



St. Albert Public
Preschool

How We Grow

PLANTING SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE THAT LAST A LIFETIME

September 2017

CONTACT INFO

Miss Sandy

McKenney Ave Preschool
780-868-9804

sandy.macpherson@spschools.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Aug 30-Sept 1- Staggered
Entry

Sept. 5- First Day All
Children

Sept. 7- Parent Info
Meeting 6:30-7:30

Sept. 15 – PUF Parent Info
Meeting

Oct. 4-No School Staff Mtg

Oct. 10- No School – PD Day

Oct. 12 -Picture Day

BIRTHDAYS

Sept. 26-Nicole Audrey
Sept. 29-Nasmah

WELCOME!

Welcome to the start of a fabulous year of preschool for your little one! We are already learning our routines, meeting new friends and setting the stage for the year ahead. I truly believe that we are a team in your child's learning and that together powerful things can be accomplished as we help them become the best they can be.

This is my seventh year with St. Albert Public Preschool. Prior to this I taught with Edmonton Public Schools for seven years, and then was lucky enough to spend time at home with my own young children, Jack and Anna, who are now amazingly 15 and 13. This was when my real passion and excitement for early learning developed. Each day holds such wonder and magic at this age. I am so fortunate to get to do this work every day. If you have any questions, concerns or just would like to talk about your child, please feel welcome to contact me.

McKenney Preschool Cell- 780-868-9804

Email – sandy.macpherson@spschools.org



SEPTEMBER NEWS

The next few weeks will be busy as we settle into our routine and learn what preschool is all about. We will work on developing friendships, sharing and caring for one another. At circle time we will involve the children in fingerplays, stories and songs. We have already met Hickory, our class mouse. Although Hickory is a puppet, the kids really make him come alive as he gets into adventures around the room.

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REMINDERS

Class Times and Doors

Morning Class: 8:45-11:30 am
Afternoon Class: 12:15-3:00 pm

All children attend Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Those children receiving services and supports through PUF also attend Friday.

***No school the first Wednesday of each month due to staff meetings. (Exception in September)**

Please have your child remove his or her outdoor shoes at the door and place them **neatly on the floor beneath their hook**. Also check their mailbox for any artwork and notices that can be brought home.

We ask that you say goodbye to your child in the boot area to help make the separation easier from day one. If you prefer to stay a few minutes to visit with other parents, you are welcome to do so outside as the conversation can be distracting for the children.

When picking up your child please wait outside until we open the doors to greet you. For safety reasons I will be keeping the door locked during class time.

A reminder that if someone other than a parent (ie. Friend, grandma, neighbour) will be picking up your child we need to be informed **in writing** by filling out a Pick up Permission form ahead of time. We will also ask to see ID the first time they come.

Please park in the stalls directly in front of the preschool or down the hill, rather than in front of the other businesses. Watch out for the many children and cars coming and going during these busy times.

Parent Meetings

There is an information evening for new parents to the preschool this Thursday, September 7 starting at 6:30 at McKenney Ave.

Parents of children in the PUF program are encouraged to attend a separate information session at District Office on Friday, September 15 at 9:15am or 12:45 pm.

Absences/Illness

If your child is not feeling well, has had a fever or vomiting the night before, or has an excessive cough/ runny nose, please keep them at home for the day. You can either email me or call the McKenney cell phone directly to report an absence at 780-868-9804. It also receives texts messages. Thanks for helping to keep everyone healthy this year!

Scholastic Book Orders

Each month I will send home Scholastic Books orders. This is entirely OPTIONAL. If you would like to order something for your child, please return the completed form and payment to me by the date indicated. Please send **cheque only** made out to Scholastic Canada Ltd. CASH cannot be accepted. There is also an option to pay online.

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Allergies and Snack

Please note that we do have severe NUT ALLERGIES in our school. No snacks that contain, or may contain traces of nuts will be allowed in the classroom. Thank-you in advance for keeping our kids safe!



Also please keep in mind that a small snack of 1 or 2 healthy items is all that is required. Snack at this age can take quite a long time and many children feel they need to finish everything that is sent. A small re-usable water bottle is another great suggestion instead of juice boxes.

Parent Volunteers

Volunteers are definitely welcome! Field trips, helping out with crafts, and making playdough at home are a few ways parents can get involved. **All volunteers in contact with children will require a current criminal record check on file. A new one is required each school year.** Please see me if you need a form to take to the RCMP station. Starting in October, please see me if you would like to volunteer in the classroom. I do ask that we book your day in advance to ensure the room isn't crowded with adults and we can use your time well.

Field Trips

We try to plan a field trip or special event each month starting in October. Watch for details coming next month. Parent volunteers are an important part of our planning for field trips. As for



volunteering in the classroom, a current criminal record check will need to be completed prior to helping out.

Gross Motor Development

Our unique space at the McKenney Ave location provides special opportunities for gross motor activities. It is a large enough space that we will incorporate physical games and movement into our daily routine. Several times throughout the year we also have access to a large studio space at Danceco, as well as the play field behind the building.



Music

We are very fortunate to have our music specialist, Sharon Dowie, joining us once a week in the preschool. She will be coming for 30 minutes every Thursday throughout the year for fun songs, exploring with instruments and movement activities. Music classes start Thursday, September 14.

Newsletters

Our newsletter and calendar can be found ONLINE each month telling about the exciting learning happening in class and upcoming themes. Please check our website at the beginning of each month.

<http://preschool.spschools.org>

Follow the links to our classroom page. Throughout the year photos may also be

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posted here. In your registration package you signed our district FOIP agreement that allows your child's image (without names) to be used. If you DO NOT wish your child's photo to be posted please let me know.

LITERACY CONNECTIONS

Each year in our preschool program we choose a book that we will focus on for the school year. This year we have chosen the book **Strictly No Elephants** by Lisa Mantchev. Throughout the year we will re-read this book often in the classroom with the children and will create a special craft for the end of the year that will be included in their scrapbook. We hope that you enjoy this book as much as we do.



THINGS TO BRING TO SCHOOL

- ✓ Pair of indoor shoes to be left at school
- ✓ Backpack (large enough to hold crafts and snack)
- ✓ Ziplock bag with an extra pair of clothes, socks, underwear etc..
- ✓ Healthy, nut free snack and a drink (a refillable water bottle is best)
- ✓ Box of Kleenex
- ✓ If your child is still potty training, a ziplock bag full of diapers or pullups to keep at school. The staff will place the empty bag back in their backpack when it needs to be refilled.

OUR CLASSROOM TEAM

There are many professionals who are in the classroom each week to provide supports and services to our team. Don't be shy to introduce yourself!

Teacher- Miss Sandy



Educational Assistants – Miss Michelle /Miss Gail



Speech/ Language Pathologist –Jenn Fung



Speech/ Language Assistant – Christy Papke



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Occupational Therapist- Michelle Curtis



OT Assistant- Erin Adams



TRY THIS AT HOME

It is that time of the year when children are starting school, or returning after the summer holiday. It is easy to ask your child, "What did you learn today?" For many children, and in particular preschool age children, this is a difficult question for them to answer. Here are a few more directed questions you could ask your child to find out about their school day.

- What did you like best about your day?
- What was the most interesting thing that you learned in school today?
- What is the silliest thing that happened today?
- What book did you read at circle time?
- What song did you sing today?
- What is one fun thing that happened to you today?

Please see me if you have any questions about the program or your child's learning. Thank you for entrusting your child to me for the coming school year. I will do my very best every day to be your child's guide in learning and exploring this bright, new world they've just stepped into.

Sincerely,

Sandy MacPherson

(Miss Sandy)



"And suddenly you know; it's time to start something new and believe in the magic of beginnings."

-Unknown