

# Welcome to Kindergarten

## Bienvenue à la maternelle



### École Belgo Elementary

125 Adventure Road, Kelowna BC V1X 1N3

Phone: 250-870-5115

[www.bge.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.bge.sd23.bc.ca)

**MJ Bédard**

(Principal/Directrice)

# September School Experiences . . . .

## Orientation Week

During the first week of September, there will be no full-day Kindergarten classes. Instead, we will schedule an individual conference with each **child and parent**. A schedule for the following week will be emailed.

In early July, you will receive a letter and schedule confirming the dates and times for you conference.



## Important Information about bussing

Our School District has a Transportation Department responsible for bussing children who live outside the BC Ministry walk limit [4.8 km for intermediate students (grades 4-6); and 4.0 km for primary students (Kindergarten to grade 3)]. Our Transportation Department phone number is 250-870-5151. Or visit the School District's website [www.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.sd23.bc.ca)

## Your child will need . . . .

- ✓ a nutritious lunch and two healthy snacks each day
- ✓ a water bottle
- ✓ a regular size backpack or school bag
- ✓ a pair of non-marking inside running shoes
- ✓ a change of clothes in a labelled Ziploc
- ✓ School fees (\$40)



## Communication . . . .

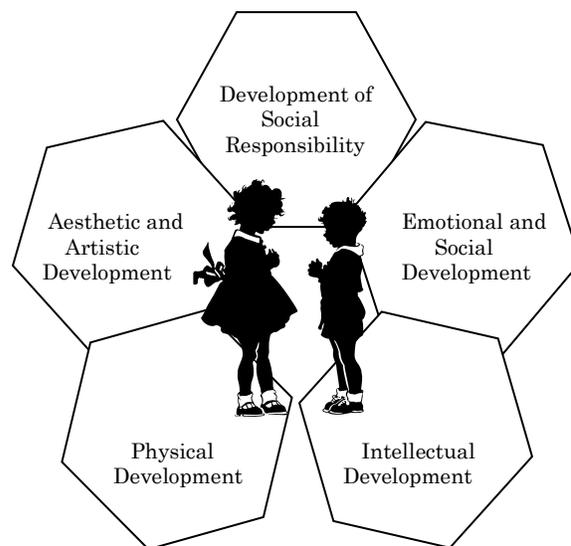
- ✓ Kindergarten newsletters will be sent home with your child or via email. These notices will help keep you informed of upcoming events and current theme-related activities.
- ✓ School newsletters & calendars are emailed and posted on our school website each month.
- ✓ Our school website contains important school documents [www.bge.sd23.bc.ca](http://www.bge.sd23.bc.ca)

# Kindergarten is . . . . .

**a unique opportunity for your child to experience the joys and challenges of beginning school in a warm, caring and stimulating environment.**

The Kindergarten program follows the prescribed Ministry Curriculum. At École Belgo Elementary, your child will be exposed to a wide variety of experiences which include beginning numeracy (computation, patterns, problem-solving, etc.) and literacy (language, reading, writing, etc.), learning the calendar, creative movement, science, physical education, music, drama, technology, arts and crafts, cooperative play, large and small group teaching, centres and field trips.

The Kindergarten program is developed around the following five areas:



## The Primary Years

In the primary grades, the growth of children's knowledge and understanding of themselves and their world continues. The programs offered to primary children reflect an understanding that children learn through active involvement and play, and that children represent their knowledge in a variety of ways. Learning is recognized as social in nature and language development plays an essential role in learning.

We value parents as partners in their child's education. Teachers and parents consult and collaborate to create for the child a climate of respect, success, and joy necessary for lifelong learning.

Assessment and evaluation are on-going, support the child's learning and assist the teacher in making appropriate educational decisions for each child.

At Belgo, students come first. Our mission, in partnership with parents and community, is to encourage and challenge our students to achieve personal success, to promote a desire for life-long learning and responsible citizenship, and to help our students develop their intellectual potential. We aim to do this within a bilingual setting that is safe, creative, positive and healthy.

## Is Your Child Ready For Kindergarten?

Not all children are ready for Kindergarten at age 5, and you know your child best. In some instances, an extra year at home may be beneficial to your child's future academic success. Formal entrance into school may be deferred by one year. If you have any doubts about your child's readiness for school, contact the school principal to discuss your concerns.

We recognize that children learn at different rates and, as individuals, will all shine more brightly in some areas. The following expectations are provided as a reference point for assessing your child's ongoing development, as well as providing goals a parent may want to focus on. Children who have mastered most of the following skills before coming to Kindergarten tend to be more self-confident and ready for the Kindergarten program.

### Emotional and Social Development

- Is able to separate without much distress from familiar people, places and things
- Is aware that others have feelings
- Is willing to assert him/herself when something is important to him/her
- Is able to solve problems, demonstrating self-confidence (example – if they can't reach something they will get a stool)
- Is able to handle difficulty with others, without crying excessively, being aggressive, hitting, biting or kicking
- Is willing to clean up, or help clean up after him/herself
- Has some regular chores for which he/herself is responsible for

### Intellectual Development

- Is willing to explore the world around him/her by object manipulation and by playing
- Can communicate first and last names when asked
- Is curious about print in the environment
- Likes to listen to stories
- Pretends to read and write
- Counts by memory by at least to 10
- Recognizes some letters and numbers
- Can follow most directional words such as: up, over, under, beside, near, and far
- Is able to make a personal choice when given options
- Can sing or say something simple poems or songs

### Physical Development

- Is willing and able to use a varieties of hand-eye coordination such and scissors, crayons and pencils
- Is able to concentrate on one thing for a long time if he/she is interested in it
- Is able to dress self, including putting on shoes (if your child cannot tie please do not send shoes with laces)
- Is able to wash and dry own hands
- Is able to print his/her name (we prefer that students learn their name in lower case letters and that they can recognize a name whether it is written in upper or lower case)
- Is able to put papers, books and things in backpacks

# Questions Parents Often Ask



## How will I know whether to enroll my child in French Immersion or English?

The French Immersion program follows the same curriculum as the English program, except that it is delivered in a different language of instruction. Most families who choose French Immersion are not French speaking. A number of factors should be considered when choosing this option. Feel free to contact the principal, if you wish to discuss the French Immersion program.

## How will my child's individual needs be met?

Our Kindergarten teachers provide well-balanced educational programs that support the development of the whole child. The classrooms are equipped with a great many interesting and stimulating educational tools. Programs and activities are designed to meet the varied needs of all children. Additional support services are available to all children if required, such as learning assistance, gifted/enrichment, speech and language therapy and counselling.



## How will my child's progress be monitored and reported?

Your child will be regularly observed, evaluated and assessed, and you will be kept up-to-date on his/her progress. Formal report cards will be sent home three times throughout the year. These formal reports will provide parents with a very clear indication of how their child is progressing. Formal parent-teacher conferences will be held two times during the year. Teachers will collect work samples and keep portfolios of your child's work. Your child's teacher will contact you directly if they have any concerns about your child. Please feel free to contact your son/daughter's Kindergarten teacher at any time, if you have any questions regarding your child's progress.

## What should I do if my child is not feeling well?

If your child is ill, keep him/her at home where he/she will be most comfortable. Children do not enjoy school or learn when they are ill. The good health of the other children is compromised when ill children are sent to school. If your child will be absent, please phone 870-5115 to inform the school of the absence.



## What can I do at home to help prepare my child for school?

There are optimum times during the pre-school years for language skills to be stimulated. In order for language skills to develop fully, children need to have opportunities to hear and practice language. Talk with your child about anything and everything. Model speaking in sentences and encourage him/her also to speak in sentences. Limit and be critical about watching TV and playing video games. These activities do not encourage your child to interact with others. Read to your child every

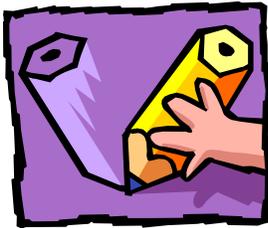
day. Talk about what you are reading and point out interesting details in pictures. Tell your child stories and encourage him/her to add to the story. This stimulates his/her interest and enjoyment of books and stories. We are well aware that many parents already do all of these things and more. If so, your child will be well-prepared.

### **Will my child learn to read in Kindergarten?**

Reading instruction begins in kindergarten. Children will learn the alphabet – both letter names and sounds. They are exposed to a lot of print through their daily routines and some children will begin to recognize high frequency words. Children will progress at different rates. Part way through the year, a home-reading program will be initiated at the school. All Kindergarten children will be given a “screener” to help determine some areas in which they may need help in sound awareness and reading.



### **Will my child learn to print in Kindergarten?**



Children are provided with opportunities to develop their fine motor skills such as cutting, pasting, drawing and tracing. Correct pencil grip is stressed. As letters are introduced, children learn to form them correctly. An alphabet and number chart are provided in this booklet for your use at home. We encourage you to help your child form letters and numbers in the same way. The directionality is important – it is difficult to “de-program” the learning if it is learned the wrong way.

