



Welcome to Kindergarten at Auburn Bay School

We would like to invite you to attend our Parent Information Session on May 24, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the school gym. This Information Session is designed for adults and will give you the opportunity to receive all the information you need for a successful fall start up. This evening is not intended for children. We offer a 4-day Staggered Entry program in September for children in order to support their transition to kindergarten.

This letter contains a list of FAQ's parents are wondering about. Please read through the information. If you have additional questions we will be happy to answer them on May 24 during the Information Session.

- **How many children are in one room?**

Auburn Bay School is full of flexible learning environments. For kindergarten, we use two classroom spaces that have a removable wall between them. In these two spaces, the wall is opened and one large double sized classroom is created. 65 students will learn in this space in the morning, and 65 in the afternoon.

- **How many teachers will there be? Will my child have 3 different teachers or just one that teaches her?**

There are three teachers in the morning and three in the afternoon. Children will interact with all three teachers however each child will be assigned to one teacher. We call this teacher your child's "homeroom" teacher. This is the teacher you will have any meetings concerning your child throughout the year (including parent/teacher interviews).

- **Does this carry on through all grades or is it just for kindergarten?**

Auburn Bay School is operating over capacity and this is expected to continue for the next several years. Because of this, we use flexible learning environments at all grade levels. Each year it may look slightly different but as we are over capacity there are more classes than there are classrooms.

- **Do the children become overwhelmed with this many children in a learning space?**

Children are very adaptable. They will each start their educational journey at Auburn Bay in the same environment and will learn all the routines together making it an easy transition. There will be multiple opportunities for students to break off into smaller groups and participate in activities at their own learning and social level.



- **How do teachers meet the needs of all the different learners in their class?**

Teachers consistently communicate and pose questions to assess student knowledge, determine individual interests, and what skills students need to practice and learn. Your child's homeroom teacher works with each child on an individual basis, in small groups as well as in large groups (for group discussions and SMART Board learning) throughout the school week. They have an in-depth understanding of each child's needs and abilities and works to meet these needs in a variety of ways (e.g., visuals, hands-on materials and manipulatives, learning through movement, 1:1 and small group support, targeted learning centers and using technology to support academic understandings).

- **What does a typical day look like in kindergarten?**

The Kindergarten program is largely play-based, which means each day is organic in nature. Student activities and learning are centered around their own personal interests. We use an inquiry approach to explore and learn about these interests while incorporating the Kindergarten curriculum. Field trips will be planned in relation to the interest expressed during these times.

When students arrive in the morning, they take off their outdoor shoes and line them up outside of the classroom. When they enter the classroom, they hang up their coat and backpack and put on their indoor shoes, which will be stored at school. These indoor shoes should have non-marking soles and have velcro closures. This will help with independence and confidence. They will also have a home communication folder that will be brought to school each day and brought home each day. These folders will include important forms and student work. They might also come home with nothing in them. This is for the sole purpose of any communication from parents that needs to be sent to school. Student backpacks should be of regular size to allow room for their communication folder.

The day is filled with engaging centers that are hands-on and imaginative in nature. We have teacher reads and whole group discussions. We use SMART Board technology to provide interactive and visual learning experiences when learning about literacy, math, science, and environmental studies. We also do work in our visual journals. These are books that are used for all curricular areas and will also be a magical memory of Kindergarten that will be taken home at the end of the year.

- **Will my child have Phys. Ed. and Music?**

Students will participate in physical education and a music program as documented in the Alberta Education kindergarten curriculum.

- **Can my child get extra help if they need it?**

Small groups are created by the teacher to aid children that require further support in a variety of areas. These groups are directed by your child's teacher, and run by a variety of staff including specialists, strategists, assistants, or student teachers. Some groups are held in the classroom and other groups may be held outside the classroom in adjacent learning areas.



- **How can I find out what my child is learning in their class?**

Teachers at Auburn Bay School create classroom blogs. Kindergarten blogs include highlights from each day, prompts for conversation at home, some sample photos of student learning, as well as information on important dates and upcoming events. We also have a classroom twitter accounts that parents are encouraged to follow. We want to emphasize that these communication tools are not used to showcase all student work. It is a tool that will give you some ideas of what we are doing in class so you can have a conversation with your child about their day. As previously mentioned, each child has a folder that goes back and forth from home to school each day.

- **My child will be taking the bus. How do they find their way to the class then back to the bus after school?**

A school staff member meets all children that are taking the bus when it arrives at school. Staff show students the way to the classroom for a couple weeks at the beginning of the year. After this period, the students will be met at the bus outside and led inside. From here they will walk as a group through the school to the classroom in the morning. If at any point in time if more help is required it will be provided. After school, all bus students meet just outside of the classroom and a school staff member walks with students to the front of the school and out to their appropriate bus lines. Safety is a priority and children will be supervised as they board the bus.

- **Will my child have recess and/or go outside daily?**

Recess at Auburn Bay School is called “FAB” (fresh air break). It is scheduled each day at a time that is most natural for students to have a learning break and is weather dependent. The nature of the Kindergarten program provides multiple opportunities for movement breaks. Students are provided with a 15 minute snack break where they can eat their one nutritional snack that they have brought from home. During the warmer months this is often done outside. In the winter months FAB will be mostly inside. We ask that parents pack a spill-proof water bottle as well. Throughout the year there will be many opportunities for students to head outside for nature walks, observations and outdoor classroom work.

- **Is there a home reading program in Kindergarten?**

To support the wide variety of student needs and interests parents are encouraged to develop home reading habits with their children. There are a variety of online resources that children can use that will be indicated on the classroom website to support learning at home. It is developmentally appropriate and helpful to read to your child using a variety of picture books. Asking your child questions about the feelings of characters, the colours they see, letters and the sounds each letter makes and what happened at the beginning and end of the story they just heard. These are all wonderful ways to increase literacy exposure and understanding. The Calgary Public Library is a great free resource that you can use to supplement your home library.