



Welcome back!!!

On behalf of the staff at École Sifton School, it is my pleasure to welcome our families back for the 2022-23 school year. We are looking forward to greeting our students on our first day of classes which is Tuesday, September 6th. Our staff has been busy planning for the start of the school year and we are excited to be able to resume many of the activities that we could not participate in for the past few years. We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with some important information about the first day of school and the rest of the school year. We hope this back to school message will provide you with answers to any questions you may have but please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any additional inquiries.

It is my pleasure to introduce some new members of our École Sifton School staff. We are excited to welcome Mme Kendall, Mme Moore and Ms. Badry to our school community. Mme Kendall has taught in several of our French Immersion classes. She will be teaching both of our Maternelle classes this year. Mme Moore taught French Immersion at École Charlie Killam School last year and will be teaching one of our grade three French Immersion classes this year. We are excited to welcome the newest member of our team, Ms. Badry, who is the new Program Lead for our Pre K class. We are so fortunate to have such strong additions to our teaching team and look forward to working with them this year!

We have another exciting member that will be joining the École Sifton School community this fall. Some of you might have met Mina already in the spring when she joined us for our Sports Day. Mina is a service dog that will be working in Mrs. Myck's grade two class. We will be reminding our students that when a service dog is on duty, as they always are when they are at school, they are not like a pet. Students will not have direct contact with Mina and they will not be able to pet her. As we have several students in the school with dog allergies, we are working with staff and students to ensure that there is no interaction with our students that this impacts. It is important that we do not have other dogs in the building or on the playground to ensure we maintain the safety of all of our students. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this.

To help facilitate drop off for the first few days of school, teachers will meet their class in the playground in a well marked area and will walk their class into the school to their classroom. Teachers will provide more information in their welcome messages. Please feel free to send school supplies over a couple of school days if your child will have too much to carry on the first day. For the first day or two of classes, teachers will continue to meet their students on the school grounds and walk them to their classrooms. After this time the school will be open at 8:25 and students will be able to enter the school using their assigned entrance and head to their classes. Please note that there will be no supervision on the playground in the mornings before 8:10 or after school. For this reason, we ask that students are not dropped off earlier than 8:10 whenever possible.

We have some important changes in our schedule that we would like to make you aware of. First of all our morning recess that we had prior to Covid restrictions will now resume. When students in Grades 1 - 5 arrive in the morning they will gather on the playground for recess until the bell goes at 8:25. At this time they will enter the building and classes will begin at 8:30. There will be supervision in the playground starting at 8:10 each day. Our grade 1 - 5 students will use the boot rooms adjacent to the playground. Our Pre K and Kindergarten students will enter the school through the main entrance after 8:15. Students will exit the school through the same doorway as they used in the morning. If a student arrives late or is leaving early they will use the front door. During the winter months the before school recess will end and students will enter the school upon arrival at 8:15 and go directly to their classrooms for morning activities. This change will occur after the November break and we will send out a reminder about this change at that time.

Our [bell schedule](#) will stay the same as last year. This schedule provides different recess times for our younger and older students as well as two opportunities for nutrition breaks. We had a great deal of positive feedback regarding the use of this schedule and it helps provide more access to the playground for our students as well as increases supervision. Students will not be assigned an area on the playground for recess time to start the school year, although we may revisit this later if necessary.

Although it is no longer a requirement for parents to complete the Daily Checklist prior to students coming to school, it is still important that we do everything we can to keep our school community healthy. We appreciate that parents have kept their children at home these past couple of years when they exhibit symptoms and we ask the parents to continue this practice. This helps keep our school community healthy and greatly decreases the absences for all our students and staff throughout the year. As was the case last year, if students develop symptoms during the day, we will contact families to pick them up.

Thank you to all of our parents who contact us when their son/daughter will be away. We also ask that you continue to make us aware of these absences. Starting at the beginning of the school year, our front door will be open. Students coming late in the day, as well as visitors, will no longer need to ring the doorbell for access to the school. Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time but it is important that visitors check in at the office. Whenever possible, we will limit the disruptions to classes with visits or phone calls to classrooms during the school day.

A reminder that the deadline to order fruit through our School Council's fundraiser is the end of the day on Wednesday, September 7th. Orders can be made by using the [Online Ordering and Payments link](#) on our website. The School Council will also be looking for volunteers to help distribute fruit on September 20th and 21st. If you are available to help on either of those evenings, please contact us at the school to let us know.

Our staff is excited about the opportunity to welcome all of our students on the first day and to ensure they have a great school year. Teachers will be connecting with our families this week to provide additional information for their specific classes. Please visit our website to find [school supply lists](#) under the "Family" tab. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the school if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Tracy Beattie