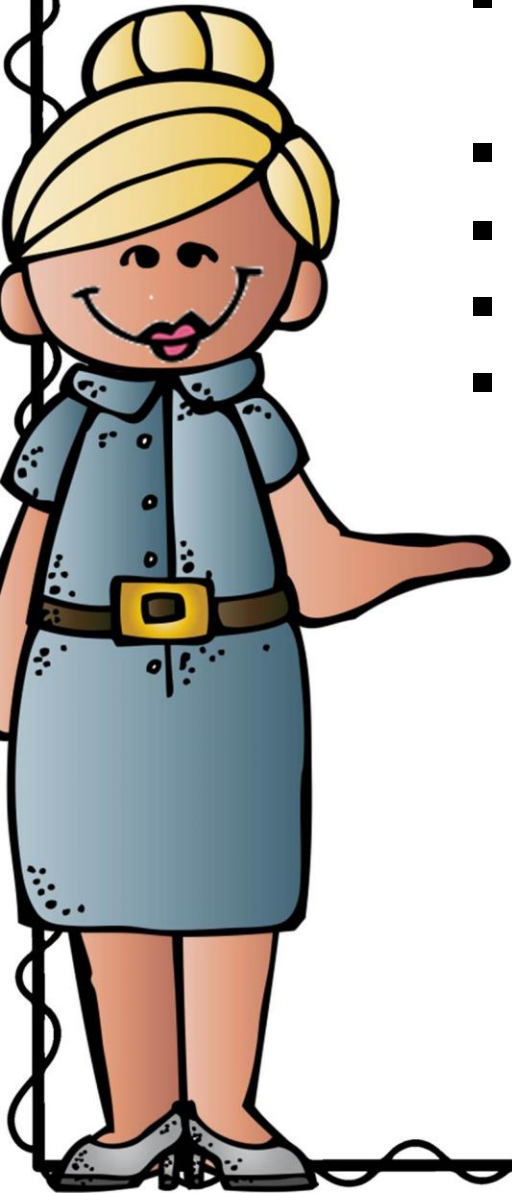
When volunteering in the classroom and on field trips, we ask that you put cell phones away and refrain from using them.



At school you are not allowed to take photos of other children (only your own).

IF you take photos in a public venue (field trips), we ask that you do not post ones that have other students in them on social media (ex. Facebook/Instagram, etc.)

We would like to introduce . .



- Mr. Fung – teaches Phys. Ed and ‘Social Studies’ to all Kindergarten classes.
- Mrs. Wielinga is our school librarian.
- Mrs. Tomkins is our SCA school counselor.
- Pastor Driedger is our campus pastor.
- In the course of the year, your child may be evaluated by a speech language pathologist (sound articulation, grammar, language concepts), or occupational therapist (fine motor skills, visual perception, etc.). You will receive notice of their visits and permission forms will be forwarded if more detailed intervention is warranted with your child.

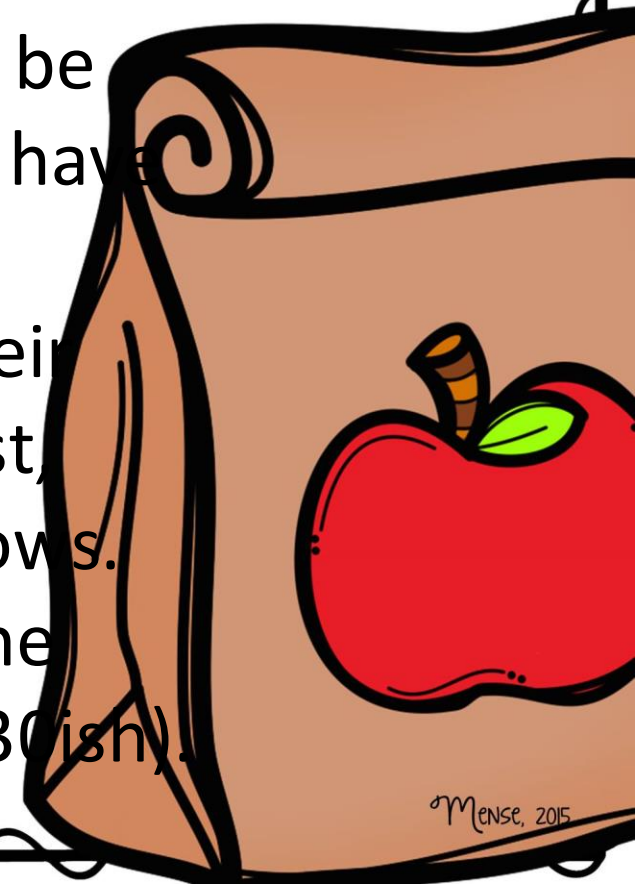
To ensure teaching your child in a nurturing and caring environment, please advise us if there are any changes in your child's normal routine, home situation, or behaviours.

Whenever there is a change in address or phone number please remember to update this information in PowerSchool.



Lunch

- ✓ Your child will need to bring a lunch each school day. Gauge your child's appetite and make their lunch accordingly.
- ✓ Lunch is a social time but needs to be balanced with eating the food they have been sent to eat.
- ✓ Students are encouraged to eat their sandwich & other healthy items first, & then 'a treat/dessert' as time allows.
- ✓ An SCA staff member supervises the lunch time (usually from 12:00-12:30ish).





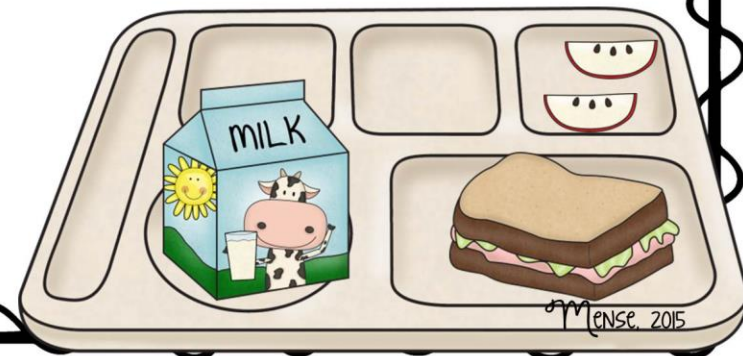
Hot Lunch



- Hot lunch occurs several times throughout the year.
- Ordering & payment information will be sent in an email from the school office.
- **Still send a morning snack on Hot Lunch Days!!!**
- Students not wishing to participate may bring their own lunch as usual.

Kindergarten does not need extra parent volunteers on Hot Lunch days.

Kindergarten Hot Lunch days DO NOT correspond with the rest of the elementary school. *Kindergarten Hot Lunch days will occur on Wednesday's/Thursday's.*



BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays will be recognized in class on the closest Kindergarten day to your child's birthday. We sing 'Happy Birthday' and your child receives a class card.

For a variety of reasons (allergies, food sensitivities, etc.), please do not send any food/items for your child's birthday.

August birthdays will be celebrated in September, and July birthdays in June.

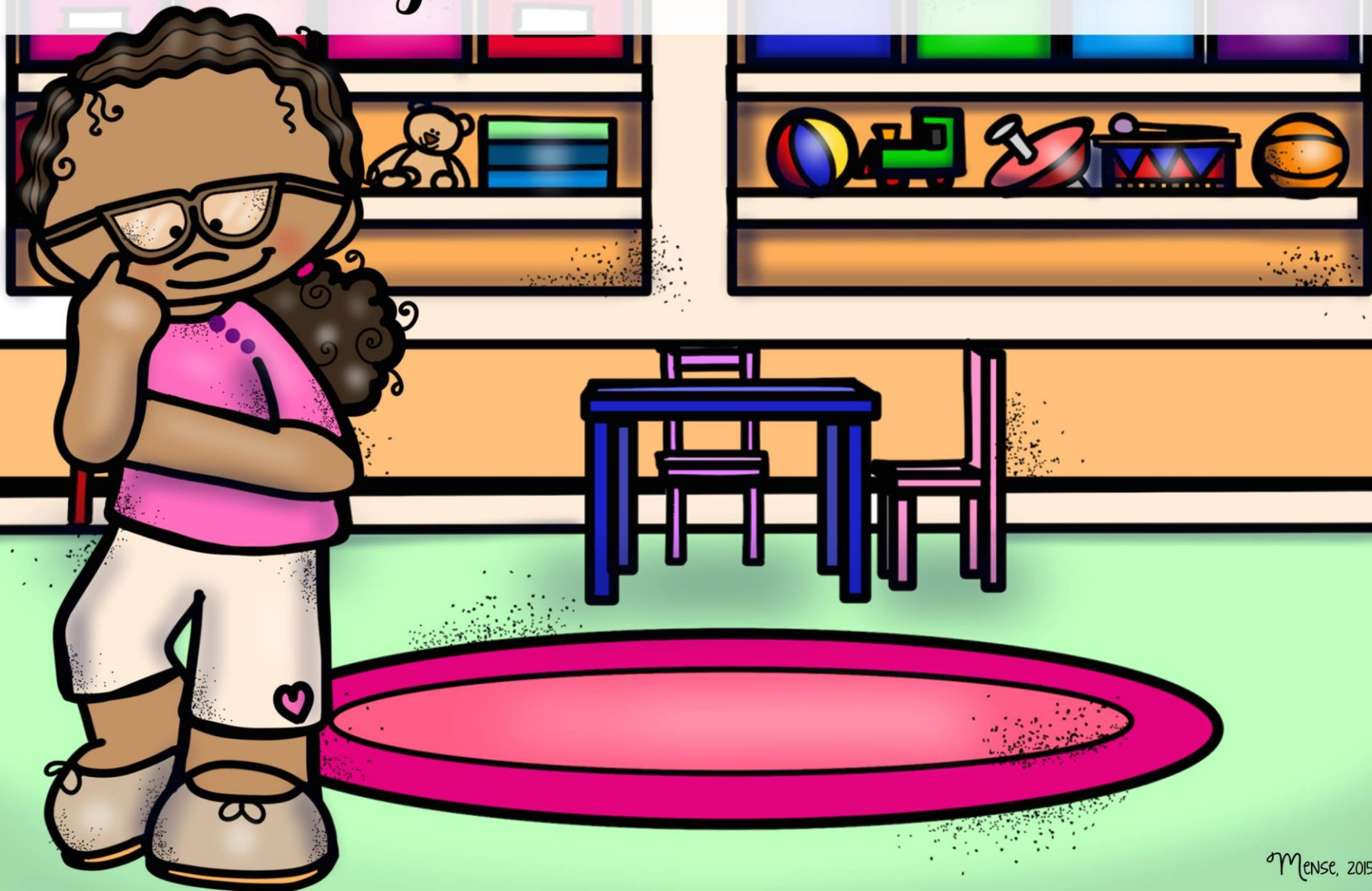


Please use discretion in handing out birthday invitations.

Feelings are easily hurt. Invitations can be sent to the teacher for distribution in file folders, or the class phone list is useful for this purpose.



Things to touch on...



Book Orders

Scholastic Book order forms will be sent home each month.
Participation is optional.

If ordering, please make sure to place your order by the date stamped on the flyer.

How to order:

- Go to scholastic.ca and submit your order and payment online.
- Books will be shipped to the classroom for free.



'God Made Me Unique' Posters

In the file folder is the poster paper and guidelines for you to help your child complete their first homework assignment.

- The kindergarten child should do the majority of the work (colouring, drawing, etc.)
- Do not include thick/3D items on the paper as they will be going into a page protector.
- **Please send in the completed posters by the end of October.**



Sharing/Show & Tell

Sharing gives the children an opportunity to speak in front of a group, listen to their peers and ask questions.

No one will be able to touch the item your child brings. They will be holding it up and talking about it.

- Sharing will begin later in the fall/winter.
- When sending items, remember your child is transporting it in their backpack, so fragile objects are not advised.
- There will be a schedule on the monthly calendar as to when your child's turn will be each month.



Parents in Partnership

This is a parent group that prays for our school and supports our families (meals or lunches for families in crisis, prayer team, teacher meals). If you have any questions or would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact the compassion coordinator Laura Volkman at jonlauravolkman@gmail.com

Praying Grandparents

A group of grandparents who meet monthly to pray for our staff, students & school. If there are grandparents who would like to be involved, please have them contact the office.





Website

School website:

<https://www.scaelementary.ca/>

Homeroom website:

- Information specific to kindergarten
- Class newsletter & calendar, Kindergarten schedule (Friday's), Orientation presentation
- Good parent resources
- Contact info and email

With the busy pace of kindergarten, we often do not get to check our emails until after school. If you have something urgent, please call the office.

Important Dates

September 9/10: Picture Day

September 18: Meet The Teacher Night for
Grades 1 – 6
(Orientation is considered
Kindergarten 'Meet the Teacher')

September 16 – 19: Terry Fox Run
1st event where we ask students
to wear their SCA t-shirts

October 24: Muffins with Mom

March 6: Father/Child Night

May 14th (KA/KC) and May 15th (KB/KD)
Grandparent's Day



The Old Women

We teachers are like the old woman who lived in a shoe.
We have so many children, we don't know what to do.
They all wear rubber boots, and rubber boots look the same
So every rubber boot should have a name.
Every sweater, every coat and all mittens too;
The following are some of the other things you can do.

Coats have buttons and zippers and ties.
So many to fasten, oh how the time flies.
Please spend a minute or so each night,
Showing your child how to fasten things tight.
Then I'll send them home with no clothes lost
All buttoned up safe from the snow and the frost.
And a great big THANKS will come to you
From the big happy family that lives in the shoe.

