



## École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School

*With Christ as our ever-present teacher, in an environment rich in French Language and culture, we ensure every child succeeds: personally, spiritually, academically.*

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June 2015

### **2015-2016 CATHOLIC FRENCH IMMERSION PROGRAM**

### **WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN PACKAGE**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School French Immersion Program for 2015-2016. We are so glad that you chose to join the ÉPK family! We are looking forward to working with you this year, and celebrating the many successes your child(ren) will experience throughout their learning career!

This newsletter contains **very** important information regarding school requirements and other items of interest for the upcoming year.

Further newsletters will be published regularly to keep you informed of school activities and news. A fantastic resource for class and school events is the school website [epk.eics.ab.ca](http://epk.eics.ab.ca). We encourage you to visit it often. For your convenience, your child's teacher will also post information on their webpage under 'staff.'

We look forward to working with you throughout the year!

Peace and light,

École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School Kindergarten Teachers and School Leadership Team

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

Parent involvement and partnerships between home and school is vital to ensure your child's success. There are many ways you can become involved in your child's learning! Thank you in advance for sharing your time and your gifts with your child, and the class as a whole. Your participation truly enriches your child's learning experiences.

You will be invited to visit the classroom and help several times during the year. A calendar of volunteers will be prepared after you advise the teacher of the days you will be available. If you are a working parent, the teacher encourages you to visit the classroom a couple of times during the year or to help in other ways that may be more convenient for you.

École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School also has a fantastic School Council. Each month they meet to help guide the direction of the school, assist in decision making that affect all ÉPK students and keep up to date on the amazing opportunities for students. They also plan and coordinate special events, as well as establish fundraising opportunities to support Faith experiences at school, and Cultural events. It is also an excellent way to get to know other parents in the school, and develop lasting relationships. As a parent of a child(ren) attending ÉPK, you are automatically members of the School Council and encouraged to attend meetings as well as participate in the planning and volunteering for events. All meeting dates are posted on the school website at [epk.eics.ab.ca](http://epk.eics.ab.ca) under Parents.

On the first day of school, September 8, 2015 you are invited to come together and meet fellow Kindergarten parents and share in the first-day-of-school joy and jitters. We open our library to you and celebrate with you. There will be refreshments available for you to enjoy. We look forward to meeting with you.

## **SCHOOL HOURS AND CLASS COMPOSITION**

ECS classes will be held Monday through Friday. The following start and end times are approximates and may change by one minute or two. Confirmed start and end times will be posted on the school website at [epk.eics.ab.ca](http://epk.eics.ab.ca)

Approximate Class Times:

Morning classes will be held from 8:42 a.m. to 11:25 a.m.

Afternoon classes will be held from 12:26 p.m. to 3:10 pm.

➤Please note the **FIRST Wednesday** afternoon of every month is early dismissal, classes will end one hour earlier at 2:10pm.

Please see the attached 2015-2016 school year calendar for more details as well as our school website, [epk.eics.ab.ca](http://epk.eics.ab.ca).

## **PARKING**

You are welcome to park in the visitor parking area behind the gym, or on Flamingo Drive. We thank you in advance for being courteous to our neighbours by keeping their driveways available for access. To ensure safety at the front of the school during our morning student drop-off and after school student pick-up, the front parking area is reserved for staff parking. For your convenience, the pick-up and drop-off procedures are attached to this email, and can also be found on our website at [epk.eics.ab.ca](http://epk.eics.ab.ca) under Parents and FAQ

## **ORIENTATION** **September 1 – September 4, 2015**

### **STAGGERED ENTRY (ORIENTATION)**

One of the ways we ensure your child succeeds, is we create natural step-by-step transitions to the school's faith and French learning environment. Therefore we conduct a staggered entry opportunity. In this format, your child will come to school as part of a small group for one half-day during the first week of school. This entry will give the children and parents a chance to familiarize themselves to their new environment, their teacher, as well as a pre-introduction to a few of their future classmates. It will also give the teacher a chance to get to know you and your child better at the start of the school year – kicking off great partnerships.

### **Important**

**Please check your email inbox (mother and/or father) for your child's orientation time and date. It should arrive on the same date you receive this orientation package. If you do not receive an email confirmation of your child's orientation, please contact the school at 780-467-7135 before 3:30PM on June 26, 2015 or after 8:00AM August 24, 2015 so that we can update your contact information and share with your orientation time and date during the week of September 1 to 4, 2015.**

**\*On the day of the staggered entry, the parents will be responsible for their child's transportation both to and from school.**

**If you coordinated bussing through EICS, it will officially begin Tuesday, September 8, 2015 for the A.M., P.M. and Progressive classes.**

**Class lists will be posted in the front entrance on August 30, 2015 after 4:30pm.** We encourage you to take a moment during that weekend to see the class lists, and then visit the school website to learn more about the school and your child's teacher.

## **SCHOOL FEES**

Parents will receive an invoice/invoices for their child's/children's school fees in September. The fees will also be available to be paid online over the summer at [powerschool.eics.ab.ca/public](http://powerschool.eics.ab.ca/public). Please remit payment, by cheque, or exact cash to each child's homeroom after you receive the invoice/invoices if paying at the school. For those who wish to pay by VISA, you will have the opportunity to do so online. We will gladly send home a letter outlining the instructions on how to pay online. You will receive the account link as well as you ID and password.

If you wish, you can pay for more than one child on a cheque (as long as they attend the same school), but please indicate in the "Memo" section of the cheque, every child's full name and grade/homeroom. You may attach the invoice/invoices in place of filling out the "Memo". This option is also available when paying online; multiple children can be linked to the same account and paid for with one transaction.

If you have any questions, please call the school at 780-467-7135. Thank you for paying school fees prior to May 1, 2016. Please note that fees not paid before May 1, 2016 will be sent to collections (Progressive ECS instalments are exempt).

## **SUMMARY: ECS 2015 – 2016**

- Sept. 1–Sept. 4
- Staggered Entry and Orientation:
  - Please see your email inbox for your child's orientation schedule.
  - Please note on the day of the staggered entry/orientation, parents will be responsible for their child's transportation both to and from school.

**September 8, 2015 - First day of school for AM, PM and Progressive classes.**

**\* Bus service will commence on this day.**

**Parents are invited to come together as a community for snacks and refreshments in the library. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow Kindergarten parents, and share the first-day joy and jitters together.**

## **SUPPLIES**

To set your child up for success at school, we ask that you ensure your child has the following:

1. **Indoor Running Shoes** – A pair of running shoes must be left at the school at all times. For safety reasons and to help keep your child's learning environment clean, children are asked to wear different shoes in the gym/school, than those they wear outside the school. Please ensure these runners are white-soled as they will be required to wear them within the school and coloured-soled shoes will mark floors.
2. **School Bag** - A good sized (min. 12 in. x 15 in.) bag is needed to carry home newsletters and the child's work. As part of your established at home routines, we ask that you please check your child's bag daily, even if they do not always bring something home. Thank you for ensuring the bag closes well.
3. **1 Hilroy Scrapbook, 20 sheets, 35.6x27.9cm (at Staples).** Thank you for not labelling this scrapbook.
4. **1 Hilroy Exercise book ½ plain – ½ interlined (23.1 cm X 18.0 cm) – 72 pages.** Again, thank you for not labelling this book.
5. **1 Box of Kleenex**
6. **1 pkg (24 ) Crayola Wax Crayons**
7. **1 pkg ( 24) Pencil crayons (staedtler/staples- sharpened)**
8. **2 White Erasers (staedtler/staples)**
9. **1 Roll of paper towel**

**Note: Please label only your child's shoes and school bag. All other school supplies will be shared and for common use.**

**Helping your child become independent is a fantastic gift!** Please prepare your children to dress themselves by having them practice fastening their coat and shoes

## **SNACKS**

**Every day,** the children will have snack time. Thank you for ensuring that your child has a snack. Please keep snacks small and nutritious. Adhering to the Canada Food Guidelines will help keep your child healthy and ready for learning. Each weekday will feature a specific food group (i.e. Mondays: milk and dairy products, Tuesdays: fruit, Wednesdays: vegetables, Thursdays: meats and alternatives, and Fridays: bread and cereals). ***Please note, afternoon classes will not need a snack the 1st Wednesday of each month, as this is an early dismissal day, and classes finish an hour earlier.***

Thank you for helping us keep École Father Kenneth Kearns Catholic School a **NUT SENSITIVE** school. Please remember to read ingredient labels carefully when packing your child's snack to help ensure food is nut free.

## **A BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST FOR FAMILIES**

The first day of school can bring a mix of emotions to students and families alike...excitement and jitters. This is very normal. With Christ as our guide, we assure you that your children are in great hands.

There are many things that can be done to help make the back-to-school transition easier. When you, as a parent or guardian, interact with and support your children, your children are more likely to be successful.

### **You can help set your child up for success by helping them know:**

- Their name, address and phone number;
- How to take outer clothing on and off independently;
- How to take care of their basic toilet needs on their own; and
- How to be patient and wait their turn.

### **Positive Talk and Routines at home also help set the stage for successful learning:**

- Establish a bed routine that ensures adequate rest;
- Help your children learn letters, numbers, colors and shapes;
- Read to your children daily (Reading in English helps children make connections in French);
- Let your children learn by trying new activities;
- Practice the route they will take to and from school;
- Talk about making new friends and doing new activities; and
- Invest in your child's learning: whenever possible volunteer at school and in the classroom
- Encourage independence and exploring the world around them – hands on exploration.

## **COLD WEATHER POLICY**

Extreme weather conditions can cause school closures and/or suspension of school bus services. When this happens, special announcements will be made on most radio stations and/or check [www.eics.ab.ca](http://www.eics.ab.ca).

## **ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL**

### **If your child is not attending school, please contact the school and sharing:**

- the name of your child

- his/her homeroom classroom
- the reason for the absence and
- the duration of the absence.

**Absences can be reported in 2 ways:**

- Please go to our website at [epk.eics.ab.ca](http://epk.eics.ab.ca) and use the **Quicklink – Absences**
- Contact the school at 780-467-7135

To ensure student safety, we check student attendance in the AM and PM.

## **EICS BUS SERVICE**

Bus service will commence on September 8, 2015, for AM, PM and Progressive classes. Your child's bus driver will notify you by phone just prior to school starting as to the time and place of your child's pick-up. Please make sure you ask the bus driver for the number of the bus your child will be taking to **return** home after school.

We encourage you to write the bus numbers on your child's back pack. This will assist your child as well as the teacher in ensuring your child boards the correct bus.

If you have applied for bussing, to date, no further information is available regarding routes. If you have not yet requested bussing, and would like to, please go to [www.eics.ab.ca](http://www.eics.ab.ca) and use the **Quicklink: Transportation** to complete an application.

Throughout the summer, routes will be established by the EICS Transportation Department. We thank you in advance for your patience, as the EICS Transportation Department works hard to serve all EICS students. As soon details are confirmed you will be notified by the EICS Transportation Department. If you have any questions, please contact the Transportation Department at Elk Island Catholic Schools 780- 449-6480.

Please note, bus pick-up and drop-off points will be the nearest bus stop on the route. For safety reasons, urban busses are not allowed into keyhole crescents or any areas that necessitate backing up.

Flashing lights are no longer permitted in Sherwood Park. Students should be at the bus stop **PRIOR** to the arrival of the bus.

Transferring of busses may be necessary for some students even in Kindergarten. Don't worry, the students are well taken care of and they learn rapidly. You can help by writing down bus numbers on backpacks. There are always supervisors at transfer points to help ensure students get to their correct bus. Please encourage your child to go to a supervisor (usually wearing a reflective vest) if they are confused.

Time spent riding the bus may vary according to routes. However, attempts will be made for "First On – First Off" basis whenever circumstances permit.

Buses shall not wait for tardy students. The children must learn to dress themselves quickly, even in winter. Thank you for making every effort to have your child ready for pick up, as well as being at the bus stop for drop off.

During field trips that operate outside of regular Kindergarten route times, transportation becomes the responsibility of the parent to and from school. These situations are rare, and mostly apply when there is a full day field trip. Teachers communicate these dates well in advance to allow parents time to make arrangements for child pick-up or drop off.

Should parents require that their child be dropped off at an address other than their own, this should be communicated to the Transportation Department, at 780- 449-6480.

ONCE AGAIN, BUS SERVICE FOR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS WILL START ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 FOR AM, PM and Progressive CLASSES. Parents will be contacted as to pick-up time and place for their child just prior to school beginning. Pick-up points and times are also published in both local papers prior to school commencement.

**A few friendly reminders:**

- Please visit the school website often for events, school and classroom newsletters: [epk.eics.ab.ca](http://epk.eics.ab.ca)
- If you have questions, please do not hesitate to ask, we are here to help
- Class lists will be posted at the front entrance on Friday August 28, 2015 after 4:30 PM
- Kindergarten is as much about the children learning as it is parents learning...join in the fun as often as you can
- Positive Talk, routines and teaching children independence are great strategies to set your child up for success

Thank you for choosing to give your child(ren) added advantages in life: Catholic French Immersion!

Your child is a gift from God, and we at ÉPK, with Christ as our ever-present teacher, in an environment rich in French language and culture, together with you, ensure every child succeeds: personally, spiritually, academically.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall. May your summer be blessed with abundant joy.

Peace and light,

École Père Kenneth Kearns Catholic School Kindergarten and School Leadership Teams

Mme Pamela Gravelle – Principal/Directrice

Mme Lucille MacPherson – Assistant Principal/Directrice Adjointe

Mme Alisa Akkerman

Mme Lisa Boychuk

Mme Monique Jean-Burns

/cb





## Unity

I dreamt I stood in a studio,  
And watched two sculptors there.  
The clay they used was a young child's mind,  
And they fashioned it with care.  
One was a teacher, the tools he used  
Were books, music, and art.  
One a parent with a guiding hand  
And a gentle loving heart.

Day after day, the teacher toiled,  
With a touch that was deft and sure.  
While the parent labored by his side,  
And polished and smoothed it o'er.

And when at last, their work was done,  
They were proud of what they had wrought.  
For the things they had molded into the child,  
Could neither be sold nor bought.

And each agreed they would have failed  
If each had worked alone,  
For behind the parent stood the school  
And behind the teacher the home.

-Author Unknown