



Ecole Pauline Haarer
400 Campbell Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 3G7
Telephone: (250) 754-2722 Fax: (250) 741-0275

Dear Families,

Welcome back everyone! Firstly, we hope that all of our families have had some moments to relax and enjoy making memories together over the summer months. Secondly, we are very grateful for the opportunity that we had to briefly meet most of you and your children at our Welcome to Kindergarten events held across the district last June. As the new school year approaches, we are contacting families to let you know that the arrangements for this significant step in your child's education are underway. As you may have heard in the news, our Ministry of Education announced that there has been a delayed start date for the school year. September 8th-9th will be for staff only in order for them to take part in preparing for start up and take part in health and safety training.

As indicated in our June letter to Kindergarten families, your child will begin Kindergarten with a **Gradual Entry**. The purpose of the Gradual Entry period is to connect with you and focus on the health and well-being of your child. The Gradual Entry period also allows for our children to attend their first days of Kindergarten in stages, where the length of their day and number of other children in the class gradually increase over a period of time. This time is meaningful for our children, as they learn new routines and build relationships with others. Another key component of the Gradual Entry process is for parents, teachers, and/or school staff to have conversation together about your child; typically, this was done in person in the Kindergarten classroom.

In order to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year during our present COVID-19 circumstances, while keeping the health and safety of our staff and families first and foremost, you and your child will be able to take part in a **Kindergarten Orientation in place of the commonly held in-class interview between the parent(s) and teacher this year**. The goal of the Kindergarten Orientation is the same as our typical interviews, in that it is to be an **opportunity to connect with the teacher(s) and communicate with each other about your child to identify your child's strengths, interests and stretches**. While we are unable to welcome you physically into our school building at this time, we are striving to be closely connected with our families and have alternative ways with this orientation to welcome you and your child to their Kindergarten year and get to know each other.

On the next page is a 'schedule at a glance' outlining the overall plan for **Gradual** entry. The school will contact you by the end of day **September 9th** with the **specific times** for your child's attendance for Gradual Entry. **September 10th and 11th is called "K Orientation"**. **These days have been set aside for our Kindergarten teachers** to reach out to families with introductions and information specific to our school. This may come in the form of an email, phone call, video, or in another creative way. Welcoming and transitioning our youngest learners into Kindergarten for their Gradual Entry will begin on Monday **September 14th**. The first Full Day of Kindergarten is Monday **September 21st**.

Gradual Entry Schedule at a Glance

September 2020				
7 Labour Day	8 Staff Only	9 Staff Only	10 K orientation Staff will begin making contact this day	11 K orientation Staff will continue to be making contact with families they did not reach on the 10 th this day
14 Gradual Entry 1 HR 4 Groups of 5	15 Gradual Entry 1 HR 4 Groups of 5	16 Gradual Entry 2 HRS AM <u>OR</u> PM 2 Groups of 10	17 Gradual Entry ½ DAY AM <u>OR</u> PM 2 Groups of 10	18 Gradual Entry ½ DAY AM 1 Group of 20
21 First FULL DAY Of Kindergarten!				

Gradual Entry is an important time where our staff, students, and families get to know each other and begin to build safe, caring, and inclusive classroom communities. As our Ministry of Education shares with us, “Families are the first teachers, the primary caregivers, and the knowledge-holders of their children” (Ministry of Education, BC Early Learning Framework, 2019, pg 16). Our 2020 Kindergarten children will have a Kindergarten year unlike another. We remain optimistic to move forward together closely with you and your child. We can’t thank you enough for your time, patience and support at this time. Please contact your school if you have any questions about your child’s needs for the upcoming school year.

Thank you in advance for your support in our school opening during these unique times. Looking forward to meeting and greeting your family.

Ecole Pauline Haarer

Mme Shannon Apland	Principal
Mme Heather Marshall	Kindergarten Teacher
Mme Suzanne Smith	Kindergarten Teacher

