

# Power Glen Public School

District School Board of Niagara



# Welcome to Year 1 (JK) Kindergarten

Welcome to Kindergarten at Power Glen Public School. We are very pleased and excited to welcome you to our school. Kindergarten is the gateway through which your child enters the elementary school experience.

The Kindergarten Program is a child-centered, developmentally appropriate, integrated, extended day program of learning for children. The purpose of the program is to establish a strong foundation for learning in the early years, and to do so in a safe and caring play-based environment that promotes the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of all children.

The primary goals of the Kindergarten program are:

- to establish a strong foundation for learning in the early years
- to help children make a smooth transition from home, child care, or preschool settings to school settings
- to allow children to reap the many proven benefits of learning through relationships, through play and inquiry
- to set children on a path of lifelong learning and nurture competencies that they will need to thrive in the world of today and tomorrow.

Also, the Kindergarten Program

- supports the creation of a learning environment that allows all children to feel comfortable in applying their unique ways of thinking and learning;
- is built around expectations that are challenging but attainable;
- is flexible enough to respond to individual differences;
- provides every child with the kind of support he/she needs in order to develop: self-regulation; health, well-being, and a sense of security; emotional and social competence; curiosity, creativity and confidence in learning; respect for diversity; and supports engagement and ongoing dialogue with families about their children's learning and development.

Our vision and goals of the Kindergarten program are about achieving excellence, ensuring equity, and promoting well-being.

We welcome you and your family to our Power Glen Community and encourage you to become involved in your child's learning.

Excerpts taken from "The Kindergarten Program" Ministry of Education document.



This booklet is designed to give you an overview of the Kindergarten Program and specifically to let you know what the routines and expectations for the children will be.

### THE FOUR FRAMES OF THE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM...

In the Kindergarten program, four "frames", or broad areas of learning, are used to structure thinking about learning and assessment. The frames - Belonging and Contributing, Self-Regulation and Well-Being, Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviour, and Problem Solving and Innovating - are designed to support an approach that aligns with the way children's learning naturally occurs and that focuses on aspects of learning that are critical to young children's development. The frames reflect the integrated way in which learning occurs during children's play and inquiry in Kindergarten.

### HOW CAN YOU TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT ENTERING KINDERGARTEN...

- Communicate to your child the idea that coming to school is a normal part of life.
- Help your child to understand when they will be starting by showing them a calendar and help them to develop a sense of time.
- Answer questions honestly (e.g., "Yes, you will be staying all morning or afternoon!").
- Encourage your child by letting them know about the fun things they will do at school (e.g., play in the sand, paint pictures, have stories read to them, etc.)
- Refrain from telling your child how much you will miss them, but instead let him or her know how proud you are of him/her going to school and that you will be looking forward to hearing about the fun things he or she did at school.
- Allow your child some control (e.g., choice of clothing). Help him/her dress independently and teach him/her how to care for him/herself (washroom habits, washing hands, eating properly, etc.) Give clear instructions and be consistent in routines. Acknowledge his/her efforts.

### ATTENDANCE...

At District School Board of Niagara, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring that all our students arrive safely at school each day.

To enhance our existing absence-checking procedure, we have a *new, more efficient* student absence reporting system called **SafeArrival**. This new system will reduce the time it takes to verify student attendance, make it easy for you to report your child's absence and easy for staff to respond to unexplained student absences.

With **SafeArrival**, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these 3 convenient methods:

1. Using your mobile device, download and install the **SchoolMessenger** app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store (or from the links at

<https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>). The first time you use the app, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.

2. Use the SafeArrival website, at <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select **Sign Up** to create your account. Select **Attendance** then **Report an Absence**.
3. Call the toll-free number 1-866-606-5567 to report an absence using the automated phone system.

**These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. Future absences can be reported at any time.**

SafeArrival app will have a number of benefits for both parents/guardians and staff. It is quick, convenient and will allow you to report daily absences as well as schedule future absences for your children for medical appointments and other important events in your lives. Using SafeArrival, you will be able to update your contact information easily, should it change. SafeArrival will also reduce the amount of staff time dedicated to tracking student absences, allowing them to spend more time supporting students.

In addition, we will use the **SchoolMessenger Communicate** automated notification system to contact parents/guardians whose child is absent when the absence was not reported in advance. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents/guardians at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

**If you report your child's absence in advance using the SafeArrival toll-free number, website or mobile app, you will NOT receive these notifications.**

### **ENTRY...**

When bringing your child to school, please drop him/her off on the tarmac area inside the Primary Gate (north end of yard). The children will gather on the yard with teachers on duty. The Kindergarten teachers will meet the children on the tarmac to admit them at 8:40 a.m. If you wish to discuss your child's progress with the teacher, please make an appointment as the teachers are required to closely supervise their students at entry and dismissal times. This is in the interest and safety of all the Kindergarten students.

Bus students will be greeted by a teacher when the bus arrives.

### **DISMISSAL...**

The children will be dismissed at 3:00 p.m. Please remain outside the Kindergarten gate (on the tarmac area) in order for the children to be dismissed in an orderly

fashion. Please be punctual if you are picking up your child. Bus students are escorted to the bus.

If there is a change in arrangements at dismissal time, whether a pick up or transportation change. PLEASE SEND A NOTE TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER IN THEIR MAILBAG PROVIDED. We encourage home to check mailbags daily for notes (at school we check daily).

### **PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF BUS STUDENTS...**

It is the parent/guardian's responsibility, or an adult designate, to remain at the bus stop with their child until they are safely on the bus.

Please do not leave your child unattended while waiting for the bus.

Parents/ Guardians must meet their children at the bus stop. Bus drivers will only drop off students at their designated stop. A Parent or a designated adult **MUST** meet your child. If you or your designate are not visible to the driver at the bus stop, your child will be returned to the school and it will be your responsibility to pick them up in a timely fashion. This is very upsetting for children. Please make every effort to meet the school bus at the designated stop.



### **CLOTHING LABELS...**

Please make sure that every article of clothing your child will remove while at school is labelled (e.g., boots, jackets, shoes, backpacks, sweaters, etc.). We do have a lost and found box should something be misplaced.

### **SHOES...**

Your child will be taking part in a regular physical education program or playing at the park. Children must have running shoes to participate in these classes and no sandals on the playground equipment. This is a safety precaution to prevent slipping on the gym floor or playground climber. It is requested that a pair be left in your child's cubby at school. Slip-ons or Velcro fasteners are preferred as your child will be putting on their own shoes independently.



### **OUTDOOR PLAY...**

During the school year, we will be going outdoors for play. Please be sure that your child wears suitable clothing for the weather whether it is fall, winter or spring. Please buy boots big enough so your child can handle them and with the simplest kind of fastening. Children are expected to dress themselves. Again, all clothing brought to school should be marked with your child's name so it can be identified and returned.



### TOYS...

Personal toys are NOT permitted at school because they often become broken or misplaced. We are NOT responsible for lost or broken items if your child brings his/her toys to school.

### SNACKS...

Please send a nutritious snack and lunch to school with your child each day as your child will be following the balanced day with 2 nutrition breaks and fitness breaks a day. We are a heart healthy school and encourage you to send in fruit, vegetables and other nutritious snacks. Sugary snacks are strongly discouraged. Please be advised that we have several students with severe nut allergies in our school.

Please do not send any nuts, nut products or any food item that may contain traces of nuts to school with your child.

### COMMUNICATION...

Open communication between home and school is encouraged. Classroom calendars and monthly news and documentation of learning will be posted on each classroom's D2L website at <http://www.dsbm.edu.on.ca/elearning/> Your password will be available Mid September.

If at any time you wish to discuss something regarding your child, please feel free to contact the classroom teacher through the email option at the D2L website. The school also has a regularly updated website at <http://www.dsbm.org/Schools/Powerglen/> which includes a calendar of events and monthly newsletters. Your child's teacher is happy to meet with you at a time that is convenient for all parties involved.

### For September, please bring...

- Family photo
- Indoor running shoes
- Suggested supply list: box of tissues, pencil crayons, markers, glue sticks, scotch and masking tape
- Change of clothes (labelled)
- Large backpack

### Entry into School...

Year 1 Junior Kindergarten students are admitted on a gradual entry schedule. This allows us to provide more attention to your child on the first day. **Year 1 (JK) students begin on Tuesday, September 3, 2019** for a determined time-period of **either 8:40- 10:40 a.m. or 11-1 p.m.** Your child will be informed of this specific time through a letter in the mail the beginning of July.

