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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Bienvenue/Welcome to École Sr. O’Brien School! Beginning Kindergarten is an exciting time for both child and parent, and I would like to sincerely welcome you to the school community. This handbook will provide you with an overview of the Kindergarten programming as well as provide some answers to frequently asked questions.

The staff at École Sr. O’Brien School strive to provide a Christian atmosphere of love, cooperation, and security in which students of all faith backgrounds are given the opportunity to grow and learn. We nurture faith and encourage excellence in learning, while inspiring students to serve others and make the world a better place. Offering all this in a French Immersion environment also provides students with unique experiences, challenges, and advantages.

Parents are an integral part of a child’s journey as a learner. We look forward to working with you to make this a most enjoyable and successful educational opportunity for your child. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

Mme Paula Fortier

Directrice/Principal

[pfortier@gscs.ca](mailto:pfortier@gscs.ca)

(306) 659-7481

**Kindergarten – A Perspective**

The first year in Kindergarten is an extremely important time in a child’s growth and development. Planning this program for the children requires the consideration of many factors.

-an understanding of child growth and development

-an appreciation of the individuality of each child

-a sensitive awareness of individual differences

-a knowledge of learning activities which are age appropriate

-the establishment of objectives that will help each child develop his/her abilities.

The Kindergarten program provides many opportunities for children to develop socially. Your child will continue the learning process already begun at home since birth. Learning to share, cooperate, be considerate toward others, follow directions, take care of belongings and develop new skills, coupled with being separated from parents for a large portion of the day, are but a few of the many facets of the challenges in Kindergarten.

The Kindergarten program introduces the child to the French language. For immersion students, learning a second language occurs in much the same way that your child learned the first one. Auditory and visual perceptions are the key factors in this process. At first, there may be some confusion, but with daily repetition and re-enforcement, the language learning process begins to take place.

Students are encouraged to live the language of instruction throughout the day. Comprehension of language is enhanced using pictures, gestures, songs and stories related to the vocabulary and concepts taught. Connections are constantly being made to previous experiences in the child’s life.

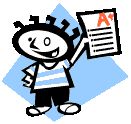
The Kindergarten program also provides for the basic needs of the child:

-to meet daily requirements for food and rest

-to gain acceptance and approval

-to obtain affection

-to have a sense of purpose (to help the child make healthy choices)

-to have a feeling of accomplishment and personal worth

**Kindergarten Program**

The following web outlines our Kindergarten program. It is with this program that we will answer the needs of your child through the following areas of curriculum.

The Kindergarten Experience:

ðenhances the early learning experiences of children

ðprovides pre-grade one experiences

ðassists understanding language of instruction before entering grade one

**Kindergarten Teachers Aim To:**

1. Assist the child in making transition from home and family to school.
2. Make the child feel secure as learner; having courage to try new things.
3. Guide the child in making decisions.
4. Use play and problem solving as learning processes.
5. Foster the development of a positive self-concept.
6. Provide a rich and stimulating environment for learning.
7. Foster the development of whole child –cognitive, affective, language and physical motor development.
8. Assist the child to begin to learn self-reliance and initiative, the ability to give and follow directions, to judge and control his/her impulses and to cope with failure.
9. Foster creative thinking, curiosity and self-direction.
10. Develop an appreciation of the aesthetics -art, music, literature, etc.
11. Foster the development of appropriate psycho-physical-motor and oral language experiences which are prerequisites or conditional to formal readiness for reading, writing and computational instruction.
12. Foster a love of learning at the very beginning of their school life.
13. Develop confidence with and enjoyment of the French language.

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**What Will Your Child do in Kindergarten**

Along with acquiring a second language if in immersion, your child will:

- experience the satisfaction of learning new skills and ideas

- get along with different adults

- work and play with other children

- share games, ideas and experiences

- express himself/herself in words, drawings, music and play

- care for himself/herself and personal belongings

- look at books and handle them with care

- listen

- follow directions

- print capital and small letters

- learn the alphabet and alphabet sounds

- recognize numbers and understand simple number concepts, patterning, geometry and measurement

- think of others, but also stand up for himself/herself

- develop good work habits

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**School Readiness**

Every child is unique. Each differs from others in ability to learn in speed of learning, and in the age at which specific ideas are learned. You can help your child be more fully prepared for Kindergarten by helping him/her with the following skills:

- recognize his/her printed name

- print his/her name

- know his/her last name

- know his/her address and phone number

- know his/her birthday

- follow simple directions

- listen quietly to stories

- take care of personal property

- care about personal cleanliness

- eat his/her food properly and quietly in one place

- take turns

- let others speak without interrupting

- respect the property of others

- bathroom skills and dressing skills

**Home & School Relationships**

1. **Roles and Responsibilities**

**The Teacher is Responsible To**:

* plan and organize activities to suit individual needs
* give assistance and encouragement
* help with a variety of on-going activities
* structure activities which allow the child to make discoveries
* create a friendly, accepting, supportive and relaxed atmosphere in which learning takes place
* keep parents informed about the academic and social progress of their child

**Parents Are Required To:**

* provide information regarding their child’s health and/or other problems
* always send two nutritional snacks and a lunch
* help their child learn personal information –first and last name, address, phone number and birthday
* take the time at home to review skills taught in school
* assist when possible with activities such as field trips or excursions
* clearly mark all their child’s clothing and personal belongings such as shoes, lunch bags, backpacks etc...
* inform the school before 9:00a.m. if their child will be late or absent via Edsby, there is an app you can get from the app store, or a website: [www.Edsby.ca](http://www.Edsby.ca) If you are having troubles with Edsby, let the Office Coordinator know and report your absent child for that day to the school: 306-659-7480

1. **School Organization C:\Users\Jeremy\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\U2PLDKHH\MC900056680[1].wmf**General information:

École Sister O’Brien

**Address:** 451 Silverwood Road, S7K 6G1

**Phone Number**: 306-659-7480

**Website**: www.gscs.ca/obr

**School Hours**: 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Lunch Hour**: 12:00 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.

**Recesses**: 10:15 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

1. C:\Users\Jeremy\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\Q1JSWCRG\MC900446120[1].wmf**Transportation**

The Greater Saskatoon Catholic School Board of Education provides transportation to students in the French Immersion program if you are 1.2 km away from the school. The company name is First Student Canada Ltd. and the contact number is 306-343-2125. You are responsible for transporting your child to school until you hear from the bus driver by phone. The bus driver will contact you prior to start, with pick up and drop off times as well as the bus drop location.

1. **Registration Fee**

A school registration fee is **not** collected for Kindergarten students.

However, we do collect a School Supply Fee of $25.00/student, collected at the beginning of September via cheque made out to École Sr. O’Brien school or cash. This is to cover the school supplies needed that the class will share.

1. **School Supplies for Kindergarten**

* lunch kit, indoor shoes (to stay at school), weather appropriate outdoor clothing, a change of clothes in case of accidents (to stay at school), a water bottle and a paint shirt.

1. **School Updates/communication**

School monthly updates are sent every first Tuesday of the month by School Messenger. Every week we update the Edsby River of News with all the info. needed for the week. Hard copies of the monthly update are provided for those families who do not have access to computer or internet technology. It is important to read the **school or classroom** newsletters/updates, as children may feel left out if they are not included in special days. At the beginning of the school year, your child will receive a Kindergarten calendar indicating which days your child is to be at school. Please note that Fridays do not alternate perfectly, sometimes your child may attend two Fridays in a row, and other months they may only attend on one Friday. This is based on the number of days needed for Kindergarten and due to STAT holidays, etc.

1. **Nut Alert School**

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE: École Sister O’Brien School is a “NUT ALERT SCHOOL” Please do not send anything that may contain nuts/products**

1. **C:\Users\Jeremy\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\U2PLDKHH\MC900434413[1].wmfPractical Hints:**
2. Label all your child’s clothing and personal belongings
3. Wake your child early enough to have a good breakfast
4. Keep the consumption of candy, potato chips and soft drinks at a low level.
5. C:\Users\Jeremy\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\IYP3YKAV\MM900283657[1].gifProvide your child with an adequate, nutritious lunch and include something for snack times.
6. Keep your child home if he/she shows signs of possible illness such as sore throat, chills, skin rash, coughing, fever, etc.
7. Make the teacher aware of emotional upsets which originate at home.
8. Discuss with the teacher any medical problems your child has.
9. C:\Users\Jeremy\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\U2PLDKHH\MC900446070[1].wmfThe Public Health Nurse assigned to our school is responsible for vaccinations in the middle year’s grade levels. Please see your family doctor for health/medical issues.
10. Input your child’s absence via Edsby:

there is an app *or* website: [www.edsby.ca](http://www.edsby.ca)

Please notify us when your child is absent for any reason. Using Edsby will notify the school, if you would like to also notify the teacher, you may do so.

1. **Questions You May Have**

**Q:** What is the best way to get in touch with the teacher if the need should arise?

**A:** Please phone the school: (306) 659-7480 and leave a message with the Office Coordinator for the teacher to call back when he/she can or try to call outside of class hours. However, if there is an urgent need to get in touch with the teacher during class hours, the Office Coordinator would be able to contact the teacher in the classroom.

**Q:** What steps are taken if my child becomes sick while at school?

**A:** The school via the Teacher or Office Coordinator will attempt to first contact the parent/guardian at home or at work, then the child’s babysitter or emergency contact person. The child can lie down in the nurse’s room located across from the main office until someone can come and get him/her. If we are unable to contact someone and the child must go to the hospital, a teacher or staff member will stay with the child until someone is contacted.

**Q:** If I am planning to take my child out of school for part of the day or for an extended vacation, who should I contact?

**A:** Edsby is your first resource, if you enter it on there, both the Office Coordinator and the Teacher will be notified. Otherwise, both the teacher and Office Coordinator need to be notified via phone or email if the child is to be taken out for part of the day or for lunch or recess. For an extended absence, the Principal and Office Coordinator should be notified.

**Q:** If I or someone I designate is to pick up my child at the end of the day instead of the child going on the bus as usual, who should I notify?

**A:** If your child is not going home by bus as usual, the teacher and the bus driver must be notified by phone or note.

**Q:** What time is the lunch time routine?

**A:** Lunchtime begins at 12:00 p.m. and the children go immediately outdoors for recreation. At 12:25 a bell rings for students to come back into school. They eat lunch from 12:25 to 12:45.

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**Q:** Are the children supervised at lunch time?

**A:** Yes, there is adult supervision in the hallways while the children have their lunch. We also students from an older grade are assigned to help in the classroom at this time.

**Q:** Are parents welcomed to volunteer their time in Kindergarten?

**A:** Yes, help is always needed to:

**-**supervised students during centers while the teachers work one on one

**-**help with some classroom duties such as photocopying, coloring, cutting, etc...

**-**wash toys at the end of the school year

**-**check in library books

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at any time: (306) 659–7480

Mme Fortier - Principal