Dear West Heights Community Elementary School New Kindergarten Families,

We are very excited to welcome our newest cohort of young learners here at West Heights Community Elementary! Our Kindergarten students participate in a gradual entry Welcome to Kindergarten Program during the first two weeks of September. Please see details and dates below regarding the program, as well as other important information regarding the school year start for our Kindergarten students.

**Welcome to Kindergarten Gradual Entry Program**

On September 3rd, parents and students will meet with our Kindergarten teachers in the library at 8:30 a.m.  At this time, our Kindergarten teachers will first welcome everyone as a group, and provide all pertinent information to parents for starting the year.  Then the students and parents will participate in stations that are part of the Welcome to Kindergarten Program. These stations will be finished by around 9:45 a.m.

On September 3rd, parents will also sign up for an **individual interview time slot** that works for their schedule on either Wednesday or Thursday. Both parent and student will attend these interviews.

In addition, on September 3rd, parents will be told what group (A or B) their child is in for the gradual entry groups for the next week.

Kindergarten students are **not in session on Friday, September 6th**, as Kindergarten teachers around the District attend professional development workshops.

**Gradual Entry (part-time attendance) will begin on Monday, September 9th and finish on Friday, September 13th**. Students will each attend a rotation of morning and afternoon sessions to familiarise them with attending at different times of day. As an example, a student who is assigned to attend in the morning on Monday will attend in the afternoon on Tuesday, in the morning on Wednesday, and in the afternoon on Thursday. Students who are assigned afternoon on Monday will attend the morning on Tuesday, in the afternoon on Wednesday, in the morning on Thursday and in the morning on Friday.  Both groups come at the same time Friday morning.

Parents are welcome to come into the classrooms to drop of their students during the gradual entry period.  We do family reading during both the afternoon and morning sessions, and so parents are welcome to join us for this.

**Monday, September 16th will be the start of regular full-day Kindergarten classes, 8:30 – 2:23pm**

**Other Important Start-Up Information**

School Supplies: Please purchase your student’s school supplies by the time we go into full days on September 16th.  Our Kindergarten teachers can answer any questions you have about the school supplies list during the gradual entry days.

Your child will need to have a backpack, a lunch kit, inside runners (**that student can put on by themselves please!**) and a change of clothes at school by September 16th. Please make sure to label all of your child’s belongings, including their runners, with their name.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school at 604-826-6401.

See you soon,

The Kindergarten Teachers at West Heights Community School