

Welcome to Room 1!

Hello and welcome to Nursery/Kindergarten! My name is Angela Klassen and I am so pleased to be filling in for Mrs. Delorme this year. I have worked at Lord Roberts for a few years off and on, and I am happy to be returning to kindergarten (where I started my career) this year. Here is a brief outline of some of the academic learning that will be taking place in Room 1 this year!

Curriculum: There is no specific provincial curriculum for nursery, but I will be following the practices of Winnipeg School Division's *Explore and Discover* and *Start with the Child* documents. You can find the kindergarten curriculum documents at <https://www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/cur/index.html>.

English Language Arts: Students will develop their oral language by enjoying poems, rhymes, and songs on a daily basis, and by engaging in discussions as a class and with a partner. Research shows the strongest predictors of success in learning to read are strong phonemic awareness (understanding of the smaller sounds that make up words) and knowledge of letter names. Accordingly, we will be starting our year by exploring the different sounds that are found in English and also by practicing our upper-case letters (recognizing and printing them). When we are ready, we will dive into a new phonics program that is being used across the primary grades this year, adapted for the nursery/kindergarten context. We will also practice writing letters and basic words using our phonics knowledge, as well as expressing our ideas through drawing. And of course, we will enjoy read-aloud experiences together, building our knowledge and vocabulary.

Math: Kindergarten math includes being comfortable with rote counting to 30, counting backwards from 10, counting and comparing quantities to 10, and being able to name what is "one more" or "one less" than a given number. We will also practice being able to represent numbers to 10, repeating patterns in a variety of ways, and being able to compare objects by length, weight, and volume.

Science: Kindergarten topics of study include colours, trees, and paper.

Social Studies: Kindergarten topics are "Me", "People Around Me", and "The World Around Me".

Gym: we have gym once a cycle, on Day 5.

Play in nursery/kindergarten: Play is crucial to a child's development in the early years. At the beginning of the year, much of the day will be spent in play, as students adjust to being in a school setting. As we acclimatize to the learning environment, more time will be spent on other important aspects: read-alouds, calendar, short whole-group math or phonics lessons, art activities, and "table time" jobs (fine motor, math, printing, etc.). However, we will still make time to play every day. There will be indoor centre time where students can select where to play in the classroom, and we will end our day with some outdoor playtime in our courtyard (weather permitting). Speaking of weather...

Dressing for the outdoors: Please make sure children are dressed according to the weather. Our courtyard is mostly covered, so we can play outside even on mild drizzly days. In the winter, divisional guidelines allow us to play outside in temperatures up to -27 degrees with the windchill.

Other things to keep in mind:

- Snack. We will have snack time daily. A small snack is provided by the school, along with milk and sometimes juice, but many parents choose to send something along in case their child does not like the school snack. Remember that children often eat less at snack time, surrounded by chatty friends or fun activities, than you might expect. We do have allergies in the class, so please refrain from sending items containing **nuts of all kinds** and **fish**.
- Extra clothes. Please send an extra outfit for your child in a labelled plastic bag. This would include a top, bottom, underwear, and socks.
- Home reading. The home reading program will start after the first few weeks of school. Information about this will be sent home via Seesaw.

Home/school communication: A communication folder will be sent home with notes and some work from school. Please read notes and fill out/sign if necessary, and return to school (some notes are for information only).

If you have questions or concerns, you are welcome to message me on Seesaw, or email me at anklassen@wsd1.org. The school's phone number is 204 453 6639 if you need to reach me that way.

I'm looking forward to learning with your child this year!