



Bentley School ■ Phone: 403 - 748 - 3770 ■ <https://bentley.wolfcreek.ab.ca/>

Welcome Message from Mrs. Robinson



Welcome to Kindergarten! I grew up in the area and have been teaching since 2013. I have spent most of my teaching career in Kindergarten, with a few years in grades one and two. My husband and I have four delightful daughters who keep us busy. We also have a cattle and grain farm. I am looking forward to the year ahead. We will engage in collaborative experiences, daily discoveries and wonderful learning activities. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to me at vanessa.robinson@wolfcreek.ab.ca or 403-748-3770 ext 4483. In Kindergarten we will be using an app called

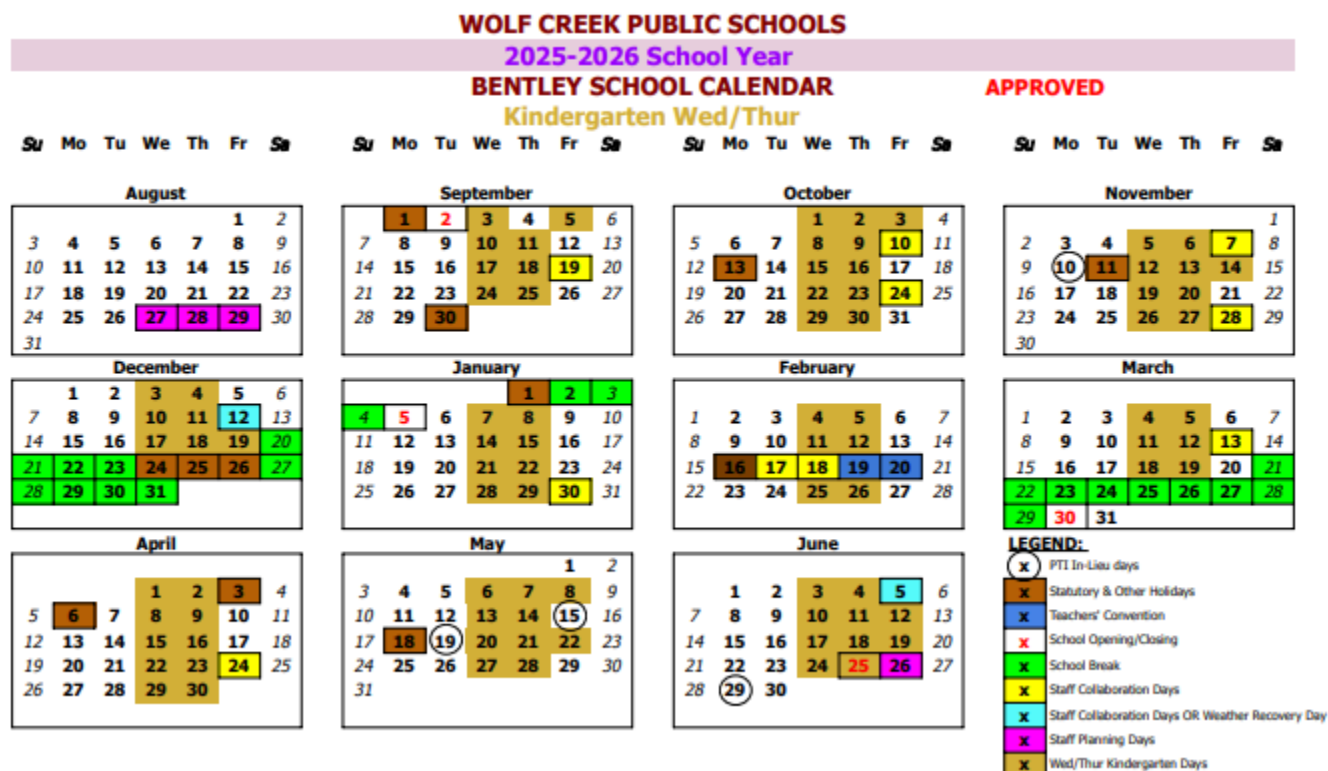
Seesaw for information about your child's learning throughout the year, where I will share pictures, assignments and assessments.

Kindergarten Structure: Pods

Due to registrations numbers, this year our kindergarten will be podded. This means that we take the group of students in kindergarten and divide them into three groups. One group attends **Tues/Wed, (purple group)** one group attends **Wed/Thurs, (yellow group)** and one group attends **Tues/Thurs, (teal group)**. As you can see, two out of three groups attend each day. This means your child is with their pod each day as well as students from the other two pods once a week. **Your child has been placed in the Wednesday/Thursday pod full day program at Bentley School.** In addition to these days, your child will also come on extra Fridays throughout the school year; please put these dates in your calendar. All kindergarten students will be attending on the extra Friday's.

Extra Fridays: September 5, October 3, November 14, December 19, May 8, May 22, June 12, and June 19.

2025-2026 Bentley School Kindergarten Calendar



How Does Staggered Entry Work?

In 2020, Bentley School moved to a staggered entry for the first week of school. With a staggered entry, children will have a chance to become familiar with the Kindergarten staff and classroom in a small group setting. This also allows the teacher and support staff an opportunity to get to know the children and understand their personal strengths and needs. During our staggered entry week, the day your child attends is based on their POD. For the first week of school, your child will attend **TWO full** days. Busing is provided to all rural students who registered to ride the bus.

- ★ If your child is in Pod Purple they'll come to school on Tuesday September 2nd.
- ★ If your child is in Pod Yellow they'll come to school on Wednesday September 3rd.
- ★ If your child is in Pod Teal they'll come to school on Thursday September 4th.
- ★ All kindergarten students will attend school on Friday September 5th.

Where do I drop my child off?

Drop off and pick-up will be at the North doors (E2) of the elementary school. If you are driving, please park in the North parking lot. Additionally, if your child is going home with someone other than a parent/guardian or sibling, I need written notification, this is of course to ensure your child's safety. If you are running late and the doors are locked, there is a doorbell that you can ring that will alert us in the classroom. Bus Riders Only: we will assist your child to get onto their correct bus. If there is a change in regards to your child's regular pick-up schedule, please email me before 2:30pm or contact the office.

What time does school start & end?

The doors to the school open at 8:15 am and classes start at 8:30am. Doors will be locked again at 8:45am. At the end of the day, students who ride the bus will be escorted to their bus at approximately 3:05 pm. Students being picked up are dismissed at 3:15 pm. If your child is going to be away, late or picked up early, the best practice is to call the office at 403-748-3770 or email the office at bentley@wolfcreek.ab.ca and cc your child's teacher (vanessa.robinson@wolfcreek.ab.ca).

How do I volunteer at the school?

In Kindergarten, we welcome volunteers in the classroom. All volunteers are required to complete a Volunteer Application Form, Criminal Record Declaration Form and Vulnerable Sector Check Application (in certain circumstances). These forms can be found at <https://bentley.wolfcreek.ab.ca/parents/volunteer-information>.

How do I pay my school fees?

Kindergarten school fees are \$100 which covers the supplies students will use throughout the year and a technology fee. There may be additional fees charged later in the year for field trips, skating, swimming etc. Payments can be made through the PowerSchool & Online Payments parent portal on the homepage of our website. Cash or cheques payable to "Wolf Creek Public Schools" can also be taken in at the office.

How do I keep up-to-date with activities happening at school?

Once a month, Bentley School will email a newsletter to all parents. You can also subscribe to the online calendar at <https://bentley.wolfcreek.ab.ca/calendar>. You might also want to follow *Bentley School - Home of the Panthers* on Facebook and *bentleyschool1* on Instagram for school related updates, information and pictures!

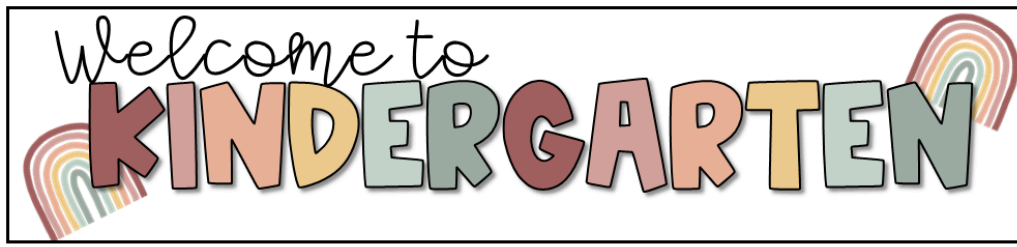
Student Demographic Update Forms

It is very important for us to have updated information regarding your child. All registered students will receive a student demographic update form emailed to their parents at the end of August. These forms are mandatory and must be completed. Please follow the instructions provided in the email. Throughout the year, please notify us of any changes to your phone numbers, address, emergency contacts, etc, by calling the school.

Supplies for Kindergarten

- ☐ A complete set of spare clothes including underwear, socks, pants and a shirt. Please store extra clothes in a Ziploc bag with your child's name on it. These extra clothes will remain in their locker. Our classroom can be a little chilly, so please ensure a sweater is always packed or worn.
- ☐ A backpack big enough for lunch kit and winter gear that they can pack independently!
- ☐ Indoor shoes- also suitable for the gym (non-marking soles), no laces, can be put on independently.
- ☐ One box of 20 large ziploc bags
- ☐ 5 regular sized containers of colored play doh (assorted colors)

Please label EVERYTHING that comes to school to ensure your child's belongings don't get lost or mixed up with another student. All other supplies including pencils, markers, scissors, glue, etc. are supplied by the school and paid for with your registration fee. Please bring the above supplies to your child's staggered entry day.



Kindergarten is focused on the whole child, this means that in our kindergarten classroom we will meet your child where they are at to develop skills, attitudes and knowledge. We will use appropriate experiences and play to enrich all areas of their learning and development.

Kindergarten is a carefully planned program of unstructured and structured learning experiences that help each child to develop socially, physically, emotionally, culturally, and intellectually.

Kindergarten focuses on developing the child's ability to understand and use language. Language elements include speaking, listening, reading, writing, and representing.

What can you do to prepare your child for Kindergarten?

Remember, there is no "typical" child, there is no specific number of accomplishments a child this age should be able to achieve. With this in mind, some goals to work toward before kindergarten begins are:

- Print first name: hold a pencil using a tripod grasp
- Exposure to numbers, letters, shapes and color names
- Be away from parents for a few hours without obvious fear
- Take care of toilet needs without help
- Start own play activity and advocate for themselves during play time with peers



Important skills you can develop with your child in your day to day interactions:

Oral language is the foundation of reading – to help your children prepare for school, have lots of conversations. Talking with your child helps develop a strong vocabulary and a sense of how words flow in sentences. Talk about anything and everything you see, smell, hear, touch, taste, and wonder about. **Read to your children** – being read to makes reading a very enjoyable experience. It helps children learn the flow of language and helps them create the story in their minds. **Playing games with your child** – rolling the dice and counting up numbers is excellent. Counting the number of spaces to move makes counting meaningful, because the game situation is meaningful for children. The social setting also teaches excellent skills like turn taking and how to cope with winning or losing. **Grow independence** – having your child do some activities or tasks on their own will aide in their successful transition to kindergarten. Teaching them how to complete these skills and then allowing them the opportunity to do them on their own is very important. This helps develop the sense of self, as the child sees their actions can be effective on their own. Things like making their bed, putting on their coat, and putting their shoes on the right feet are all great activities to get your child started. **Let them play** – exploring, directing, imagining.

Play is the work of childhood.



Immunizations for Kindergarten Students

Dear Parent/Legal Guardian of pre-kindergarten or kindergarten students,

As you plan for your child to attend kindergarten, this is an ideal time to review your child's immunization history. It is important to keep your child's immunizations up to date in order to prevent disease and to help keep them healthy.

Children are due for the following routine vaccines at 4 years of age:

- Diphtheria / Pertussis / Tetanus / Polio

These immunizations are provided free of charge.

Immunization Records: any Albertan can submit immunization records, including out-of-province/country records at [Immunization record submission \(alberta.ca\)](https://alberta.ca/immunization-record-submission)

Please contact your local community health centre to book an appointment for your child.

Thank you,

AHS Public Health Immunization Team

Lacombe Community Health Centre
4580-46 Street
Lacombe, AB
403-782-3218