

Welcome to Kindergarten at Millgrove School!

Millgrove has eager educators excited to embark on yet another wonderful year of kindergarten through an inquiry/play-based learning environment where children play, learn, and thrive. Our philosophy is to engage all children in their learning through encouraging independence, creativity, and emotional well-being. We believe that children are competent, curious learners and strive to provide engaging and hands-on experiences to nurture their love of learning. This year looks different from other years and students will be learning the 3 Ds - disinfect, distance and do not share as well as the 3 Rs - reading, (w)riting and (a)rithmetic!

Our staff are Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Di Toro, Mrs. Coakwell, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Rush and Ms. Minardi.

What to wear?

Students must wear running shoes during the school day. Due to safety concerns (e.g., outdoor play, gym time) pretty shoes, sandals, flip flops, and crocs are not to be worn during the instructional day. Please wear runners with velcro unless your child is an expert at tying their own shoes. They should be able to put on their own runners including securing the velcro/tying. Your child will need to always dress appropriately for the weather (e.g., sunscreen, hat, boots, raincoat, snow pants, mittens). Your child will spend part of the day outside rain or shine. **Please label all of your child's belongings as there is no lost and found this year.**

Help your child to be independent by dressing your child with play in mind. Avoid belts, difficult buttons and snaps that impede when visiting the toilet and dressing for outside. Practise putting on and taking off jackets and zipping zippers. Practise wearing your mask.

We recommend each child have an extra set of clothes in a **labeled** zip lock bag to leave at school or in their backpack with extra socks, underwear, pants, shirt and a spare mask. Children can have all sorts of accidents that require a change of clothes such as art material spatters, lunch spills, bathroom misses, puddle jumping, etc. Please put your child's name or family name on the clothing, outdoor gear, and runners.



Eating

Children are encouraged to practice independence during eating times. Your child will have two 40-minute nutrition breaks to eat their snack/lunch. They wash their hands, sit at their table, and open their containers to eat their snack/lunch. Lunch tables will be cleaned after use. Have your children practice opening and closing their food containers at home. Children should take uneaten food home so you can monitor choice and quantity eaten. Refillable water bottles are best for your child as they close/reopen during the day, unlike a juice box. Please know that if you encourage your child to eat all their food, uneaten food often ends up in the garbage as they feel pressured to eat it all. Talk to your child about their food (e.g., nutritious vs. treat), and please don't send unhealthy food such as pop, chocolate bars, and chips. Please ensure that they have breakfast so they have enough energy for their morning exploration.

Please remember that we are a NUT FREE school – check labels to ensure that food does not contain nut products. Even products that say 'may' contain nuts cannot be sent to school.

Open Communication

Please feel free to contact us with questions or concerns. We are always happy to talk about our program. However, we often have activities after school (e.g., supervision, school or parent meetings) so it is best to make an appointment for more formal questions or concerns to ensure that we are available. Millgrove School's telephone number is 905-689-4544. The school has a website to keep you up to date <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/millgrove>. Each kindergarten teacher has a Hub page that they update often so remember to check it to read what is new.

Pick up and dismissal

Kindergarten entry is at 8:45 AM and dismissal is at 3:05 PM in the kinder area. Please wait until your child is dismissed to you. Educators need a clear sight line to ensure that each child is safely delivered to their parent/guardian. We will only dismiss your child to those on the 'pick up authorization' form or by consent via email. Thank you for your patience and support during these busy times. We dismiss children one at a time. If your child runs ahead when they see you, they will be brought back to the line to help them understand that they need to wait for safety.

There is no entry at the door in the kindergarten area. Please do not slip in the doors to wait or enter this way. This is a safety concern as educators do not know every parent or caregiver that may be picking up or dropping off a child of any given class.

Absences and late arrivals

All absences or lates are to be reported online using School Messenger. For a known absence (e.g., a doctor's appointment), please input the absence using School Messenger. If your child has to leave early for an appointment, enter into School Messenger or phone the office ahead of pick up so that you do not need to wait for your child.



Mrs DiToro

Mrs Coakwell

Mrs Bailey

Mrs Mason

Mrs Rush

Mrs MacDonald

Ms Minardi

Looking forward to an exciting year together at Millgrove School.

