

Welcome to Kindergarten at Bellmoore School!

*****Please note that due to the uncertainty of how the Ministry of Education and HWDSB will interpret public health's directives in creating a return to school plan/protocol, all included information should be considered tentative.**

What will my Child Learn and Do in Full Day Kindergarten?

Beginning Full Day Kindergarten is an exciting milestone for your child and for you. It is also an important step to help your child build foundational learning skills and prepare for Grade One.

Full Day Kindergarten is designed to give your child a stronger start in school and in life—by providing early learners with an engaging, inquiry and play-based learning program during the regular school day. Children are involved in a variety of learning opportunities to help them investigate, problem-solve and collaborate, under the guidance of an educator team that includes a teacher, and where applicable, an Early Childhood Educator (ECE).
~excerpt from Ontario Ministry of Education

Educators and Classroom Assignment

The kindergarten program at Bellmoore is Full Day Kindergarten (FDK), which means your child will come to school every day, all day. Traditionally, Bellmoore's Kindergarten classes are a blend of Year 1 and Year 2 students. Details surrounding classroom placements will be communicated to you at a later date.

Start Dates

You will receive communication from your child's education team (Teacher and Early Childhood Educator) which will outline the date and time of your child's orientation meeting and what day he/she will be starting school. Please take note of the dates and times, as kindergarten children **do not** typically all start school on the first day. More up to date information will be communicated regarding Bellmoore's September plans.



Routines

Developing routines at an early age helps form good habits for life. Setting a regular pick-up time to put away toys and games helps develop responsibility. Getting to bed at an early hour prepares your child for the next day. Eating a balanced, healthy breakfast will sustain your child until our first Nutrition Break. Keeping items such as coats, hats, backpacks, etc. in an accessible place can help to ease the morning rush and give your child a sense of responsibility for getting their own things ready for the day.

By being at school on time and attending regularly, your child develops an awareness that school is important. These are life skills that your child will use forever.

What to Bring

The following is a list of supplies you MAY be asked to send for your child:

- 1 box of Kleenex
- Complete change of clothing (appropriate for all seasons e.g., jeans/t-shirt) in a labeled Ziplock bag (please include socks and underwear)
- Indoor shoes (velcro or slip-on)

Additional information that is specific to current health and safety protocols and your child's classroom routines will be communicated by your child's classroom educators closer to our start date in September.



Nutrition Breaks

Our school operates on a balanced day schedule, which means that the children will eat in both the morning and afternoon during Nutrition Breaks.

Each Nutrition Break is 40 minutes, which allows our slower eaters to finish without being rushed. Students who finish earlier will move on to another activity. Please pack enough healthy food choices to accommodate both breaks. Some parents choose to pack snacks/lunches in two bags labeled #1 and #2 to help the children balance their choices between first break and second break. We encourage the use of reusable containers to be environmentally friendly. Drinks are best in containers that can be re-closed, as they are often not completed in one sitting – milk or water are great choices.



It is important that your child is able to open their lunch bag and containers independently. Assistance will be provided as required. ***Bellmore is a Boomerang School: all waste from your child's lunch bag (e.g., compost, recycling) will be returned home.

Backpacks

Your child will need a backpack that is large enough to hold their lunch bag and additional items. It is important that your child is able to open and close his/her backpack independently. Please do not purchase backpacks with wheels as they take up a large amount of space in our cubby areas and they will not sit on top of our shelves, which creates a trip hazard on the floor.



Entry and Dismissal

School Bell Times

9:00 am	Playground Opens for Supervision
9:15 am	School starts
10:55-11:35 am	Nutrition Break #1
1:15-1:55 pm	Nutrition Break #2
3:35 pm	Dismissal

Children who arrive to school on the bus will be greeted upon their arrival and safely guided through their entry routine, where the supervising staff will be waiting. For children who are dropped off at school, we ask that you walk them to the Kindergarten entry door. Staff will support them as they enter the school and make their way to their classroom. Our parking lots is closed, for the safety of our students, and we encourage our families to walk to school or find alternative parking in the neighbourhood.



If your child takes the bus home they will line up inside the school and will be escorted to their bus pick-up location. It is important that your child has a bus tag attached to his/her backpack so we can easily identify which bus they are to take. If your child is being picked up, we must receive notice that the routine has changed (written note or phone call). Children who are being picked up will be dismissed from the kindergarten playground area. Educators will only release your child to an authorized person (parent or other individual with written consent to pick up your child).

Over the summer, the Transportation Department will contact you with your bus information and a Bus Tag. If this information is not correct, please call Transportation right away. Send your child to school with the Bus Tag attached to his/her backpack **WITH** the route number clearly printed. This will ensure that your child gets on the correct bus at night.

Contact the Transportation Department at 905-523-2318 or visit hamiltonschoolbus.ca



Kindergarten Program Components

Full Day Kindergarten is a play based program, recognizing that children learn best through play and discovery. The purpose of the program is to establish a strong foundation for learning in the early years, and to do so in a safe and caring play-based environment.

The Kindergarten Program is organized into four broad areas or “frames”. These frames reflect the way in which learning naturally occurs during children’s exploration, play and inquiry.

- Belonging and Contributing
- Self-Regulation and Well-Being
- Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours
- Problem-Solving and Innovating



Nut/Scent-Free School

Bellmoore is a NUT and SCENT-Safe school. Please ensure that you check the ingredients of all food items that are sent to school. Students have severe allergies to peanuts, tree nuts and seeds and we must be diligent about their safety.

As well, please refrain from wearing perfume or other scented products when coming into the school. Our environment needs to be safe for everyone!

While we encourage families to walk to school where possible, no dogs are allowed on school property during school hours for safety reasons.

Scent Free
ZONE



Clothing and Labels

In kindergarten, we work very hard at playing and we **often get messy**. Please make sure to dress your child in comfortable, washable play clothes. We also have an extended outdoor play time **every day** so it is important that your child is dressed for the weather (sunhats, snow pants, mittens, rain boots, etc.). In addition, we ask that each child have a pair of indoor shoes that can be kept at school. This keeps our classroom clean and dry.



As tying shoes is a skill that most kindergarten children have not yet mastered, we ask for all shoes to be **Velcro or slip on**. This will allow your child to perform this task independently. Finally, please make sure that **ALL clothing, shoes, backpacks, containers, etc. are CLEARLY LABELLED with your child’s name**.

Bellmoore School Council is running a **Mabel’s Labels** fundraiser. The school will receive proceeds from all labels purchased under our school name. Go to mabelslabels.ca for more information!



Suggestions to Prepare for September

To ensure a smooth start to school we have compiled a list of important things to do before your child comes to school in September. Please keep the following list handy as you get your child ready for their first year at school.

- Eyes checked by an optometrist
- Ears checked by a physician
- Immunizations are up-to-date
- If you are concerned about your child’s speech or language, call [Early Words](http://www.earlywords.ca) at 905-381-2828