

Welcome to
Kindergarten!

Glen Dhu Public School



Welcome Kindergarten Parents!

The staff and community at Glen Dhu Public School are very happy to welcome our newest Gators and their families to our Early Learning Program. The Kindergarten Team is excited to provide wonderful learning opportunities for your child as he or she begins school life. We are looking forward to sharing this special year with your child, and working with you.

The Kindergarten Program spans the two years of Junior and Senior Kindergarten. As outlined in the Ontario Ministry of Education's Full Day Kindergarten Curriculum, it is our responsibility to provide a play-based and inquiry-based program that takes into account children's developmental needs, while also preparing them for a more academic setting in Grade One. Each classroom, where there are more than 15 students, has a Teacher and an ECE (Early Childhood Educator). The training and knowledge that these two professions bring together allow us to create a learning environment that meets all the needs of our youngest learners.

At Glen Dhu we are advocates of open on-going communication with parents. If you would like to speak with us at any point throughout the year you are welcome to call the school 905-668-8779. We will also be providing opportunities for you, throughout the year, which will bring you into the classroom to see what your child is learning. One of our priorities as a school is to continue to enhance our parent engagement and communication. We know that when we work together in partnership, students will achieve their highest potential.

This welcome package has been created in hopes that it will be useful to you in preparing your child for school. The more you and your child know about our routines and learning opportunities, the more effectively our program will run. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask. 😊

Thank you,

The Kindergarten Team and School Administrators

Entry/Dismissal Procedures

Entry: 8:55 am Dismissal: 3:25 pm
AM Recess: 10:00 - 10:10 am
Lunch: 11:40 - 12:40 pm
PM Recess: 2:15-2:25 pm



Entry Routine:

At the beginning of each school day, you will need to bring your child to the fenced Kindergarten play area and hand him or her off to the supervising teacher.

Supervision starts at 8:40 a.m., 15 minutes prior to entry, and you must stay to supervise your child until there is a teacher or ECE on supervision duty. **Please do not leave your child unattended on school property or in the play area at any time.** Adults are asked to remain outside of the fenced-in Kindergarten yard. If you arrive early, you must wait until the supervising teacher is present before leaving.

Children enter the fenced-in area and place their backpacks against the fence; they may then play until the bell rings when they will line up for entry. At the bell, your child will line up outside his or her classroom door where a Teacher or ECE will assist them in entering the school. Our first activity begins immediately after arrival so we ask that you have your child at school on time to ensure your child will not miss any of this valuable learning time.

Please Note:

- If your child is late please take them to the office to get a late slip
- If your child is ill or will be away please call the office at 905-668-8779

Dismissal Routine

Dismissal will take place from the fenced Kindergarten play area. Please do not come into the school to get your child.

For dismissal it is vital that we have eye-contact with either the parent or care-giver. Children will automatically want to run to you the minute they see you. It is important that they do not run directly to you, as we need to know they have reached you safely - **please help us reinforce this safety message with your child.** Once we have seen you, we will call your child and send him or her to you. Please do not call him or her yourself. **Please inform the teacher, in writing, if your child is being picked up by someone other than the regular caregiver / parent.**

We ask that adults be prompt when picking up children from school at 3:25 p.m. as students become uncomfortable when there is no one to meet them at the end of the day.

What Does My Child Need to Bring to School?

All learning materials are provided for your child. There are, however, several items that we ask you to send with your child. If you require assistance in ensuring your child has the following items, please speak with the Principal who may be able to help.

A Large Backpack

- Big enough to hold a large library book, your child's snack/lunch bag, mailbag, nightly reading materials and works of art. Please practise opening and closing the backpack with your child before September.



Lunch bag

- Lunch bag big enough so children can independently access and hold enough food for both snacks and lunch.
- A water bottle
- At Glen Dhu we encourage healthy snack choices for optimal learning.
- More details about lunch and snacks can be found later in this welcome package



Extra Clothing



- Please send in a large clear zip-lock bag with extra pants, socks, underwear and shirt. **Please label it with your child's name.** Make sure that the extra clothing is appropriate for the season. These items will remain at school in case of accidents, spills or too much fun at the water centre
- We ask that you label your child's clothing items so that lost items find their way back to you

Indoor and Outdoor Shoes

- Your child needs two pairs of shoes. One to stay at school (indoor shoes) and one to wear to and from home and to play outside (outdoor shoes)
- Indoor and outdoor shoes should have Velcro straps. Please avoid shoe laces unless your child can tie his/her shoes quickly. Indoor shoes must be running shoes with non-marking soles (suitable for gym)
- Upon entry, students must remove their outdoor shoes and put on their clean, indoor shoes. The indoor shoes will remain at school for the school year.
- Please no Crocs or sandals (they are not safe in the gym)



Mailbags

- Each night, your child will be bringing home a mail bag with his or her name on it. Please check the bag for notices, finished work or a nightly reading book. Please empty the bag each night and send the bag back to school each day, with the nightly reading book inside.
- If you have any notes or other communication you are sending to school, please place them in the bag (children hand the bags in every day so that we can check them).



Calendar/Newsletter/Website



A monthly calendar and/or newsletter will be sent home detailing important things we will be doing, such as gym, library, or special events. Please refer to it so that you can send your child prepared for school. In September some classrooms will choose to keep families updated via a classroom website. You will be able to access all pertinent school/classroom information from the site. Hard copies will be sent home for those without access to a computer. More specific information will follow in September.

As well, Glen Dhu has several ways to share information with all families.

- The school website is <http://www.ddsbc.ca/school/glendhu>
- The school's Twitter account is @GlenDhuPS
- The school has an electronic sign on the front lawn that is updated regularly
- Occasional emails and voice messages are sent out to our whole school community to notify them of important information
- The School Community Council has a Remind account (text messaging). Account information will be provided in September
- The school holds occasional Family Fridays where parents can spend some time in their child's class to see what happens on a typical day.



Paying for School Items



Any **money and permission forms** (e.g., for field trips, special lunches or scholastic book orders, etc.) should be sent in an envelope or baggie, with your child's name on it, returned to school in their mailbags. If the teacher gets interrupted, he or she could forget who handed in the envelope, therefore making it difficult to determine to whom it belongs. This coming fall, Glen Dhu will be launching an online program so that families will have the option of paying for school related items via our secure payment site.

Donations for our Play and Inquiry

We will occasionally ask if you have any materials at home that we could use in the classroom. Please feel free to contribute any science materials such as bird nests (after the birds are finished with them), shells, pine cones, fossils, or any other scientific treasure that you may have found, discovered or purchased.



The Importance of Good Sleep Routines and Regular Attendance

We encourage you to practise routines before school begins in the fall. Following a consistent sleep schedule will make your child's transition much smoother. A well-rested student who is ready to have an active and productive day is less anxious about new situations and people. In addition, your child's brain will be ready to engage in the wonderful learning activities we have planned.

Regular attendance and arriving at school on time each day are critical for students to achieve at school. We strongly encourage you to have your child at school every day before our 8:55 a.m. entry bell. It is also important that children come to school every day. We recognize the students may become ill and need to stay home, but they can usually come to school if they have minor ailments. In order to keep other students (and staff) healthy, we appreciate you keeping your child at home if they have a fever, vomiting or diarrhea.

Snacks and Food

Children will have lunch and two snacks during the school day. No food containing nuts is allowed at school. **We have children with nut allergies in our school, and exposure can cause severe sickness and/or death.** This is very important! Please check the ingredients of every item you send to school - even foods that "May contain nuts or nut products" are not permitted.



As well, we do not allow WOW butter (a soy-based peanut butter alternative), as it is easily confused with peanut butter.

- Children are not permitted to share snacks at any time
- Food containers should be easy for children to open independently
- If possible please use reusable containers so that we can minimize the amount of garbage we produce
- Please make sure that all reusable items are labelled with your child's name so that lunch/snack containers do not get lost.
- Please note that **healthy food** options are ideal for optimal learning. We are teaching children about taking care of their bodies and feeding their brains - please help us to get this message across by sending only healthy foods to school. Thank you 😊



Please review with your child our lunch and snack routines. Students need to know that they must not eat all of their food during their first snack. We will do our best to monitor their food consumption, however, any help you can provide would be greatly appreciated.



Please note that in Kindergarten **NO DRINK POUCHES** will be permitted.

Kindergarten students are not able to handle inserting straws into these pouches appropriately and we have had a lot of spills and messes in the past. If your child brings a drink pouch to school, he or she will be asked to take it home. Water or 100% juice is encouraged as the drink of choice!

And Finally.....

We hope to see you all at Glen Dhu's "Meet the Teacher" event in September. Classes will be open for an informal meet and greet. This event will be an excellent opportunity for families to see their child's classroom and meet your child's educators. More specific information will be sent home in September.