



École Holy Mary School Website:
www.gscs.ca/HMA

Welcome to École Holy Mary School

KINDERGARTEN

All I Really

Need to Know...



I Learned in
Kindergarten!

Notes:

Kindergarten at a Glance:

- ✓ Religion
- ✓ Creative Expression
- ✓ Early Literacy
- ✓ Physical Skills and Well Being
- ✓ Personal and Social Responsibility
- ✓ Environment and Community Awareness
- ✓ Early Numeracy
- ✓ Citizenship and Identity
- ✓ Information and Communication Technology



Principles of Early Learning:

- ✓ Children are viewed as competent learners.
- ✓ Development and learning are holistic.
- ✓ Relationships are opportunities.
- ✓ Environments are stimulating and dynamic.

Additional Features of École Holy Mary School

- Regular Masses/Liturgies
- Active Community School Council and Community involvement
- Band for Grade 6 - 8
- House Leagues
- Yearly student retreat
- Supervised lunch break
- Christmas/Advent Celebrations
- Advent/Lenten Social Justice Initiatives
- Library, Gymnasiums, Creative Playground
- Shared Childcare
- Before and After School Program
- Hot Lunch Days
- Grade 8 Farewell Programs
- Extra curricular teams for senior students
- Track and Field (Indoor and Outdoor)
- Cross Country
- Choir
- Class Field Trips
- Technology rich environment
- Smart Boards in all classrooms
- Mobile Computer Lab - Netbooks and iPads
- Sound Field Systems
- Wireless Internet
- Student Leadership opportunities
- Daily Student Led Prayer
- Digital Portfolios
- Daily E-mail Reminders
- Program for Emergency Messages
- Bussing from Martensville/Warman

Emergencies

If your child becomes ill at school and needs to be sent home, you will be contacted immediately. Please assist us in looking after your child when sick, or in an emergency, by providing us with a phone number of an emergency contact we call if you cannot be reached. Please keep the office up to date with any changes.

Absent or Late Students

Punctuality and regular attendance are important for successful learning and for establishing good habits. If, however, your child is going to be late or absent, please use a system called **Edsby**. If you haven't reported your child as absent, you will be receiving an automated call stating that your child is not at school.

EDSBY: How we will communicate with each other

In order to keep you informed as to what is happening in the classroom, our teachers will be using an App called Edsby. Edsby is a next generation K-12 learning management system (LMS) with the broadest set of capabilities available in a single app for K-12. In addition to communicating with teachers, you can:

- Communicating Your Child's Absence - Parents/guardians can easily submit an absence for their child using their smartphone and the Edsby app.
- Booking Your Three-Way Conference - When it is time for three-way conferences, parents/guardians will receive the schedule in their Edsby mailbox. Parents/guardians will be able to schedule and easily change or remove bookings.
- Viewing Your Child's Progress Report Online - Once the school has submitted the progress reports online, parents/guardians will have access to view the report within Edsby.

Staggered Start/Small Group Orientation

At the beginning of the school year, children entering kindergarten are given a staggered start to the kindergarten experience by coming to school in small groups. This helps minimize their anxiety and allows the students to start bonding with the teacher and classmates in a smaller setting. Parents will be notified with their scheduled date and time.

Full Day - Alternate Day Kindergarten Program

Kindergarten at École Holy Mary School is offered Monday, Wednesday and scheduled Fridays or Tuesday, Thursday, scheduled Fridays. If our kindergarten numbers allow us to, we will have 2 classes and then we will be able to offer both options.

Coming to School

Separation anxiety is a real emotion; it is best handled early on. Feel free to walk the children into the classroom and help her/him to sign in. It is then easier if you say goodbye and allow them to play and interact with their classmates. You, of course, know your child best and know what works best for him/her. Sometimes it helps if they have a small possession of yours to keep in their backpack - they're holding it for you and you'll come at the end of school time to get them and your item.

Health & Communicable Diseases

If your child has any medical problems, it is of utmost importance that the teacher be notified of this on the first day of school. By knowing a child's situation, a teacher can take a helpful approach to the child. Please advise the teacher of all allergies as well as the beginning and conclusion of any medications prescribed by doctors.

Evaluation & Progress Reports

Evaluation of students' progress is an ongoing process and an important part of learning. The process will be as follows:

1. **Meet the Staff** - in September
At this time, you have the opportunity to visit with other families and meet the school staff.
2. **Three-Way Conference** - November
You will be invited to join your child for a visit to discuss their progress.
3. **Progress Report** - March
You will receive a formal written report on your child's progress in three developmental areas: Social-Emotional Development, Physical Development, and Academic Development.
4. **Three-Way Conference** - March
The child, parents and teacher meet to discuss student progress.
5. **Progress Report** - End of June
Student progress as seen throughout the year is communicated to the parents through the same formal report as used in March.

This will be supplemented by informal communication between the teacher and parents/guardians in the form of monthly newsletters, phone calls, notes to parents/guardians, samples of work sent home, etc. A portfolio with a collection of work will be created throughout the year.

What are Children Learning in Kindergarten?

People who have not thought much about it sometimes underestimate the importance of the kindergarten year. They say, in essence, "It is only play; this is a year before 'real' school begins." "Just play" is real work and real listening.

But we know the tremendous value of play as a small child's way of learning. A child starting school has never worked in the ordinary sense of the word, yet he has learned more during the first five years of "just play" than he may in any comparable period of his life. Actually, he has worked hard during these early years. Anyone knows this who has watched him try to master something - toiling up and down stairs, beginning to use a spoon or fork to feed himself, scanning the pages of his first books and "reading" the pictures, trying to dress himself.

It is the same in kindergarten. What looks like "just play" is serious work, for the beginner, and properly guided, produces important learnings.

Further, we must not think of the activities of the kindergarten as "just play" for young children, to be left behind when they go into the first grade. If we could look into the future of the child nailing the two bits of wood together to make a boat, we might see him in adult years at a tool bench in the basement using his leisure hours fruitfully, or building a house, or using the tools of the architect. We might see the little group playing out the trip to the airport, putting on the polished product of the high school drama club, or in adulthood participating in the community dramatic activities, or enjoying the theatre as appreciative consumers. Every activity of kindergarten worth having there should continue (in greater complexity and depth) throughout the elementary and high school years.



Children learn through:

Creative Activity

Children like to make things. Some of the materials used are: crayons, paper, clay, plasticene, scissors, construction toys, musical instruments, poster paint, starch paint, finger paint, wood, blocks, paste, and puzzles. Through the use of these materials, children have opportunities to:

- ☑ work alone and with others
- ☑ make hands and mind work together
- ☑ finish what they start
- ☑ respect the rights and properties of others
- ☑ practice good work habits, such as care and replacement of materials

Through these experiences, children find satisfaction in achievement.

Conversation & Discussion

- ☑ to express their own ideas
- ☑ to listen while others speak
- ☑ to appreciate the ideas of others

Books, Stories, Poetry, & Pictures

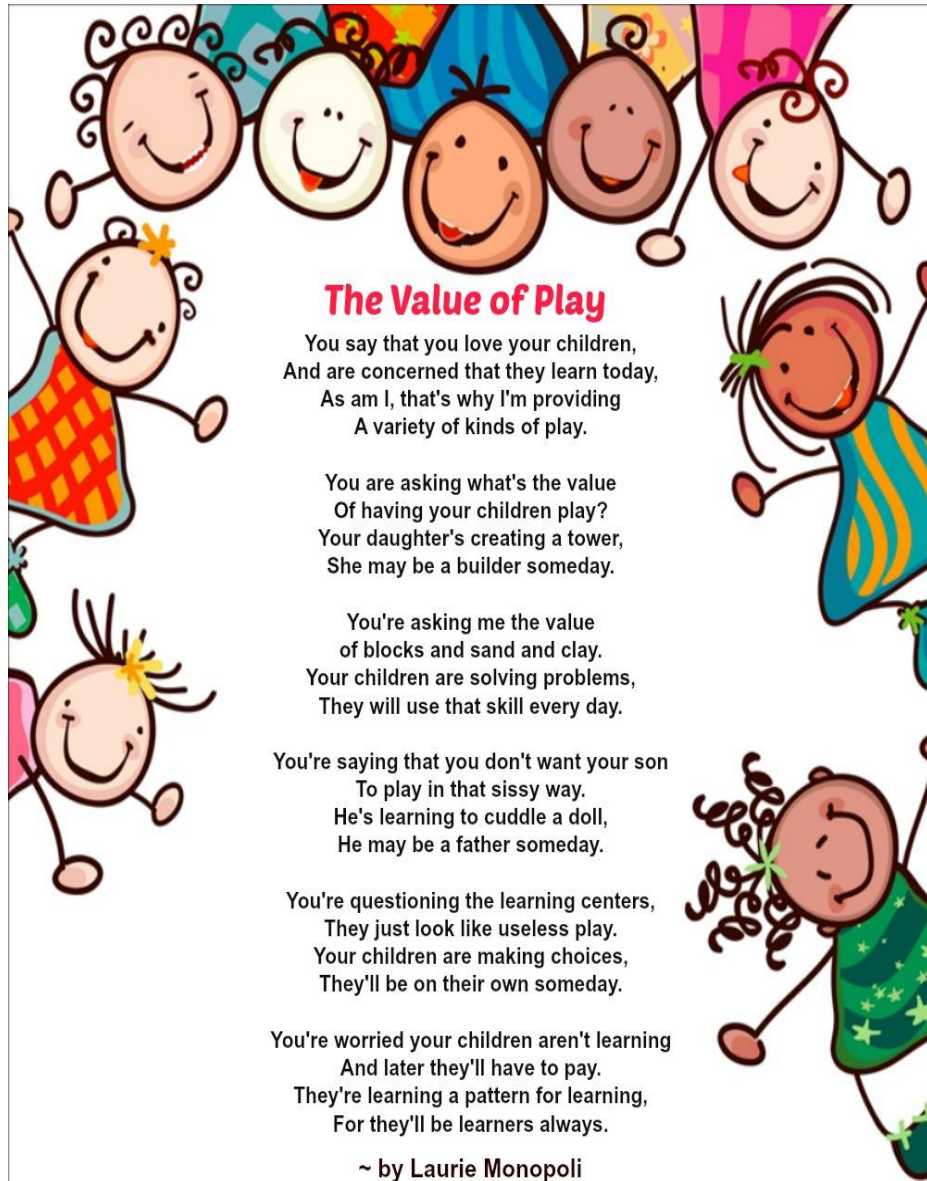
- ☑ to develop power in language
- ☑ to increase vocabulary
- ☑ to overcome shyness

Dramatic Play & Dramatization

- ☑ to make experiences and new words meaningful
- ☑ to share
- ☑ to play

Help your child Get Ready for Kindergarten

- ✓ Read to your child every day and recite traditional verses and stories. Children need to hear the rhythm of language and they benefit from repeating the same stories and verses over and over again. If parents value literature, children usually will too,
- ✓ Provide writing tools and paper for your child and encourage him/her to "write" lists, thank you notes, stories, etc.
- ✓ Help your child explore their environment by taking him/her to libraries, stores, zoos, farms, lakes, museums, art galleries and parks. These outings are great opportunities to talk to your child about what they see, hear, smell and feel. It will help provide valuable background experiences that will help to expand children's horizons and enhance further learning.
- ✓ Practise counting things in your environment. Children love to sort, categorize and label their environments. For example; find things that are red or things that have four corners.
- ✓ Take many opportunities to manipulate objects and work with the small muscles in the hands (play in play dough, dig in sand, measure, pour cooking ingredients, etc.)
- ✓ Allow plenty of opportunities for imaginative play. Play is your child's work. It provides children with the opportunities to construct knowledge as they create and test theories, practise their skills and make sense of the world around them.
- ✓ Practise saying his/her first and last name.
- ✓ Teach your child how to print his/her name with only the first letter capitalized.
- ✓ Allow your child to dress himself/herself.
- ✓ Practise putting on and taking off outerwear, including shoes.
- ✓ Practise doing and undoing fasteners.
- ✓ Allow your child to become independent in toileting and washing and drying hands.



The Value of Play

You say that you love your children,
And are concerned that they learn today,
As am I, that's why I'm providing
A variety of kinds of play.

You are asking what's the value
Of having your children play?
Your daughter's creating a tower,
She may be a builder someday.

You're asking me the value
Of blocks and sand and clay.
Your children are solving problems,
They will use that skill every day.

You're saying that you don't want your son
To play in that sissy way.
He's learning to cuddle a doll,
He may be a father someday.

You're questioning the learning centers,
They just look like useless play.
Your children are making choices,
They'll be on their own someday.

You're worried your children aren't learning
And later they'll have to pay.
They're learning a pattern for learning,
For they'll be learners always.

~ by Laurie Monopoli

Children are Competent & Capable Learners.



We encourage young children to explore,
discover and wonder about the world around
them. We want to foster a love of learning
that will engage children in their
understanding of new found knowledge.