

Parents and Guardians of Kindergarten Students,

It is absolutely surreal that I am making these plans for your children. Nonetheless, I am committed to ensuring your children are still going to be having positive learning experiences; and that although their Kindergarten year was less than a standard one, they will still be able to progress into Grade 1 as prepared as they can be. I am absolutely heartbroken that my time with your child has been cut short. Over the past few weeks, I have gotten to know your child on a personal level and have seen growth in their learning. I was excited to continue working with them and see just how much we could learn in the final weeks of my contract. I still would like to do this, so *please please please* reach out at any time! I want to continue to help your children learn and grow in any way that I can. I am available by email at any time, and by phone (at the school) on days that your child would have regularly been at school. I am also open to setting up video-conferencing (of some sort, will have to determine the best program for this), if that is something you are interested in. I believe communication will be extremely important, and I expect you to be reaching out with any questions, concerns, or comments. I hope to stay in frequent communication with you and your child.

Over the course of the next (probably) several weeks, you will transition to having a more direct role in your child's education. In order to support, not only your child's learning, but you through this time, I will try my best to provide you with many resources, plans, activities, and details. While I want to provide you with as much as I can, I also understand that this will be taking place in your kitchens and living rooms and that you will want some freedom and flexibility in these plans. Attached, you will find the basic structure of a day in Kindergarten with fundamental curriculum connections, and ways to apply that schedule in your home. *I want to provide this schedule and basic information to you, so that you are able to adapt & choose some of the activities that you might like to do. Pick and choose what works best for you!* As we move forward on Monday, I will be sharing a link with you to our **class website**. The website will be the primary way I share lessons/activities/weekly goals with you. I will be providing more plans & activities that you will be able to implement at home. Along the way, I hope to provide some options in this learning, so that you can adapt it to your own schedule and ideals. Do not feel stressed about doing *everything!* Although, I will say that I think it is important to establish a routine/schedule, in order to create and maintain meaningful learning time. In school, we work hard to establish routines in order to ensure students are achieving the greatest quality of learning time possible, and your child will benefit from having these routines at home as well. Know that there will be an adjustment period, but I am sure they will adapt quickly as they are very resilient little learners!

I understand you will be receiving a lot of information and materials over the coming days, and that it may seem overwhelming. That is okay! If you are ever unsure about something, just know there are a number of bottom line, but essential, activities that you can be doing.

For example:

- When in doubt, read a book! Reading to your children will always be one of the most important aspects of a child's learning. Have them point to the words you read, flip the pages, and point out significant details in the story/pictures. Ask them comprehension questions about the characters' actions or the "message" of the story. Students are also beginning to learn sight words. The ones we have covered so far are: to, the, a, & and. Before reading, have them flip through the book to see if they can pick out any words or letters they know.
- A large part of Kindergarten math, is becoming more fluent in the numbers 1-10. Counting forwards, backwards, and starting at any number to do so is something we practice often. Beyond this, students practice subitizing (recognizing at a glance) arrangements of objects to understand the *quantity* of a specific number. You can do this all day long, by asking them "how many" they see of something.

- Kindergartens play...a lot! We do so to strengthen the creative parts of our brains, flex our social skills, and work on fine motor abilities. Learning through play happens in a variety of ways, such as: building with lego, 'playing house', practicing cutting/folding/glueing/tracing, playing with play-doh etc.
- Movement & exercise is a crucial part to our learning. We have gym time, recess time, and many movement/brain breaks (perhaps you've heard of Maximo by now?). At home, you can play outside, go for walks, and Youtube children's yoga or exercise videos.
- The Social Studies curriculum covers concepts such as community and responsibility. Allow your children to have responsibilities at home, just as we do at school. At the end of the school day, we all have jobs to get ready to go home. These jobs are sweeping the floor, wiping tables, organizing the bookshelf, and stacking chairs. We also all work together to clean up centres, always making sure our learning spaces are clutter free and ready to go for the next activity.

As mentioned above, communication will be vital as we explore this alternative programming. **I ask that you reach out to me by email as soon as possible.** A few things I would love to hear from you about are:

- Do you have any primary questions or concerns?
- Do you have access to a laptop (with a camera) or tablet? And the internet?
- Do you have access to a printer, and are you willing/able to print a few (I'm think around 5-6 pages per week)? I understand ink and paper is expensive, so I can be flexible with this!
- Would you be interested in participating in having students write, mail, and receive letters from one another? If so, send me your address, as I would like to begin that process ASAP.

I understand this whole process and experience may feel daunting, and I want you to know that I would like to help and support in as many ways possible. Primarily, I am concerned about everyone's health and safety, but next comes your child's education. Together, we can ensure they are still receiving meaningful learning experiences, despite the adversity we are all facing.

Sincerely,
Elyse Mastel

elyse.mastel@pallisersd.ab.ca

John Davidson School: 403-345-3161

Noble Central School: 403-824-3817

Time	School	Home
8:30-9:30	<p><u>Morning Message:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We begin the day by chatting about our days, weekends, evenings, the weather, or anything else that may come up that day. I write a message on the board that reads something like “Good Morning Class, Today is [Date]. Today we will learn...What will the weather be like today? Can anyone remember our words of the week? What sound does [letter] make?” or something of the sort. We pick out any words or letters we know, then read it a few times as a class. <p><u>Calendar:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask: “What is today’s date?” Repeat as a class: “Today is...” Trace number for today. Ask: “What was yesterday? What is tomorrow?” Trace numbers for yesterday, or any we have missed Listen/Sing ‘Days of the Week’/‘Months of the Year’ songs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oKqAbIcwFOA https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXMofxtDPUQ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPeAo1hz8GA https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fe9bnYRzFvk <p><u>Letter Lesson:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce new letter by writing a few words on the board that start with that letter Ask students to share other words that start with that letter Listen to Jolly Phonics Song for letter, & repeat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KjYLDhzhvo&t=203s Practice printing letter (watch for pencil grip, starting letter at top) 	<p><u>Morning Message:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over breakfast have conversations with your child about something they enjoyed about “last school day”, or an activity they have done/looking forward to A parent (perhaps one that leaves for work), could leave a note for you to read through together. You can also look at a short book, the weather, a message of your own, etc. Circle any words they might be able to pick out. Sight words they have seen before are <u>the, to, a, and</u> <p><u>Calendar:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to utilize calendar that I have provided, and ask the same questions that I have mentioned You can listen to the songs provided, or just discuss the order of the days of the week/months of the year. This isn’t a crucial step, but listening to songs & repeating is a large part of practicing communication in Kindergarten. You could listen to other songs your family likes and talk about rhyming words, repeated words, or listen for words that start with a specific letter. <p><u>Letter Lesson:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can take the same steps to introduce the letter The song helps students to associate the sound the letter makes with certain words/actions
9:30-10:00	<p><u>PE:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We play a lot of tag games, mostly anything to get us moving! 	<p><u>PE:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The biggest thing I encourage you to do (in terms of physical activity) is go outside! Go for a walk or play in the yard! If you can’t get outside, check out GoNoodle. Our favorite videos are Maximo, and for some quiet time the “On & Off” video under the “Flow” channel. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://family.gonoodle.com/ Feel free to mix in a GoNoodle at any

		time of the day! We do these all day long to help us “get our wiggles out”!
10:00-10:30	<u>Recess & Snack</u>	
10:30-11:30	<u>Literacy Centres:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Practice letter tracing ● Practice letters in some sort of sensory way: make letters with play-doh, make letters with pipe cleaners, trace letters in slime/sensory bags ● One-on-one (with teacher) letter sound practice, sight word recognition, practicing the <i>actions</i> of reading a book and simple/beginning comprehension skills ● Dramatic play: anything from playing in the kitchen, to play with the other toys 	<u>Literacy Focus Time:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rather than having “centres” during this time, I will be sending out a few small activities to focus on during this time. ● Try to incorporate sensory play into this time, as well. We play with play-doh, slime, the water table, etc to do this. Sensory play also helps with fine motor skills. ● Dramatic play may be one of the easiest activities for you to implement! It simply looks like your children playing with their toys, but it helps them practice social skills (as they imagine scenarios/stories), and helps them learn/practice narrative structures of a story (beginning, middle, end)!
11:30-12:30	<u>Lunch & Recess</u>	
12:30-1:00	<u>Music/Library:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I’m not sure if the music teacher will be sending anything out, but keep an eye out for information if she does. ● In library, they always end with a read-aloud. 	<u>Music/Library:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ask your child what sorts of things they do in music, and see if they can teach you something. Learning through teaching is a great way for your child to learn at home, and help you out if you’re ever unsure about something. ● I am very sad and concerned about how we are going to allow your child to continue to look at/read new books frequently. At this time, we have access to few online databases for books. Feel free to google PDFs or Youtube videos of books. Let me know if you come across any that work great for your family. At this time, I can offer you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30-day trial @ https://www.tumblebooklibrary.com/Home.aspx?categoryID=7 username: blades / password: trial ○ I will be setting up an “epic” account for each of your children...stay tuned for that information!
1:00-1:45	<u>Writing & Social Studies:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To give us something to practice writing about, I have combined writing & social studies. As you may have seen, students have been writing about how they are responsible. This topic will be expanding 	<u>Writing & Social Studies:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● You will continue to work with your child to write about different social studies topics, and aim for the quality of writing in the examples I sent out earlier.

	<p>to responsibility in a community, and other groups/people who take care of our communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the initial package of materials you picked up from the school, you would have received an example of the writing we are aiming for. We try to at least write the beginning letter we hear, and label our pictures. We also want to make sure we're adding as much detail as possible to our pictures. This is where kindergarten squiggles really play a role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I hope to expand this writing to perhaps having penpals, and writing notes to people in our homes/communities
--	---	---

1:45-2:15	<u>Recess & Snack</u>
------------------	---------------------------

2:15-3:20	<p><u>Numeracy Centres:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tracing numbers Subitizing: recognizing an arrangement of items/symbols as a number Shapes & patterns Power of 10 & math card games Fine motor skills Building & constructing 	<p><u>Numeracy Focus Time:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worksheets can be made available to continue practicing printing the numbers. Doing this is also important to practice fine motor skills. You can practice subitizing and number association by playing cards, rolling a die & quickly writing/saying numbers, drawing/collecting their own arrangements of items/symbols, etc. We had just gotten started talking about shapes & different attributes (number of sides). You can practice shapes by identifying them around the house, or constructing them with different objects (straws, play-doh), etc. Students can practice making and recognizing patterns with almost anything! They can make their own or continue patterns that are already established. I plan on sending out a template for students to make their own Power of 10 cards immediately. I will send out information on the importance of these cards, and all the things we can do with them! In math, we practice fine motor skills such as cutting, glueing, tracing, and folding. Using tools such as tweezers are also a great way to develop fine motor skills. Building with lego is a popular activity in our classroom. You can offer any materials and challenge your child to build a number of different structures. Something that might be fun to experiment with at home, is building on a larger scale...perhaps a pillow fort might be a fun place to do your learning for the day?
------------------	--	---

