Bonjour! We would like to welcome you and your child to Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) at McCallum. As you and your child prepare for school, you may find the following recommendations helpful.

**Self-help skills**

As you can imagine, Kindergarten classrooms are very busy. Please reinforce the following self-help skills at home:

\*Independent toileting and proper hand washing. For boys who have not had a lot of experience with public washrooms, it is often helpful to explain proper use of a urinal as well.

\*How to put on, take off and fasten shoes and clothing items

\*How to put on, take off and open/close his/her lunch bag and backpack

\*How to open food/drink items (e.g., using small scissors to cut open fruit snacks, opening the straw on a juice box, opening the lid on a pudding or fruit cup)

**All JK and SK students will need:**

**Emergency Clothing:** Please send a spare set of clothing (Shirt, pants, underwear, and socks) in case of a toilet, puddle, spill or paint accident. Please place them in a large plastic Ziploc bag. Label the bag as well as each item with your child’s first and last name.

**Footwear:**  Please send a pair of running shoes to be kept at school for indoor use. Your child should be able to put on and remove these shoes independently. **Please make sure that your child’s name or initials are marked on his/her shoes**

**Backpack:** Please send your child to school with a backpack large enough to hold his/her lunch bag and anything else he/she may need to transport home, such as library books and the mailbag. Please keep in mind when making this purchase that the bag should be practical, easy for your child to put on and take off, and open and close. The bag should be labelled with your child’s name on the inside. No rolling backpacks please. They are a safety hazard when the children are in line.

**Label all personal belongings:** Please ensure your child’s coats, hats, shoes, backpack, sweaters, lunch bag and anything else sent to school is labelled with his/her name.

**Lunch and Snacks**

The schedule will allow for an A.M snack, a lunch, and a P.M snack. When packing your child’s lunch, please take time to label the food items and/or drinks ahead of time. This ensures that he/she is not over-eating earlier in the day or running out of food later in the day. Allowing your child to participate in the planning will allow him/her to be more independent throughout the school day.

**A.M snacks/drinks** should be labelled with **#1**

**Lunch foods/drinks** should be labelled with **#2**

**P.M Snacks/drinks** should be labelled with **#3**

Please send **healthy snacks/ lunches to school with your child** (e.g. veggies, fruit, crackers, cheese, yogurt, etc.)

We are an “Eco-Friendly” school. We encourage snacks to be sent in re-usable containers, as we are only able to recycle lunch box items at school (i.e., garbage items such as wrappers and baggies will be sent home to be disposed of).

**Read/Rest/Write**

Although our program will not include a formal nap/sleep time, our schedule will allow for some quiet time for students to relax and engage in independent activities such as reading, writing, and listening/relaxing to music.

**Ziploc Bag/ Parent-Teacher Communication system**

Your child will be given a large plastic bag with a parent-teacher communication booklet inside. The bag is used to transport important messages and newsletters from school to home and home to school. The Ziploc bag should be sent to school in your child’s backpack every day for the entire school year. Your child’s teacher will ask to see the bag every day, please do the same at home. Please use the booklet to inform your child’s teacher of any important messages or questions you may have. The teacher will also use the booklet if there is anything important he/she would like you to be aware of. **If you write a note, please keep the booklet open. If it is closed, it will be assumed that there are no messages.**

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**Birthdays/Special Events**

Families are welcome to bring in **non-edible items** to share with the class. Please remember, due to allergies and dietary restrictions, we kindly ask that food of any kind be avoided. **Please do not send food to school for special events (i.e., Halloween, Birthdays, Valentine’s Day, etc.) Merci!**