



Kindergarten Orientation

Belfast School
May 22, 2025



Calgary Board
of Education

Agenda



- Introductions
- Learning through *PLAY*
- Enhanced supports in kindergarten
- Getting ready for kindergarten- tips for parents
- Important dates & times
- Volunteering
- Belfast School Council & Parent Fundraising Society
- Belfast Student Care
- Logistics
- First day of kindergarten

Introductions



- Ms. Nusrat Premji – Kindergarten teacher
- Ms. Clancy Evans – Assistant Principal
- Ms. Meagan Lundgren – Principal
- Kim Buchanan – Chair, School Council & Parent Fundraising Society
- Anne Marie & Leah – Belfast Student Care

Teachers:

- Ms. Dana Powell
- Ms. Melissa Holmes

The Calgary Board of Education



The early years are a time of significant development in a child's life. Personalized attention is extremely beneficial to early learners.

At the Calgary Board of Education, we understand that children bring their own unique talents and gifts to their learning experience. Our dedicated staff know how to help children reach their full potential.

Learning Through **PLAY**



More than just skill building or practicing for the world we will grow into, play is the primary way which children manipulate new information, fit it into existing schema or create new ones and then adjust their understanding accordingly.

formulating **hypothesis**
engaging in experimentation and
exploration
discovering patterns
creating **theories**



Learning Through PLAY

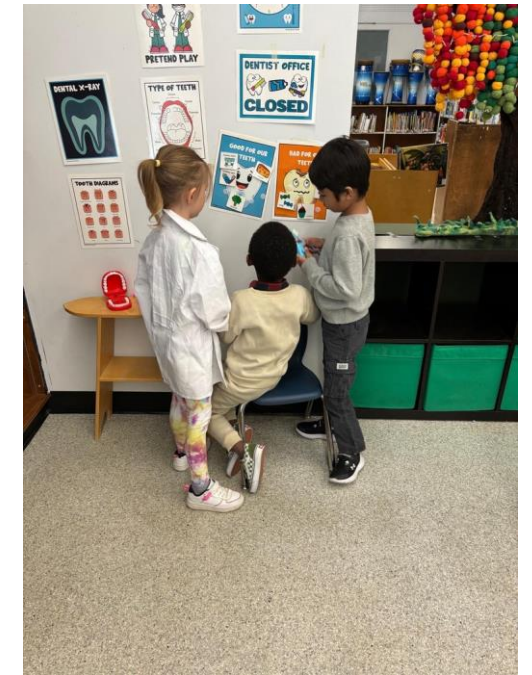


Learning Through *PLAY*



“Research shows that children who engage in complex forms of socio-dramatic play have greater language skills than non-players, better social skills, more empathy, more imagination, and more of the subtle capacity to know what others mean. They are less aggressive and show more self-control and higher levels of thinking”

~Miller & Almon



Learning Through PLAY



Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Build your child's independence by encouraging them to:



- dress themselves (zippers, buttons, shoes – no laces, please)
- understand the logical order of dressing (ex. mittens last)
- use the bathroom and wash their hands on their own
- put away toys and help out in other small ways at home
- practice opening and closing snack containers and using a water bottle
- play games, take turns and compromise
- practice switching from a preferred to unpreferred activity without argument
- develop a consistent bedtime routine
- expose your child to various social situations in various settings (including situations without you present)
- focus on a growth mindset (no "I can't", but "I can't do this YET...")

Getting Ready for Kindergarten



Take time to talk with your child about everyday activities:

- share special activities together, such as walks to the park
- talk about what you are seeing and doing
- talk, read, sing and play in *your first language* every day
- praise children for their efforts and courage to overcome setbacks
- talk about how it is okay to make mistakes

Snacks are a big deal!

ensure your child can open snack containers
independently

appropriate easy to eat, bite sized snacks are important for
child to feel successful and handle/finish
practice setting a timer for snack breaks (10 mins max)

Getting Ready for Kindergarten - Literacy



Read to your child every day:

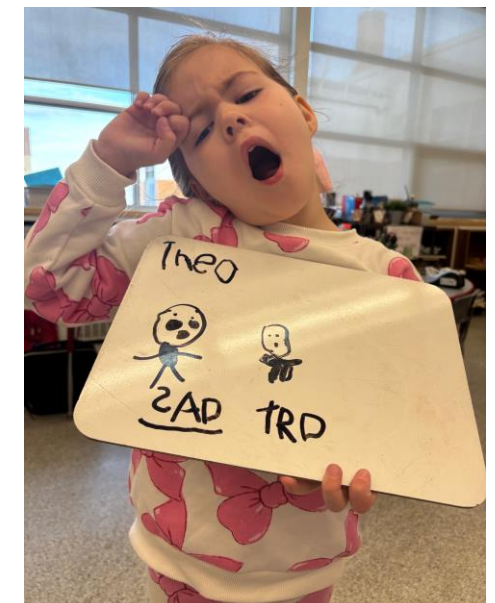
- read stories together in *your first language* to help your child develop vocabulary, listening and speaking skills
- enjoy reading different types of books: picture books, information books, nursery rhymes, poetry
- encourage your child to talk about the pictures and stories as you read together
- visit your community library (when possible)
- point out environmental text (signs, subtitles, etc.)

Getting Ready for Kindergarten - Literacy



- The CBE follows a research-based approach to teaching and learning reading
- This approach highlights the relationship between, home, school, and community literacy
- We want students to learn to read and to enjoy reading
- Students will go to the library once a week for a book exchange
- Students will bring home two books each week: one decodable, and one library book
- Library books should appeal to your child's interest; however, they may contain words that they cannot yet sound out
- Decodable books use words that follow phonics rules taught in class

Getting Ready for Kindergarten – Literacy: Applications of Concepts



Getting Ready for Kindergarten - Numeracy



Young children are naturally curious and develop a variety of mathematical ideas before they enter Kindergarten.

Mathematics learning is embedded in everyday activities, such as playing, reading, beading, baking, storytelling and helping around the home.

- Main concepts: Number, patterns, measurement and geometry
- Students learn and practice concepts taught at daily numeracy centres
- Numeracy is intertwined in their dramatic play, example: cashier working with money, reading the prices on a menu, counting and sorting objects at the hot chocolate stand
- Students also apply numeracy skills through problem solving and looking for math in the real world
 - Example: looking for shapes and patterns in the real world
 - Counting objects outside and solving a word problem (if I find 2 pinecones and my friend finds 3 more, how many did we find all together?)

Getting Ready for Kindergarten - Numeracy



Getting Ready for Kindergarten – for Parents



- Social and emotional transition for parents – often more difficult for the parents!
- Independence is a good thing!
- Clear boundaries help everyone
- We see you and are here to help
- Trust us – we've all done this before

Important Times & Dates



** This is the plan – not approved until June. Please check your email regularly.

Tuesday, September 2

- 8:30-9:45 (Last names A-K)
- 10:30-11:45 (Last names L-Z)

Welcome coffee on the playground at 8:30 AM

School hours

- 8:25 soft entry at kindergarten doors
- 8:30 – 11:45
- Monday to Thursday only
- No Fridays
- Some days in lieu: field trip days and September 25

School calendar is approved for the system; Belfast calendar will come out in June with specific dates and times.

Save the date: Thursday, September 4, 5:00-7:00 PM – Welcome (back) BBQ

Communication is Key



For this spring:

- Communication will be ongoing through June 26, and resume again in August
- School Messenger – have to "opt in" to receive messages



For next year:

- Weekly Update every Friday afternoon from principal
- Weekly Update every Friday from teacher
- Google Classroom
- MyCBE for assessment
- School website updated regularly
- School calendar



What to Bring to School



- Backpack (full size for library books)
- Complete change of clothes, including underwear
- Water bottle
- Snack (not a meal...)
- Indoor **running** shoes that will stay at school
- Appropriate outside clothing for learning on the land
- Clothing for changing Calgary weather

Be sure to label everything!

MyCBE, SchoolEngage and Instagram



- Opt-in to receive emails from the school
- Access student grades and report cards
- Pay school fees
- Complete registration and other documents
- Check out our Instagram each week: <https://www.instagram.com/BelfastSchoolCBE/>

Enhanced Supports



The classroom teacher is at the centre of your child's learning team and is supported by a school learning team. Based on classroom needs, each kindergarten program will also be supported by a multidisciplinary team that works with large and small groups in the classroom.

This team may consist of:

Education Assistants or Early Childhood Practitioners

Early Learning Strategists

Behaviour Support Worker

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs)

Psychologists

Occupational Therapists (OTs)

Physiotherapists (PTs)

School Family Liaison (SFL)

At Belfast, we also connected families last year to vision, dental, etc.

English as an Additional Language (EAL) Learners



- Belfast has many EAL learners; about 20% of our students
 - More than half are LP1 or LP2, meaning they are just beginning to speak English
 - We have two Literacy, English, Academic Development (LEAD) classes for students in Grade 4-6
 - The younger the student is, the faster they tend to pick up the language
 - Preserve the home language!

School Nurse & Immunizations



Our school nurse, Stephanie Wu, can be reached by email at stephanie.wu@ahs.ca, or on her cell at 403-819-3723



All families will be contacted regarding immunizations. It is important to note that children are due for routine vaccines at four years of age: Diphtheria/Pertussis/Tetanus/Polio



You can call the school nurse or call Health Link at 811 if you are unsure about your child's vaccination status

Volunteering



- Be part of the school community!
- Volunteer on trips, in the classroom, in the office, etc.
- Police security clearance is needed for any volunteer role that involves students



Two ways to get police clearance:

- Register on MyCBE/SchoolEngage OR
- See Ms. Shelley Gayford in the office



For more information, visit <https://cbe.ab.ca/get-involved/volunteer/Pages/volunteer.aspx>



Belfast School Council & Parent Fundraising Society



What school council is:

- We play an advisory role and work collaboratively with the school and school community
- We suggest ideas for funds but do not have a bank account
- We report to Calgary Board of Education Trustees



What the fundraising society is:

- It is a society that focuses on generating funds to help support the school!
- We raise funds in a couple of different ways:
- Casino - most funds are generated through a casino every 18 months. We raised nearly \$80,000 last casino.
- General - smaller fundraisers – Healthy Hunger - use these funds for teacher appreciations, community wellness etc.
- Ed Matters - fundraise for specific items not covered by casinos but benefit all... example...t-shirts.
- The Society Reports to Corporate Registry of Alberta and AGLC



Why Council and Society are important:

Being a part of the council allows you to collaborate with your child's school.

Being part of the Society helps to support your child's school. *At Belfast School, staffing accounts for roughly 97.3% which allows us to have wonderful teachers and smaller class sizes; however, it means the fundraising society plays a vital role in providing opportunities for our kids.*

Belfast School Council & Parent Fundraising Society



What the society has done so far:

Field trips - Butterfield Acres, Tyrrell Museum in Drumheller, Heritage Park, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Calaway Park, etc.

Covering nearly all cost of field trips

Classroom enrichment

Clubs

Artist-in-Residence is paid for by society (Fit Set Ninja, Rocks and Rings, Elev8 Lacrosse, Alien Inline etc.

New equipment - fine arts, PE, technology (robotics, computers), etc.

Support our school community via a compassionate fund

To come: Gaga pit and basketball hoops.

In collaboration with the school, we host events

School dances (Halloween and spring)

SummerFest

Welcome Back BBQ

Grade 6 Farewell

*Movie nights

Teacher appreciation throughout the year (coffee cards at Christmas, lunch in June)

How to get involved:

Attend a meeting, you do not need to take on a formal role, just come and check it out.

Belfast Student Care



- Serving Belfast Families since 1988
- Licensed by Alberta Child and Youth Services
- Hours of operation & closure dates
- Programming
- Provincial Affordability Grant and Subsidy
- Please see us for more information
- Anne Marie: 403-277-3361



Google Translate on CBE Websites

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Forest Lawn High School website. The browser's address bar shows the URL `school.cbe.ab.ca/school/ForestLawn/Pages/default.aspx`. The website header includes navigation links: News Centre, Calendar, Print, For Staff, QuickLinks, and a Google Translate button (circled in red). A search bar is also present. The main content area features the Forest Lawn High School logo and the motto "Viator Via Veritatis | Travel by Way of the Truth". Below this is a navigation menu with links: About Us, Teaching & Learning, Extracurricular, Culture & Environment, Get Involved, and Registration. A large red arrow points to the Google Translate button. Below the navigation menu is an orange banner with the text "ALERT: KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12 LEARNING FROM HOME" and a link to "View Full Details". The bottom section of the page features a large blue banner with the words "HAPPY", "AFRAID", "SAD", and "ANGRY" overlaid on images of faces. To the right of this banner are two red boxes with text: "Kindergarten to Grade 6 Students Move to At-Home Learning" and "CBE Recognizes CMHA Mental Health Week 2021". The bottom right corner features the Calgary Board of Education logo.

school.cbe.ab.ca/school/ForestLawn/Pages/default.aspx

Apps 1. ELL STRATEGIST... ELL Team - Home ALT Strategist Spre... Instructional Suppo... PowerTeacher in th... English Language L... ELL Other bookmarks

News Centre Calendar Print For Staff QuickLinks Google Translate Search this site...

Forest Lawn High School
Viator Via Veritatis | Travel by Way of the Truth

About Us
Contact & Information

Teaching & Learning
Programs & Classes

Extracurricular
Activities, Clubs & Athletics

Culture & Environment
Support, Health & Safety

Get Involved
Parents & Volunteers

Registration
Fees & Transportation

ALERT: KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12 LEARNING FROM HOME
Starting Friday, May 7, most K-12 students will be learning at home. At this time, students are expected to return to in-class learning on Tues., May ... [View Full Details](#)

HAPPY AFRAID SAD ANGRY

Kindergarten to Grade 6 Students
Move to At-Home Learning
[Read More](#)

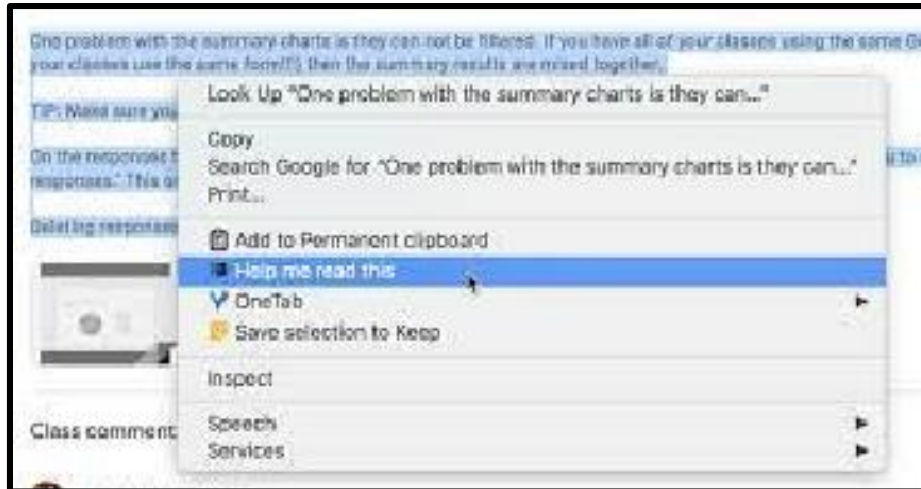
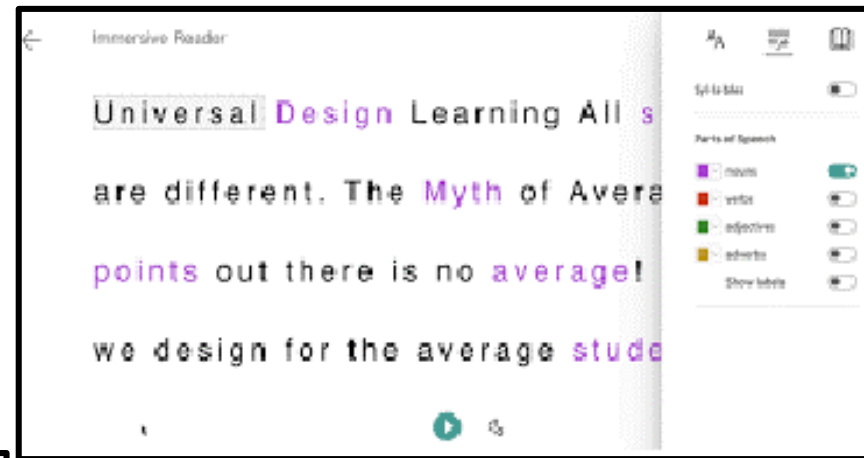
CBE Recognizes CMHA Mental
Health Week 2021
[Read More](#)

Grade 7-12 At-Home Learning

Calgary Board of Education



Immersive Reader



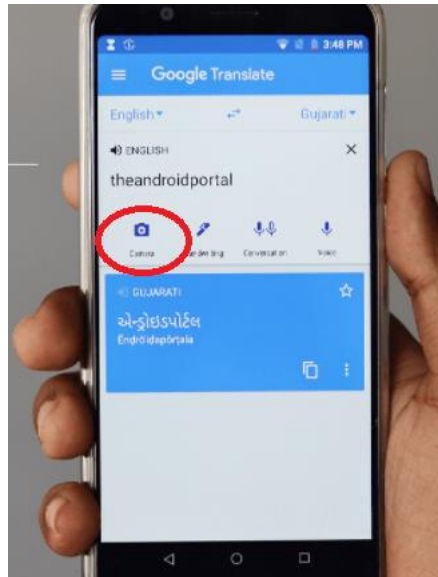
learning | as unique | as every student



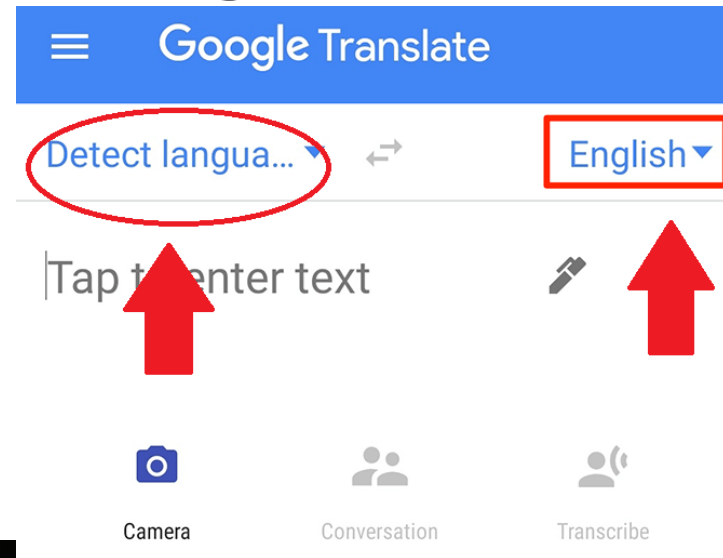
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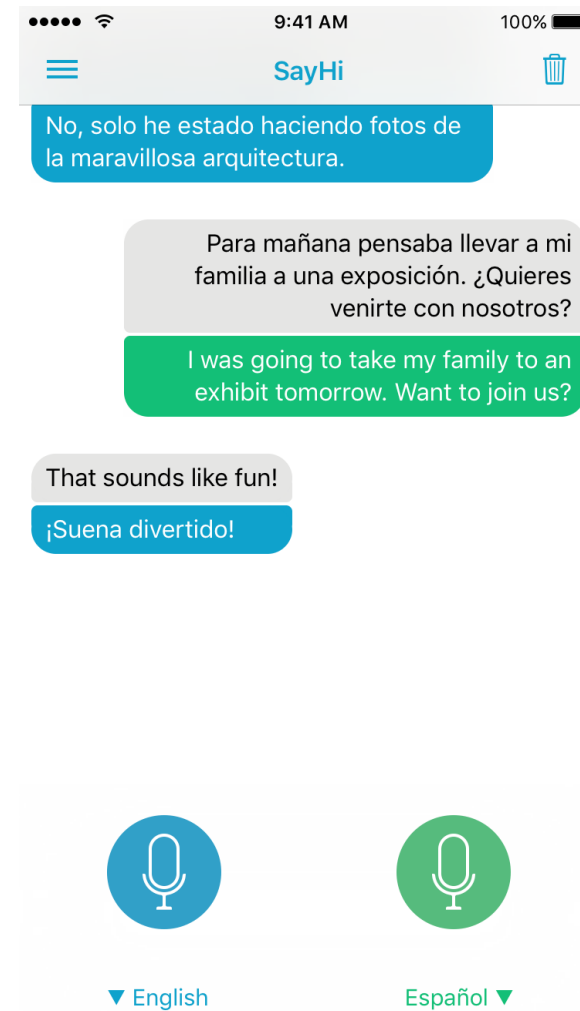
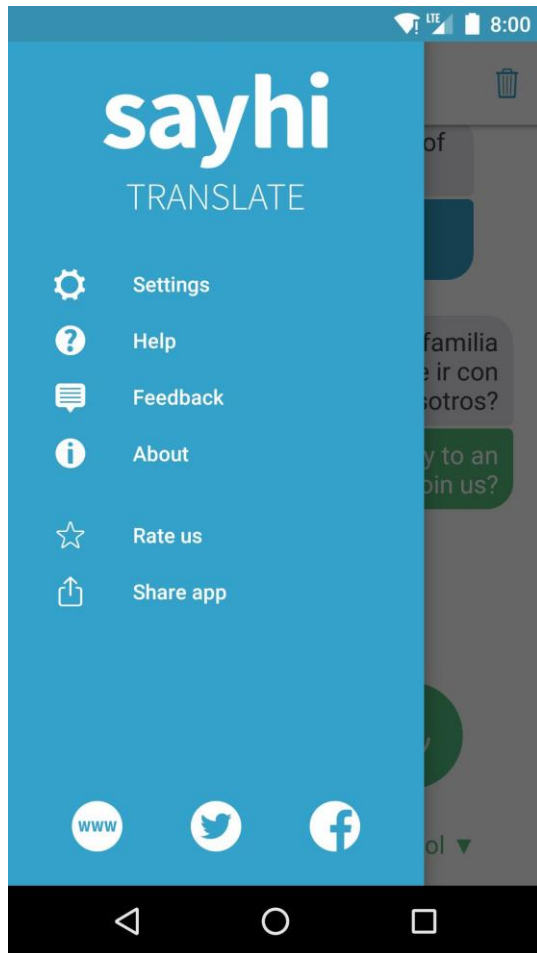
Google Translate App



learning | as unique | as every student



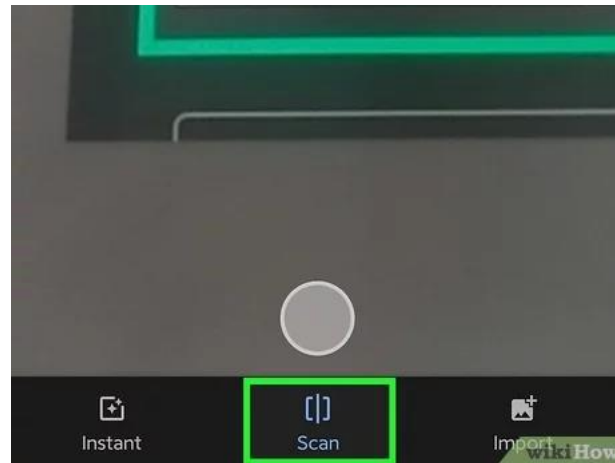
SAY Hi App for Speaking Translation





Google Translate App

If you have a **long document** tap the **camera** and then the **scan button** at the bottom of the app to translate the entire document.



learning | [as unique](#) | as every student

The rest of the evening...



1. Complete the kindergarten profile information sheet – this helps us tremendously
2. Reconnect with your child
 - Go for a guided tour
 - Talk to a current kinder parent/student
 - Play in the gym
 - Create music together
 - Explore the kindergarten room together
3. Grab your child's "Welcome to Kindergarten" package
4. Contact us if you need anything or have any questions

Additional Resources



The Calgary Public Library- Top Tips for Kindergarten Readiness*:
<https://calgarylibrary.ca/library-news/kitchen-table-classroom-kindergarten-readiness/>



The Calgary Public Library- Kindergarten Booklist:
https://calgary.bibliocommons.com/list/share/393767397_calgarylibrary_kids/1859193931_books_to_get_ready_for_kindergarten?_ga=2.167944481.1601611572.1619640025-939542020.1599601380



I'm Ready for Screens- Parent Resource:
https://banff.ca/DocumentCenter/View/11018/ImReadyForScreens_English

*Developed in collaboration with the CPL, Calgary Board of Education and the Calgary Catholic School Division

Questions

