

# Kindergarten Information Package for Parents

From: Ms. Emily Nauta, Ms. Caitlin Meadows

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2025/2026



Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome both you and your child to Simonds Elementary! We are excited to get to know all of you throughout the 2025/2026 school year and cannot wait to dive into our learning adventures! This package is intended to share information about your child's Kindergarten year, and specifically, answer any questions you may have about the first few weeks of school. We cannot wait for your child's learning journey to begin!

Warmly,

Ms. Emily Nauta – Teacher  
Ms. Caitlin Meadows – Teacher  
TBA – Teacher (K/1)  
Ms. Cathy Beukers – Vice Principal  
Mrs. Michelle Allen - Principal

## Developmental & Learning Goals:

Kindergarten is such an incredible year, filled with so many rich learning experiences, and opportunities for your children! We as a team firmly believe in play-based learning and work to incorporate aspects of the Reggio Emilia Theory in our classrooms. What is the Reggio Emilia Approach? <http://www.aneverydaystory.com/beginners-guide-to-reggio-emilia/main-principles/>



This theory focuses on a calming learning environment, and hands-on learning opportunities for the children. The Reggio Emilia Theory recognizes that each child is an individual and unique in their own way, and celebrates this through keeping student-directed learning at its core.

Further, we recognize that children need plenty of time in the great outdoors, and thus, we will be implementing outdoor learning opportunities as much as possible. We are fortunate to have some fantastic outdoor spaces at Simonds, and will aim to use them often. As noted later in this document, we encourage children to be sent to school with weather-appropriate gear.

A primary, and very important aspect of our classroom teaching during your child's kindergarten year, will focus on Social-Emotional Learning and Well-Being. This is supported in our provincial curriculum with the Core Competencies, which include intellectual, personal and social/emotional skills. We will focus on recognizing, identifying, and managing feelings, as well as problem-solving, and working with our classmates in a safe and respectful way! It is in the kindergarten classroom that students will begin to develop these foundational life skills.



## Just Playing

By Anita Wadley (1979)

When I'm building in the block room, please don't say I'm **JUST Playing**. For, you see, I'm learning as I play; about balance and shapes. Who knows, I maybe an architect someday.

When I'm getting all dressed up, Setting the table, caring for the babies, don't get the idea I'm **JUST playing**.  
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I may be a mother or a father someday.

When you see me up to my elbows in paint,  
Or standing at an easel, or molding and shaping clay, Please don't let me hear you say "she's **JUST playing**."  
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I'm expressing myself and being creative. I may be an artist or an inventor someday.

When you see me  
"Reading" to an imaginary audience,  
Please don't laugh and think I'm **JUST playing**.  
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I may be a teacher someday.

When you see me combing the bushes for bugs, Or packing my pockets with choice things I find, don't pass it off as **JUST play**. For, you see, I'm learning as I play. I may be a scientist someday.

When you see me engrossed in a puzzle, or some plaything at my school,  
Please don't feel the time is wasted in **play**  
For, you see, I'm learning as I play.  
I'm learning to solve problems and concentrate. I may be in business someday.

When you see me cooking or tasting foods,  
Please don't think that because I enjoy it, it is **JUST play**.  
For, you see, I'm learning as I play. I'm learning to follow directions and see differences.  
I may be a cook someday.

When you see me learning to skip, hop, run, and move my body,  
Please don't say I'm **JUST playing**. For, you see, I'm learning as I play. I'm learning how my body works. I may be a doctor, nurse or athlete someday.

When you ask me what I did at school today,  
And I say, "**I JUST Played**", Please don't misunderstand me. For, you see, I'm learning as I play. I'm learning to enjoy and be successful in work. I'm preparing for tomorrow.

**Today, I'm a child and my work is play.**



# Schedule for Welcome Week 2025

## Family Conferences:

Each family will meet with one of our Kindergarten teachers for a 20-minute family conference. Parent and child attend the conference, and these will be held between Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sept 6<sup>th</sup>. Each family will need to book their family conference. These conferences will be held in one of our Kindergarten classrooms. (Ms. Nauta & Ms. Meadows' room). **To book your family conference, please call the office at 604-530-2361, between 8:00am and 3:30pm.**

Conferences will be held on the following dates/times at 20-minute intervals:

Monday, Sept. 1	Tuesday, Sept. 2	Wednesday, Sept. 3	Thursday, Sept 4	Friday, Sept. 5
Labour Day – No Classes	Family Meetings 1:00pm- 2:30pm	Family Meetings 8:45am – 12:00pm 12:50pm – 2:30pm	First Day of School 9-11 (Parents attend)  Family Meetings 12:50pm-230pm	Group A 9am-1030am Group B 11am-1230pm Family Meetings 1:10pm-2:30pm
Monday, Sept. 8	Tuesday, Sept. 9	Wednesday, Sept. 10	Thursday, Sept 11	Friday, Sept. 12
Group A 9-11:15pm (bring snack) Group B 11:30-1:45pm (bring snack)	Group A & B  9:00am-11:15am  Family Meetings 12:50pm-2:30pm	Group A & B  9:00-12:15 (bring snack)	Group A & B  9:00am-1:45 (pack snack and lunch)	Group A & B  9:00am-1:45 (Pack snack and lunch)

During the family conference you will get to meet the kindergarten teacher and ask any questions you may have about your child's year. We will be able to discuss your child and any questions you or your child may have about Kindergarten.

**The first full day of kindergarten will begin on Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

## Gradual Entry

Your child will have a gradual entry into the classroom for the first two weeks of school. The gradual entry will allow for your child to get to know the teacher and the layout of the classroom. Your child will be placed in Group A or B and attend school each day for an increasing period of time. These groups give us a chance to get to know our students better. The schedule and groups are in the attached document, "**K Groups and Calendar 2025**". These are NOT our class lists; just start-up groups to get to know students.

**Thursday, September 4, 2025:**

On the first day of school, Thursday, September 4, 2025, everyone (parents/guardian and child) will come to school for two hours (from 9:00 – 11:00 AM). We will meet **you outside IN THE COURTYARD (there will be signs to direct you)** for an activity and then a tour of the classrooms. This will give families a chance to view the learning space together with their child. From approx. 10:00-11:00, Mrs. Allen will be doing a coffee and chat for any parents who have questions, etc. This will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. Your child will be continuing some engaging centres in the classroom at this time.

After the first day's visit, please line-up outside your child's classroom for the next two weeks. If a parent/guardian is unable to attend, a grandparent or another adult may come in their place. **Please do not send your child alone! For pickup, children must be picked up by an adult and not a sibling from the school.**

**Friday, September 5 to Friday, September 12:**

During this period, your child will be attending school for part of each day. The class will be broken into two mini groups (Group A and B).

Please check your email for a separate email from Mrs. Allen to see which group your child is in and at what time they will attend (check junk folders—it comes directly from MyEducation BC).

This will give your child an opportunity to become familiar with the routines and a chance to make friends.

**Monday, September 15, 2024:**

Regular full-day attendance begins. All children will attend school from 8:45AM –2:33PM.

## Other Important Information

### Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures (Starting September 15<sup>th</sup>):

In the morning, please have your child line up against the wall in front of your class. If you get to school early, you can have your child place their backpack in front of the classroom door and then go play on the playground. **Please ensure that you stay with your child at all times before the bell rings.** When the welcoming bell goes at 8:45 AM please make sure your child is lined up against the wall with their backpack in hand. The classroom door will open, and the teacher will let the children in. In the beginning of the year, we understand some children prefer to have you accompany them into the classroom, however we encourage you to let your child enter independently, as this helps them build confidence and independence in their daily morning tasks.

At the end of the day, 2:33PM, your child will be dismissed outside the same door as they entered. **We will not allow a child to leave the school with an adult unless they are on your list of designated people.** You can list the people designated to pick up your child at the office. In order to alleviate problems here, please make sure that your list of people your child can leave the school with is up to date. Please try to be prompt in picking up your child. If you know that you will be late picking up your child, please call the school and leave a message with the secretary. Your child will then wait for you at the office.

### If Your Child is Ill:

Please keep your child home until symptoms are gone and contact the school office that they will be absent.

## Healthy Snacks and Lunches:

Please provide a litter-less lunch with many healthy choices for your child to eat at school, as well as a full water bottle each day. We are a nut-free school. Candy, juice, and sugary snacks are best enjoyed at home.

Beginning now, please have your child practice eating their snacks and lunch out of similar containers you will be sending to school, so that they are comfortable with the routine and can be as independent as possible.

## Toys from Home:

We understand that your child may have many exciting toys at home that they would love to bring to class to show and share with their friends. We encourage you to please leave any toys at home. When toys are brought to school, they often get broken, or lost which can be very upsetting to the child. They also act as a distraction in the classroom. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

## Clothing:

### Clothing for the Classroom

As suggested with snacks and lunch containers, take the time over the next few weeks to allow your child to gain independence with dressing. Children should practice independently removing jackets and sweaters, as well as managing zippers or button jackets and coats. Children should practice putting on/taking off their own shoes.

### Clothing for our Nature & Outdoor Play

Please always have your child prepared for the outdoors—raincoat, boots, hat and mittens. We see plenty of rainy days throughout our B.C. winters, so your child will be expected to go outside even in rain and snow. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather.

### Extra Clothing:

Kindergarten can be messy, and accidents do happen! Please have a Ziplock bag of spare clothes—including socks, underwear, pants, and a shirt—that is **clearly labelled** with your child's name. They will be left in your child's cubby throughout the year where your child can access them if needed. If they have an accident at school, they will change into the clean clothes and bring the dirty clothes home. Please make sure you wash the extra clothing and return them to school the next day in case another accident happens!

### Indoor Shoes:

For the first day, please supply an extra pair of shoes (labelled with your child's name) to be left at school as your child's indoor shoes. Running shoes that your child can change into independently, are preferred.

### School Supplies:

This year, in order to best meet our students' needs, the teachers will be collecting a school supply fee of \$50 per child. Please do not purchase individual supplies for your child. This method is cost effective for families, and less wasteful! If this fee is a challenge, please let the office staff know, or speak to one of your teachers.

### Please have:

- Backpack that is large enough to hold their lunch, a full water bottle, library books, home folders, and their sharing item. Practice unzipping and zipping.
- A pair of inside shoes to stay at school labelled with their name.
- A change of clothes will need to be kept at school in a plastic bag in case of accidents or if your child gets wet playing outside. Please send a pair of underwear, socks, pants and a shirt. Make sure that **all items** of clothing are labelled with your child's name and replaced when needed.
- A small blanket or towel to use during quiet, rest time. This towel or blanket will stay at school and will be sent home for washing. Please be assured this is not a nap time. We find all children benefit from a calming, quiet time of the day, particularly in the beginning of the year.