



Introducing the Kindergarten Team...

Mrs. Bonnie Ell (K3 & K4)- I have been a teacher since 1993! I look forward to being part of my Kindergarten students' learning and growth! Together we will use respect and kindness to build a class family. I enjoy being outdoors, reading, and photography. Spending time with my family and friends brings me great joy.

Mrs. Siobhan Nielsen (K1) - I thoroughly enjoy spending time with little people. I think that Kindergarten is a magical place. I have the best husband in the world and I have four cute people that call me mommy. I love to grow vegetables and flowers and I love a good children's book. My favorite quote is, "You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child" by Dr. Seuss. I have 2 dogs and 3 cats.

Miss Stephanie Reid (K2 &K5)- This will be my ninth year as a teacher and my third year teaching Kindergarten! I love baking, my cat Maggie, and reading! I'm really excited to spend my year with the little ones and watch them grow!

Mr. John Goutsis (Fridays in K3 & K4) - I am thrilled to be part of the Kindergarten team! I have been teaching in Carstairs for over 20 years. My wife and I live in Airdrie. We have two daughters, Alyssa and Erika. I enjoy the outdoors, music, reading and am a HUGE Calgary Flames fan. I am excited to get to know all the new Kindergarten students and spend time each week watching them all grow!

Educational Assistants

We are privileged to have knowledgeable and caring assistants working in our classrooms and are excited to introduce them to you: *Mrs. Bonnie Allan, Mrs. Shannon Watson, Mrs. Christina Longmuir, and Gail Schwartz*

Home & School Communication

Expect monthly newsletters from us throughout the year that will include specific learning concepts and events. Our newsletters can be found on our CES website www.carstairselementary.ca and will also be posted in our Google Classrooms.

(This will be the only paper copy of the newsletter that you will receive).

Daily News will also be included in our Google classrooms and this highlights what students did at school each day.

We welcome you to keep us informed about any concerns you may have regarding your child. Please do so by sending your child's teacher an email or by phoning us at the school. **Carstairs Elementary School: 403-337-8670**

Or send us an email:

bell@cesd73.ca snielsen@cesd73.ca sreid@cesd73.ca jgoutsis@cesd73.ca

Google Classroom

Each Kindergarten class has a Google Classroom. Parents/Guardians will receive a 'My Computer Card' sheet that will have your student's school email address and password. Within your child's Google Classroom, you will find helpful information such as, Newsletters, Daily News, resources, and learning activities to use in case illness related times, and for practice/review. We urge you to check into our Google Classroom on a regular basis!

Accessing Google Classroom: We ask that you sign into your child's email account right away to find and accept the Google Classroom invite. You will always need to access our Google Classroom through your child's CESD email. Go to google.ca and click the sign in button and type the information off of your child's 'My Computer Card' (student email address and password).

CES School Messenger: To allow our school messenger system to send you text messages to your cell phone parents need to opt in to this option by texting "Y" or "Yes" to 724665. If you are new to CES or if you are not receiving text messages you need to do this or you will be missing some important

communication from the school. Please contact our office staff if you are experiencing difficulties with this.

School Information: All school information can be found on the school website:

www.carstairselementary.ca



September Kindergarten Learning Goals:

- I can tell you my teacher's name
- I can recognize my first name
- I can take care of my belongings
- I can locate my classroom
- I can learn to follow our classroom routines, directions and rules.
- I can begin to learn alphabet letters and their sounds.

“They just play in Kindergarten”

This is a comment we often hear and we'd like to stress the importance of play. Play is a child's work. It is how they learn about their world. “Play is essential to healthy development. During engagement and social play interactions with their friends and families, children's language and social skills, and problem-solving abilities are developed.” We choose to prioritize play based learning throughout our daily schedules and include time for role-playing, games, and play centers.

Literacy

Students will be introduced to alphabet letters one at a time but not necessarily in alphabetical order with the Jolly Phonics program. The children will learn to recognize and name upper and lowercase letters as well as the sounds of letters. By providing an action to go with individual letters and their sounds, students often have more success building letter/sound knowledge. You will find the resources in your child's Google Classroom to help practice at home.

We will also spend time helping your child learn to recognize, print, and identify

the letters in their name. This will assist with their letter knowledge too.

Show & Share

Kindergarteners will participate in Show & Share throughout the school year and these times will connect to specific learning outcomes. Times will be given in our monthly newsletter and reminders will be in our Daily News (Google Classroom) too. Show & Share is an extremely important component of our language arts curriculum. Not only does it support the concepts we are studying in class, it develops oral language skills. It creates an opportunity for your child to share favorite items, focus on the questions asked, and project their voice so their peers can hear him or her. It is also a good listening activity for their peer audience. Remember to read our monthly newsletter for Show & Share information.

Numeracy and Science

Students will engage in a variety of activities to develop familiarity with the 11 basic colors, and to develop an awareness of different 2D shapes and of shapes in our environment.

Social Studies

Starting school means getting to know each other and learning how to work together in a classroom and school. K students will be involved in learning the CES Golden Rule - "Treat Others How You Want to be Treated", and in knowing their classroom rules. They will discover PAWS, our school mascot and our school rules.

Phys. Ed. & Music: Mrs. Lisa Gardner will be instructing the Kindergarten Phys. Ed. and Music program to our students. She will be providing the progress of these subjects for the report cards.

Important Notes

Exit and Entry: Mrs. Ell's and Mrs. Nielsen's classes are to enter and exit through the North doors located near the kindergarten classrooms. Miss Reid's classes will do so at the main/front doors. We ask that students line up outside in their designated area and teachers will meet and accompany them there.

Absences and Lates : If your child needs to be away from school for any reason, please inform the school office staff: 403-337-8670, the classroom teacher through email, and your child's bus driver. Should your child arrive late for school, please have him/her enter the main doors and then inform the office staff of their arrival. Please do not send your child to school if they are feeling ill and please follow the AHS guidelines for a daily health check. If your child shows signs of illness at school, your child's teacher will contact parents/guardians to collect their child.

Contact information: Due to the Privacy Act teachers cannot provide any student's names or phone numbers for play dates and birthday parties etc. In addition, please inform the office staff if any of your contact information changes (teachers are unable to do so for you). Please be aware that your child's teacher will include a class list, first names only, in their Google Classroom.

Birthdays: Your child's birthday will be recognized at school. Birthday treats are not necessary. If parents choose to send food, we prefer it individually packaged and please refrain from sending anything with nut products. Something small, simple, and not messy would be appreciated. Please connect with your child's teacher ahead of time so time can be made for this.

Change of Clothes: Accidents do happen! Your child might have a bathroom accident, spill, or fall at school, so please place an alternative set of clothing in their backpack for emergencies. Placing extra clothes in a plastic bag labeled with your child's name would be helpful. Later in the school year, please ensure that these clothes still fit your child. Thanks!

School Supplies: Thanks to those who have sent in the supplies. If you have misplaced your list you can find it on our CES website. **It is important to label** your child's backpack, shoes, coat, lunch kit, and water bottle with their name.

Scholastic Book Orders: We will be sending home Scholastic book flyers throughout the school year. Ordering from them is optional. We ask that orders be placed online.

Water Bottles: We allow and encourage our students to have a water bottle in

class. It should only contain water and should be labeled with their name. We ask that you ensure that water bottles are leak proof and spill/shatter proof if they happen to fall on the floor. Please remind your child to take the water bottle home each day to be washed. Thanks.

Snacks & Lunches: Please send a nutritious morning snack and lunch to school with your child. Please label lunch kits and containers with your child's name. We encourage students to be independent eaters and to try opening their food items on their own. As well, we do expect them to tidy up after themselves. Teachers are unable to heat up food. Remember to refrain from sending any food containing nuts due to allergy concerns. Your cooperation is appreciated! Please note that we do provide extra time in our day (more time than is stated in our school timetable) for students to wash their hands, eat, use the washroom, and clean up. If you happen to find that your child is not eating all of their food - perhaps they don't like the food, maybe it's too much food, maybe they are distracted during eating times, or perhaps they are simply a slow eater. Having your child participate in preparing their food for school can help keep eating times positive.

We are excited to work as a team with you and your child! Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns. Also, please remember to refer to the parent handbook, school website, and your child's Google Classroom for pertinent information regarding school. Thank you!

We are looking forward to a year of wonderful learning in the best grade of all!

Your Kindergarten Team:

Mrs. Ell, Mrs. Nielsen, Miss Reid, Mr. Goutsis

