

Kindergarten Parent Orientation



Focus on Faith Prayer

Jesus, our Saviour and Friend,

You have shown us so much love.

You are gentle with us, You heal us, You died on the Cross for us.

Now You ask us, "Do you love Me?"

As we come to know You better, and see all that You have done for us,

May our hearts be filled with love for You.

Make us eager to always do what You ask of us,

And to see Your face and love You in everyone else we meet,

Especially those we may find it hard to love.

It is Your love which turns our lives around.

By trying to love as You have loved us, we become more and more like You.

Guide us always on our way,

Show us each day how to love You more.

Spirit of the living God, fill our hearts!

Amen.



Honouring the Land and Territory



Halton, as we know it today, is rich in the history and modern traditions of many First Nations and the Métis. From the lands of the Anishinabe to the Attawandaron, the Haudenosaunee, and the Métis, these lands surrounding the Great Lakes are steeped in Indigenous history.

As we gather today on these treaty lands, our Catholic Social Teaching call us in Solidarity with our Indigenous brothers and sisters to honour and respect the four directions, lands, waters, plants, animals and ancestors that walked before us. All these wonderful elements of creation exist, gifted to us by our Creator God. We acknowledge and thank the Mississauga's of the Credit First Nation for being stewards of this traditional territory.

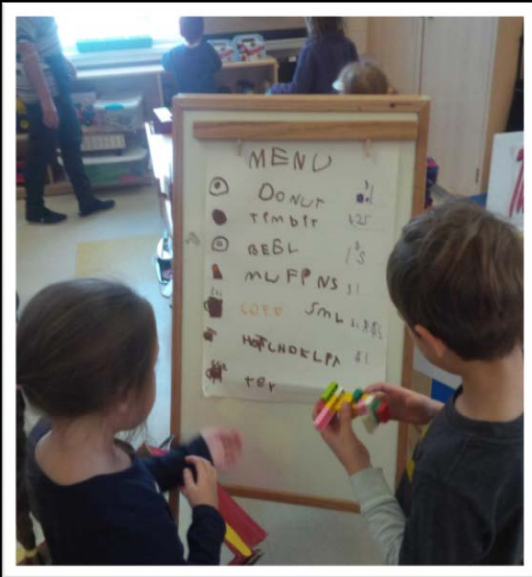
“Play nourishes every aspect of children’s development—it forms the foundation of intellectual, social, physical, and emotional skills necessary for success in school and in life. Play “paves the way for learning”.



Play-based Learning

- Providing large blocks for play
- Supporting children's ideas and interests
- Providing a variety of hands-on experiences
- Responding, challenging and extending children's thinking and learning





Children are curious and connect prior knowledge to new experiences in order to understand the world around them.

Commitment to Equity, Inclusion, and Anti-Racism

“What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” – Micah 6:8

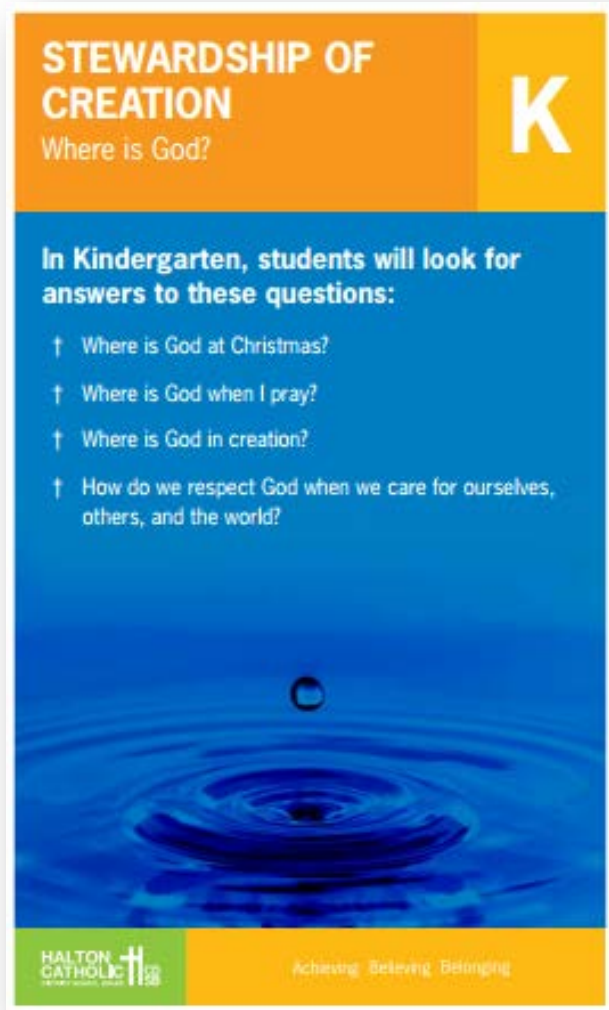


HCDSB aspires to uphold that all people are created in the image and likeness of God, and as such dignity is inherent in all. (Genesis: 1:27)

We are a Christ-centered environment, dedicated to providing learning and workspaces free of discrimination, harassment and violence for all students, staff, and members of our HCDSB community.

Harassment and discrimination will not be tolerated, condoned or ignored at HCDSB.

Faith Formation and Religious Education



In Kindergarten, the aim is to assist children to see traces of God in and around them.

Spiritual growth takes place within the home, school, church and community.



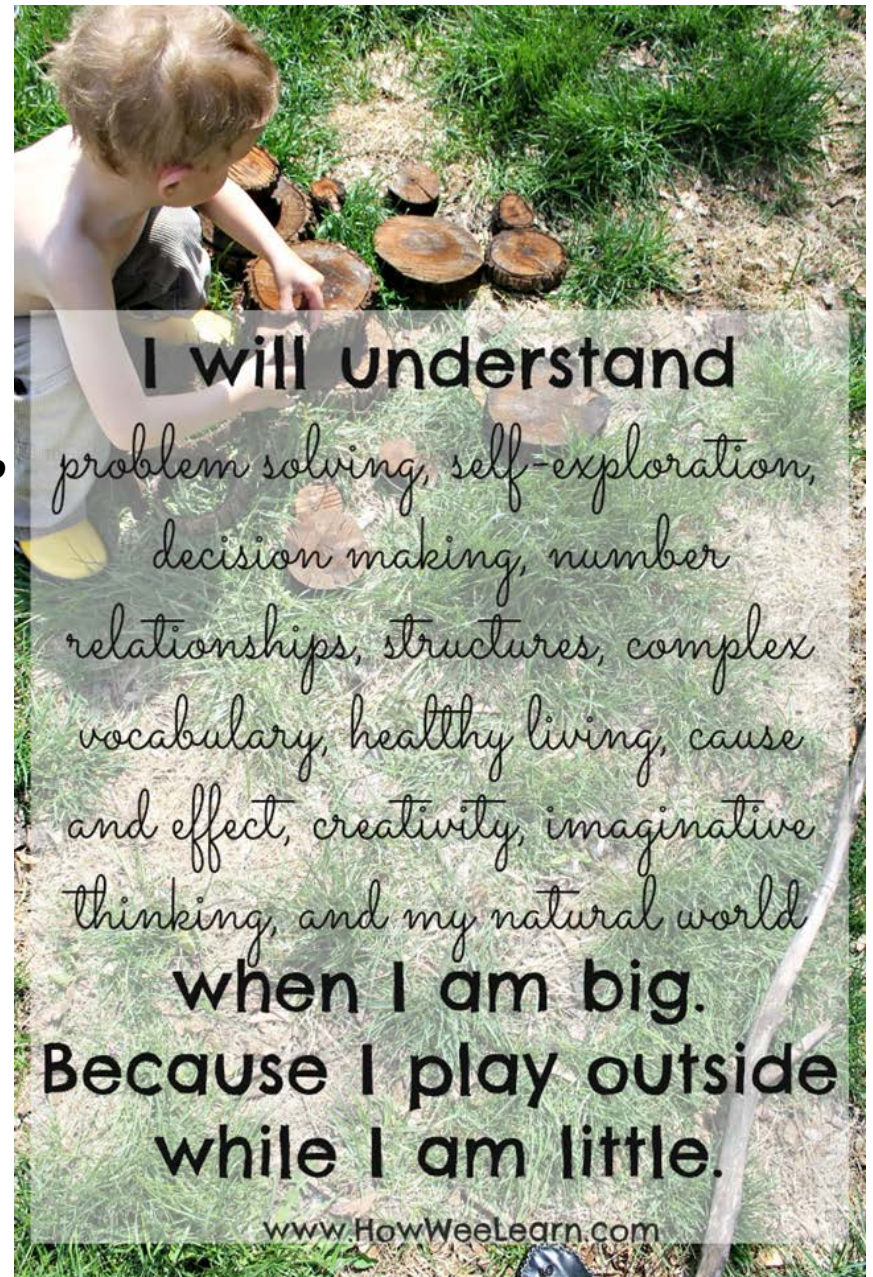
The 4 Frames



The Natural Playground

The Natural Playground provides rich opportunities to discuss and investigate the Kindergarten **Focus on Faith** theme Stewardship of Creation the essential question- ***Where is God?***

In this age of technology, it is critical to explore ways to connect children to nature in order to appreciate God's gifts of creation.



Indigenous Education



All month long we have been reading Indigenous stories, learning about Treaty and learning greetings in Indigenous languages, check it out!

[@IndigenousHCDSB](#) [#hcdsbk](#)



This morning we went on a virtual field trip to Crawford Lake! Through pictures and videos we learned about the Attawandaron & Huron-Wendat people that lived in Longhouses, planted the three sisters and hunted & fished on the lake! [#IndigenousAwarenessMonth](#)

[@IndigenousHCDSB](#)



In Kindergarten, we:

- can learn about Indigenous perspectives of the land and make connections to our faith teaching of stewardship for creation particularly through our Natural Playgrounds
- can learn about different First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities through guest speakers and books
- can begin to learn about First Nation, Métis and Inuit histories

Please Help Keep Our School Safe!



Current health and safety protocols

- ✓ Children in Kindergarten must wear a mask indoors and outdoors
- ✓ Mask breaks will be provided
- ✓ Children are reminded to wash their hands regularly
- ✓ Hand soap and/or alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be available
- ✓ Children are reminded to keep a safe distance from their peers

**These are the current health and safety protocols, they may change in light of any Public Health advisory changes

Please Help Keep Our School Safe!

CAUTION

YOU ARE ENTERING A SCENT-SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENT

Exposure to perfumes and other scented items can trigger adverse health effects in people with allergies or medical conditions.

Please help support our efforts in limiting the use and exposure to scented products in the workplace.



HALTON
CATHOLIC 
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

If you are adversely affected by scented products in your work area discuss your concerns with your principal/supervisor or contact the HCDSB Health and Safety Officer at Ext 174.

The School Day



- 8:45 - 9:00 am Entry into classroom
- 9:00 - 10:45 am Inquiry Learning
- 10:45 - 11:00 am Snack #1
- 11:00-12:00 Outdoor Inquiry
- 12:05 - 12:45 pm Lunch (Snack #2)
- 12:45 - 2:00 pm Inquiry Learning
- 2:00 - 2:40 pm Outdoor Inquiry
- 2:45-3:00 pm Snack #3
- 3:00 -3:30 pm End of day routine and dismissal

**This is only a sample. Your child's schedule may vary.

Entry and Dismissal Procedures

Drop-off (8:45 – 9:00 am)

Students should be dropped off outside their kindergarten class door.
Educators will greet the student and welcome them in the classroom.

Pick Up (3:15 – 3:30 pm)

Students will be picked up at the same location as drop off.
You may be asked for ID to confirm a safe pickup.

Bus

Please visit haltonbus.ca prior to the first day of school to register for the bus.
Bus students will be given a colour coded bus tag that identifies their bus and stop.
At dismissal, students will be walked to their bus line by one of the classroom educators.

Before/After School

Please contact the office prior to the first day of school to register for the YMCA.
At entry and dismissal, students will be dropped off and picked up from their class by one of the YMCA educators.

Parents are encouraged to leave their children to the supervision of the educators. This will encourage all of the children to adjust sooner to the kind, nurturing learning environment of kindergarten and to continue to develop independence and self-regulation skills.



Latest News



NEW Transportation for Elementary French Immersion Students

NEW 2014-15 Kindergarten Registration Package

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Which School
Do I Attend?

Am I Eligible for
Transportation?

Student Transportation
Information

Sign In

Parent or Student



Bus Transportation

Please visit www.haltonbus.ca for more information.



Before and After School Care

If you need
before or after
school care, it
is important to
reach out as
soon as
possible to
arrange care.

Our care
provider is
YMCA Oakville.

Lunch and Snacks...

- Our school is Peanut Free. You may be informed of additional food allergies in your child's class at a later date.
- Please label all containers and utensils with your child's name.
- Practice opening containers and re-packing containers into the lunch bag with your child to encourage independence in the classroom.
- We ask that a healthy snack be packed as Snack #1 and special treats to be saved for Snack #3. You can label your child's snack container 1, 2 and 3 to help them make an informed choice during snack time.
- "Litterless" lunch if possible. We encourage containers instead of one-use plastic bags.
- Students are provide with 3 opportunities to eat - Snack #1, Lunch (or Snack #2) and Snack #3. Talk to your child about portions and what/how much they need for each snack.



Clothing and Footwear...

- On the first day of school, please send One set of spare clothing to keep at school in a labelled ziplock bag including:
 - Socks
 - Underwear
 - Shirt
 - Pants
- Your child should be able to put their shoes on independently (velcro vs laces)
- Running shoes must be worn in the gym

MAKE SURE ALL BELONGINGS ARE LABELLED



Backpacks should be large enough to hold...

- Large picture books
- Communication bag
- Shoes
- Lunch
- Snacks

How Can Caregivers Support the Transition to Kindergarten?



The following activities may help children prepare for the school routine:

- Develop routines at home
- Supporting independence at home
- Drop-in programs at EarlyOn Centres/library
- Bus rides (especially if the child is going to ride the bus)
- Spending time at the school site/playground

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Choosing Quality Child Care

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Toilet Learning

[Fact Sheet \(PDF file\)](#)

Why call it toilet learning vs. training?

- Learning to use the toilet is part of a child's development like learning to walk.
- It should be child led when he/she is ready. (i.e., not led by a parent who is read to "train" the child)
- The parent can support toilet learning by being tuned in to their child's readiness.

HaltonParents blog

- [Toilet learning will happen when it happens \(external link\)](#)
- [Why is my school aged child still wetting their bed? \(external link\)](#)

Establishing Routines...

Top 3 tips to remember

Toilet learning should be **child led - not parent led**.

Keep it positive & fun even when accidents happen.

Be flexible and remember you may need to stop the process and try later if your child is showing little interest.

- Toileting Independence
- Dressing and Undressing

How Can Caregivers Support the Transition to Kindergarten?



Promoting a Healthy Lifestyle

1. **Getting enough sleep** helps children manage emotions, follow instructions, stay on task
2. **Being active** promotes healthy hearts, brains and muscles.
3. **Eating healthy** provides the fuel for our brain and bodies to work

Reading With Your Child

“Children are made readers on the
laps of their parents.”

Emilie Buchwald



Mathematics With Your Child

- Have your child count toys, utensils, items of clothing as they come out of the dryer, collections (such as stickers, buttons or rocks) and any other items your child shows interest in counting.
- Sing counting songs and use counting in meaningful ways in games, such as Hide-and-Seek.
- Play games that have dice or cards where recognizing numbers and quantities is a skill that will be developed through playing



<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/literacynumeracy/parentGuideNumEn.pdf>

Tip!

When children are learning to count, they like to touch, point to and move objects as they say the number aloud – so encourage them to!

Additional Information



Once we are able to welcome you back in the school building, volunteers are always needed!

In order to be a volunteer, you will need to complete vulnerable sectors police check, you can do this by going to the police station.

Next steps...



Kindergarten entry in Halton Catholic District School Board is a gradual process

- ✓ Register
- ✓ Complete Forms
- ✓ Orientation night (You are here!)
- ✓ Interview in September (meet the educators and see the classroom virtually)
- ✓ Start! (Your child's educators will notify you of your child's gradual entry date)

Questions....

You are invited to a LIVE Q&A with some of the educators on our St. Andrew Kindergarten team.

Thursday April 22, 2021

6:30 – 7:00pm

Feel free to ask our available staff any questions or concerns during this session. You can access the session using **Microsoft TEAMS**. A web-link will be sent to you via email. Click the link provided on April 22 to attend.

Visit www.hcdsb.org click on *Learning and Resources* and then on *Kindergarten* for more information.

Thank you for joining us in this virtual session!



We look forward to meeting you in person!