** Welcome to Whyte Ridge Kindergarten**

Kindergarten is a wonderful beginning to your child’s learning. Listed below are a few things to remember for a successful start in September……

1. Shoes

**Velcro**, zipper or spaghetti lace runners are the shoe of choice for kindergarten students because laces take a long time to tie. Please be sure to label the shoes and send them with your child on the first day of school.

1. Backpack

Please purchase a **LARGE backpack** for your child; one that will hold a large Library book or art project. The cute animal packs and ones with wheels are not functional for our school lockers. Have your child carry their backpack to and from school every day to learn to be responsible for this item. Please check it daily for school library books and teacher notes. Also, please have a **change of clothing** tucked in their backpack in case of a bathroom accident.

1. Snack

Kindergarten students enjoy snack time every day. This is particularly important during the first few weeks when children are getting to know each other while eating their snacks. Please send a healthy option that is quick to eat. No juice please.

1. School Supplies

The school buys shared school supplies that will be in the classroom when students arrive. Money for school supplies is collected in September.

1. Staggered Entry

Kindergarten children have a slow start to school so we can work in small groups. Your child will come to school **ONE day in the first week** and meet 1/3 of their classmates. Then the following week they will come every day. You will receive a letter in August informing you of your child’s specific dates.

1. Drop off and Pick up

Kindergarten children line up outside the front doors (near flagpole). Morning drop off is 8:15 am and afternoon drop off is 12:10 pm. Pick up is 11:10 am/3:00 pm. When your child becomes completely independent, the drop off/pick up zone on Scurfield Blvd. may be used. We suggest Kindergarten families park close by and wait with their children at the door.

1. Attendance

It is very important children arrive at school on time to take part in important classroom routines that make them feel part of the class. Children arriving late must check in at the office. Attendance is sent to the office at the start of each day –morning and afternoon. If your child is going to be absent from school, please notify the school office preferably using EDSBY. An invitation will be sent to you at the beginning of the school year to join EDSBY which is a division wide tool that schools in Pembina Trails use. A message may also be left on the attendance line at (204)488-4245.

1. Email

The kindergarten teachers communicate regularly through email. Be sure to give the office your best email for us to reach you at.