



# Kindergarten Orientation for 2026-27

## Cecil Swanson School

May 2026



Calgary Board  
of Education

cbe.ab.ca

# Kindergarten

Come learn with us!



Calgary Board  
of Education



# Welcome to Cecil Swanson!



- Introduction to Office Staff



Principal:  
Kevin Whitton



Assistant Principal:  
Joan Murtagh



Secretary:  
Sam Bradford

## Introduction: Current Kindergarten Teacher



Current Kindergarten teacher

Zoie Kehoe

# About Our School Community

- We are a K – 6 school serving the community of Rundle
- There are approximately 350 students at Cecil Swanson
- Our school is home to a System Classes called Bridges, and a system class called Enhanced Educational Services (EES)
- Our [School Website](#) is a wonderful source of information about our school and school events!



# Three Pillars of Care

Our school uses the Three Pillars of Care to help students and staff communicate our shared expectations.



# Seven Sacred Teachings and Virtues



- Love 
- Respect 
- Courage 
- Honesty 
- Wisdom 
- Humility 
- Truth 

# Truth and Reconciliation Commitment

All CBE Schools make and renew an annual commitment to Truth and Reconciliation based on the 97 Calls to Action.

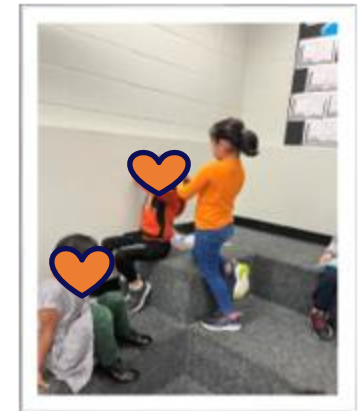
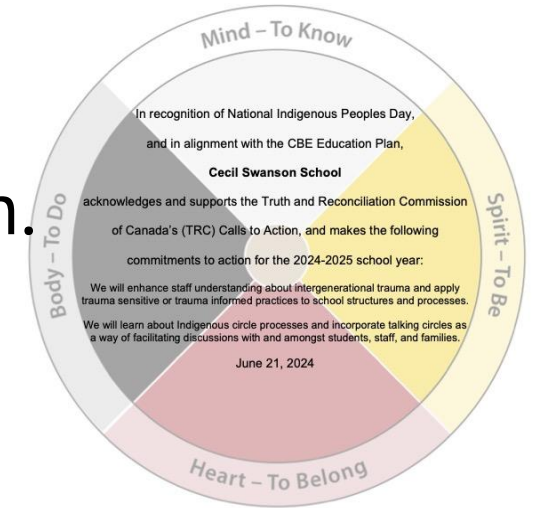
Our TRC Commitment this year was:

*To learn about Indigenous circle processes and incorporate talking circles as a way of facilitating discussions with and amongst students, staff, and families.*

*To enhance staff understanding about intergenerational trauma and apply trauma sensitive or trauma informed practices to school structures and processes.*



Commitment to  
Truth and Reconciliation



# Kindergarten Hours

- Kindergarten has its own school calendar – Times below are not approved yet and are tentative.
  - **AM Regular Hours:** 8:05-11:01
  - **PM Regular Hours** 11:49-2:40
  - Alternate Fridays 8:05-12:10
  - We must ensure AM and PM class sizes are equitable
  - We do our best to give families their choice of AM/PM classes
  - You'll receive a confirmation email with your AM/PM class prior to end of June.



# Staggered Entry

- Not all kindergarten students will start on the same day.
- A staggered entry allows the staff to give each student more attention on their first few days with a smaller number of students.
- Your welcome email will contain your staggered entry group and the schedule is on the Kindergarten Calendar.



# PowerSchool



- Please sign up as soon as possible at <https://cbe.ab.ca/support/Pages/MyCBE-PowerSchool.aspx>
- Pay fees, sign up for bussing, book parent teacher conferences, view attendance and report cards
- You will need your child's CBE ID# and access key to sign up
- Please feel free to call our main office for further information or support at 403-777-6690

# Transportation



- Eligible students in the AM class can ride the school bus TO school
- Eligible students in the PM class can ride the school bus HOME FROM school.
- There is no mid-day bus. Parents are responsible for transportation.
- Coming Soon - You can see if you are bus eligible on the Find a School Tool at [www.cbe.ab.ca](http://www.cbe.ab.ca)
- Kindergarten pays a reduced transportation fee of \$130 for one-way bus
- **Families who do not pre-register for the bus by June 12 will not be added to a bus route until September. It can take SIX WEEKS before they are able to ride the school bus – this could be as late as Thanksgiving.**
- [CBE Transportation](#)

## Enhanced Supports



The classroom teacher is at the centre of your child's learning team and is supported by a school learning team. Based on classroom needs, each kindergarten program will also be supported by a multidisciplinary team that works with large and small groups in the classroom.

This team may consist of:

Education Assistants or Early Childhood Practitioners

Early Learning Strategists

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs)

Psychologists

Occupational Therapists (OTs)

Physiotherapists (PTs)

School Family Liaison (SFL)

# School Policies



- Please do not come in any of the side doors. All visitors need to go through the main entry door and check-in at the office.
- If your child is late, please take them to the office.
- If your child is going to be absent, please call the main office at 403-777-6690 or email [cecilswanson@cbe.ab.ca](mailto:cecilswanson@cbe.ab.ca)
- **IMPORTANT: If your child is not taking the bus home, please call the main office before the end of the day to avoid any confusion!**

# School Policies



- Any medical concerns need to be communicated to the Main Office and you will need to fill out a 'Student Health Plan' to ensure your child gets the specific care they require in the case of an emergency.
- If your child has an epi-pen or inhaler, they will need to always have access to it. Please let the teacher know where they can be found in your child's backpack.
- We love volunteers!
  - All adult volunteers require a valid security clearance.
  - Contact Mrs. Bradford in the office to start your volunteer registration in September.

# School Policies



- Dismissal
  - We do a hand-to-hand transfer at the end of class for bussing, and parent pick up
  - Your child will not be dismissed to an adult we do not know
  - If your child will be picked up by someone else, please let the teacher and office know as soon as possible.
- Nut Aware
  - Students can bring nut products to eat for snack, keeping in mind they may need to sit at a separate table if there are allergies in the classroom

# Learning Through **PLAY**



*“Research shows that children who engage in complex forms of socio-dramatic play have greater language skills than non-players, better social skills, more empathy, more imagination, and more of the subtle capacity to know what others mean. They are less aggressive and show more self-control and higher levels of thinking”*

*~Miller & Almon*

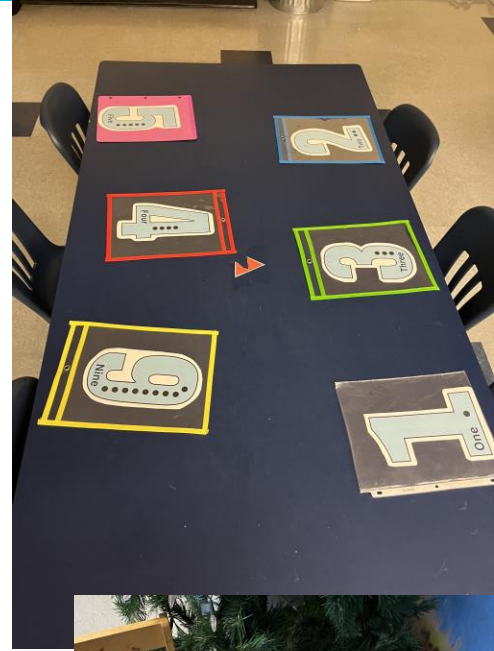
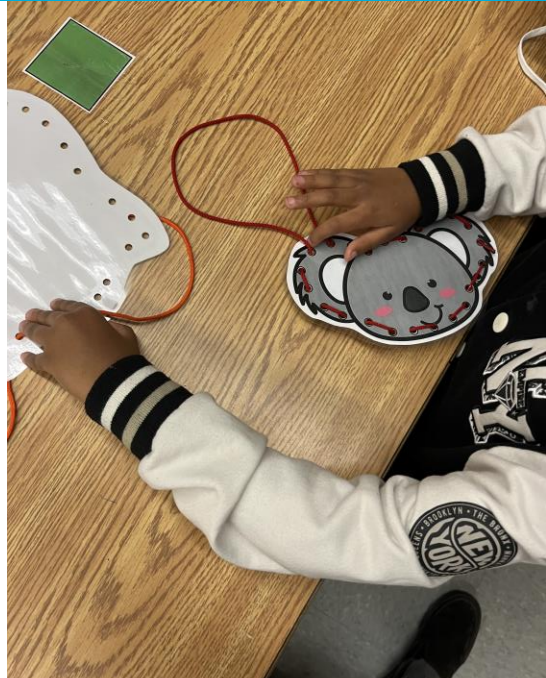
# Play-based Program

Students also explore with a variety of materials.

- Loose parts
- Sorting
- Art supplies
- Building materials
- Writing materials
- Natural materials
- Outside learning
- Learning about school



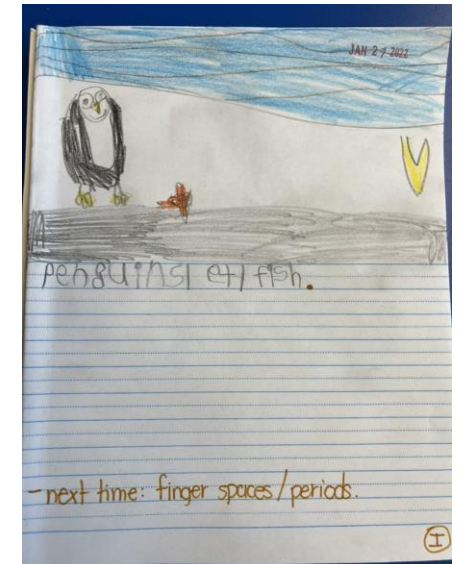
# What does a day in Kindergarten look like?



- Arrival
- Table Tasks
- Sharing Circle
- Show and tell
- Direct Instruction & Small Group Work
- Ufli
- Gym
- Snack
- Math up
- Centres
- Story Time
- Home Time

# Early Literacy

- Exploring fiction and non-fiction texts
- Identifying initial, medial and final sounds in a word using the Ufli program
- Rhyming, segmenting, blending
- Practice listening and speaking skills through the sharing of oral stories
- Develop new vocabulary through a variety of literacy experiences



# Mathematics

- Representing quantities in a variety of ways (objects, pictures, numbers, words)
- Counting within 10, forwards and backwards Numbers to 10
- Subitize
- Recognizing patterns in daily routines and play, including songs or dances.
- 2D and 3D Shapes
- Using programs like MathUP for hands on learning



# Physical Education & Wellness

- Spatial awareness
- Respect and fair play
- Identifying and expressing feelings
- Conflict resolution
- Healthy relationships
- Food that helps the body grow



# Science and Social Studies

## Environment & Community Awareness

- Use senses to make observations about environments
- Describing and understanding our world

## Citizenship & Identity

- How we are all unique
- How we are all connected to different communities
- How people come together

Often more open-ended and collaborative



# Music



Music  
is My  
Life



Our dedicated Music Room is spacious and well-equipped.

We are looking forward to incorporating movement in our music classes.

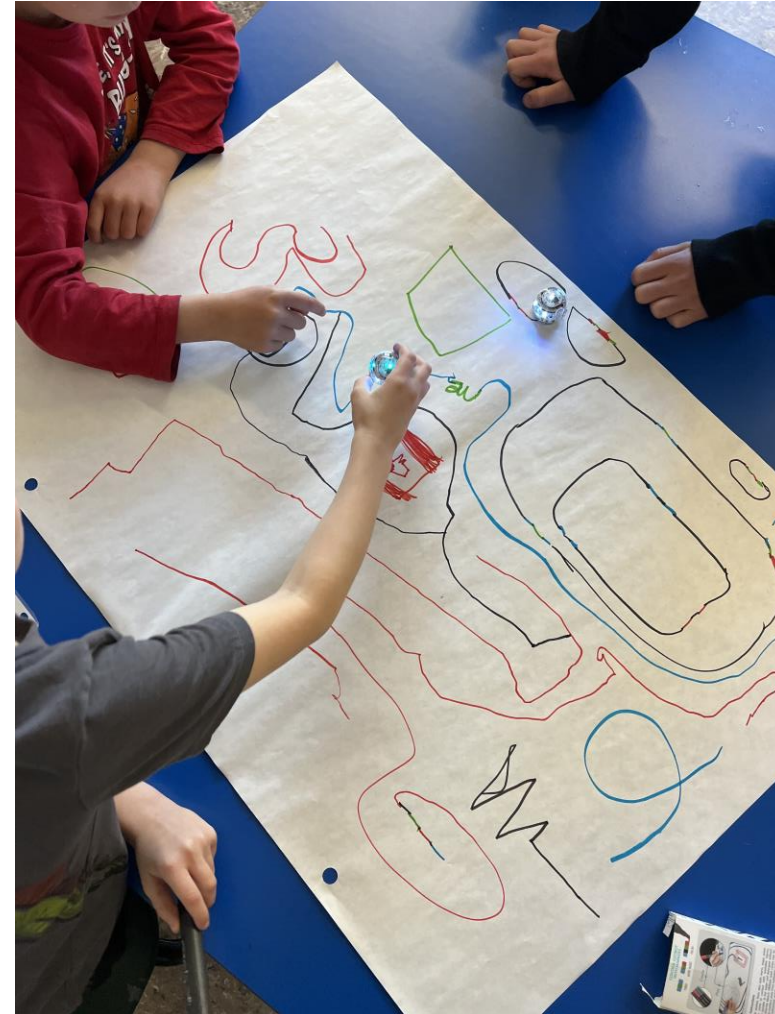
Music is taught by your child's classroom teacher.

# Technology

Cecil Swanson staff and students have access to a variety of technologies that support teaching and learning, including iPads, Chromebooks.

We have just purchased \$5 000 of new robotics for our school!

Students are expected to be responsible digital citizens both at school and at home.



## Things to Bring Every Day

A healthy and nutritious snack – can be eaten in 5-10m

A water bottle

A backpack with a change of clothes, including underwear and socks

Indoor shoes that will be kept at school – velcro shoes are preferred for the beginning of the year

# First Day of School



- Students who are dropped off will meet their Kindergarten teacher on the compound.
- For students riding the bus:
  - Staff members take students to/from the bus and do attendance.
  - Please print off a copy of your child's bus route and place it in their backpack, with their stop number circled.
  - Writing your child's bus on their hand is also very helpful!
  - Knowing their first and last name, and phone number is helpful.

# Getting Ready for Kindergarten



**Build your child's independence by encouraging them to:**



- dress themselves (zippers, buttons)
- use the bathroom and wash their hands on their own
- put away toys and help out in other small ways at home
- practice opening and closing snack containers and using a water bottle
- play games, take turns and compromise
- develop a consistent bedtime routine



# Getting Ready for Kindergarten



## Read to your child every day:

- read stories together in *your first language* to help your child develop vocabulary, listening and speaking skills
- enjoy reading different types of books: picture books, information books, nursery rhymes, poetry
- encourage your child to talk about the pictures and stories as you read together
- visit your community library (when possible)

# Getting Ready for Kindergarten



**Take time to talk with your child about everyday activities:**

- share special activities together, such as walks to the park
- talk about what you are seeing and doing
- talk, read, sing and play in *your first language* every day
- praise children for their efforts and courage to overcome setbacks
- talk about how it is okay to make mistakes



## Additional Resources

The Calgary Public Library- Top Tips for Kindergarten Readiness\*:

<https://calgarylibrary.ca/library-news/kitchen-table-classroom-kindergarten-readiness/>

The Calgary Public Library- Kindergarten Booklist:

[https://calgary.bibliocommons.com/list/share/393767397\\_calgarylibrary\\_kids/1859193931\\_books\\_to\\_get\\_ready\\_for\\_kindergarten?\\_ga=2.167944481.1601611572.1619640025-939542020.1599601380](https://calgary.bibliocommons.com/list/share/393767397_calgarylibrary_kids/1859193931_books_to_get_ready_for_kindergarten?_ga=2.167944481.1601611572.1619640025-939542020.1599601380)

I'm Ready for Screens- Parent Resource:

[https://banff.ca/DocumentCenter/View/11018/ImReadyForScreens\\_English](https://banff.ca/DocumentCenter/View/11018/ImReadyForScreens_English)

\*Developed in collaboration with the CPL, Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School Division

# Open House

We have not planned a classroom tour this afternoon, since our classroom location may change next year. You are welcome to stay and enjoy Family Fun Night until 6:30pm.

We hope you will join us for our Open House on August , time TBA – keep an eye on the website.

This will be a chance to see the classroom set up and chat with the teacher before the first day of school!

## Q & A

We have some time now to take some questions that you may have.

Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our main office at 403-777-6690.

Thank you for coming!

# Learning Through **PLAY**

More than just skill building or practicing for the world we will grow into, play is the primary way which children manipulate new information, fit it into existing schema or create new ones and then adjust their understanding accordingly.

formulating **hypothesis**  
**engaging** in experimentation and exploration  
**discovering** patterns  
creating **theories**

