



Wheatland Elementary School

Lead with confidence Learn without limits Love who you are

Principal: Amy Van Vliet Associate Principal: Michelle Silver Rushford



Wheatland Montessori Pre-Kindergarten

Welcome to our Montessori Pre-Kindergarten program. We offer a nurturing and enriching program, based on the Montessori philosophy, for children ages three and four.

What Is Montessori?



"The Montessori Method of education, developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, is a child-centered educational approach based on scientific observations of children from birth to adulthood. Dr. Montessori's method has been time tested, with over 100 years of success in diverse cultures throughout the world. It is a view of the child as one who is naturally eager for knowledge and capable of initiating learning in a supportive, thoughtfully prepared learning environment. It is an approach that values the human spirit and the development of the whole child—physical, social, emotional, cognitive." - American Montessori Society

Our pre-kindergarten children learn through a process of exploration and self-discovery which focuses on nurturing a natural curiosity and love of learning in a social environment. The students are guided to work at their own pace as they learn to develop social emotional and daily living skills. They also have opportunities to explore the senses, math, language, science, nature, geography, music, art & dramatic play. Our program includes child-directed, small group and individualized instruction through the use of hands-on tactile learning materials.

Program Eligibility

For a child to enter the Wheatland Montessori Pre-Kindergarten program they must be 3 years of age and fully potty-trained before the first day of school in September.



Registration Requirements

The Wheatland Montessori pre-Kindergarten program is a pay-per-use program and is not publicly funded. Monthly tuition fees (\$100) and a one time Montessori material fee (\$25) will need to be paid in order for your child to participate.

- Completed registration and FOIP form
- Montessori material fee \$25 (non-refundable)
- 10 post-dated cheques, for \$100 each month, September 2020 - June 2021 (dated the 1st of every month) or 1 post-dated \$100 cheque for September 2020 followed by monthly online payments. (1st of every month)

All of the above must be submitted to ensure your child has a space in the program. It is very important to inform the school if any of your contact information changes.

Times and Dates:

Monday & Wednesday 9-12

or

Tuesday & Thursday 9-12

The above class configurations may change, as they are dependant upon enrollment numbers.



We will be having staggered entry to help ensure a smooth transition for children. This also provides an opportunity for your child to have more 1-1 time with the classroom teacher on their first day. Your child's staggered entry date will be posted on their Seesaw Journal.

We will follow the Golden Hills School Division calendar. In the case of a holiday Monday, the Monday & Wednesday program will run Wednesday & Friday on those weeks.

Location, Entry, and Dismissal:

Our classroom is located in the school portable. Please use the portable entrance by the northwest playground. Parking is available along Strathford Blvd. You are also welcome to park in the visitor parking lot and enter through the main doors of the school. Please do not park in the staff parking lot. The classroom door will be open at 9:00 am. Please understand that the teachers are preparing the classroom prior to these times. If you arrive early, please wait outside the classroom with your child. Parents must sign their child in. A sign-in binder will be located on a shelf in the portable entrance. Labelled snack bags should be placed in the bins provided. Your child may bring their labelled water bottle with them into the classroom. Please have a quick goodbye with your child and exit the building. Please be prompt for pick-up, and be sure to sign your child out.

Pre-Kindergarten Staff:

Our Pre-Kindergarten program will be led under the supervision of our certified teacher Mrs. Leanne Pinel who has been working with Wheatland Montessori since the program first began with a K-2 class in 2005.



Mrs. Pinel holds a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Saskatchewan and Stage 2 Early Childhood certification in Montessori Theory and Methodology through Montessori Center International in the UK. She has loved working in Montessori environments for the past 18 years and is presently one of our Montessori grade 2-3 teachers.



Mrs. Lisa Carless is our lead teacher in the prekindergarten classroom. She has been working with the Wheatland Montessori pre-kindergarten program since it began in 2015. She has a diploma in Rehabilitation Services and has enjoyed 28 years of working with families and their children in a variety of learning environments.

Both teachers have a lot of training and experience and a strong passion for the Montessori philosophy. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Carless or Mrs. Pinel with any questions or concerns throughout the school year. lisa.carless@ghsd75.ca
leannepinel@ghsd75.ca

Some other Wheatland School staff involved with the program are:

Principal -	Mrs. Amy Van Vliet
Associate Principal -	Mrs. Michelle Rushford
Office Staff -	Mrs. Melissa Pearson
	Mrs. Deb Gordon
Montessori Teachers-	Mrs. Corri Kennedy (K/1)
	Mrs. Leanne Pinel (2/3)
	Mrs. Vicky Smith (2/3)



Program Structure:



Discovery Time-

As the students arrive they are invited to choose from an assortment of tray and shelf activities in our prepared classroom environment. They are encouraged to tidy up their materials and move on to other activities as they desire. Activities may include practical life trays, sensorial, language, math and culture materials. Play dough, painting, toys, puzzles, books, coloring, and dramatic play items are also available. During Discovery Time the classroom teacher and assistants will rotate and work with individual or small groups of children. Children will be guided toward the Montessori academic material as they seem interested and ready.



Circle Time-

Students tidy up their activities and meet on the carpet for some group activities. These activities may include calendar tasks, songs, music, movement games, story time or planned teacher lessons related to a specific topic or theme.

Snack Time-

Students visit the school washrooms and wash their hands before returning to the classroom to enjoy a healthy snack. Please limit snacks to 2 or 3 nutritious items. We encourage healthy eating, please do not send sugary treats, pop or candy.

Physical Education-

Students enjoy a daily 15 minute activity break in the Wheatland school gym. The teacher will lead students through some fun locomotor and gross motor skill movement activities.

Social Emotional Learning-

We spend a little time each day focusing on Social Emotional Learning lessons and activities. This helps children gain knowledge about feelings and getting along with others. Social Emotional Learning is the process in which children are able to acknowledge and recognize the emotions of others, develop empathy, make good decisions, establish friendships, and handle challenges and situations effectively. These are very important skills to teach at the pre-kindergarten level before they enter the K-6 school program.



School Supplies & Child Belongings:

In order to promote healthy living and nutrition, please send a spill proof water bottle and a healthy snack each day. All students require an indoor pair of running shoes, which can be left at school. Please keep a complete change of clothing for your child, in a plastic zip-lock bag, in their backpack just in case of an accident.

It is important that all belongings are clearly labeled with your child's name.

All other student supplies will be provided. A classroom craft supply wish list is available from the classroom teacher if you would like to donate any items.

Please avoid sending toys and special belongings, unless requested by the teacher for classroom activities or events. We can not be responsible for lost or damaged items.

Birthdays:

We like to celebrate your child's special day with a Montessori Birthday Circle. Your child will be guided through a demonstration of how the earth rotates around the sun by holding a globe and walking 4-5 laps around a candle. If you would like to provide a special snack for this day, please feel free to do so.

Photographs:

Pre-Kindergarten students are invited to attend the Wheatland School picture day to receive an individual and class photo. This date will be announced early in the fall.

Child Wellness:

In order to maintain the wellbeing of your child, other children and our staff, we ask our families to follow these guidelines:

- All children must be completely potty-trained prior to the first day of school. If your child is not ready, please contact the teacher to request a later start date.
- Children with a communicable disease will not be accepted into the classroom. Parents have the responsibility to inform the school if their child has a communicable disease, such as chickenpox, measles, or pink eye.
- Children should not come to school for at least 24 hours after symptoms of stomach flu have subsided.
- Children should not come to school for at least 24 hours after having a fever subside.
- If a child should become ill while at school, parents will be contacted immediately, and if they can not be reached, the emergency contact may be asked to pick the child up from school.

Seesaw Communication:

Seesaw sign up is our preferred method for the majority of home school communication.

Please watch for teacher notes, reminders and photos of your child to be posted on your child's private Seesaw Journal. You may download, print or save Seesaw information and/or photos of your child. Group photos may be posted on occasion once

FO.I.P. parent permission has been granted. We ask that families do not share any of our group photos beyond Seesaw. As a school wide initiative we are trying to reduce the amount of photocopying. To support this initiative, the majority of Pre-K-K notices and parent information will be posted digitally on Seesaw.



Wheatland Elementary Website & Facebook Page:

Please stay updated with school information on our Wheatland Elementary website (wheatland.ghsd75.ca) and Facebook page. We try our best to participate in school wide activities and special events.

Parent Advisory Council: Wheatland PAC

If interested, Pre-K parents are welcome to join our Parent Advisory Council, which meets each month. Please check the Wheatland Elementary website and Facebook page for more info.

Parent Volunteers: (optional)

Parents are welcome to volunteer in the classroom but it is not a requirement. A criminal record check and child welfare check are needed to volunteer. Please get a volunteer package from the school office. This is a Wheatland Elementary and GHSD #75 Policy. If you would like to volunteer, please speak to the teacher about your availability once these forms have been submitted to the office.

Wheatland Montessori Elementary K-3 Program:

Wheatland Elementary also offers Montessori programming from Kindergarten to Grade 3. This is a publicly funded program, but includes an additional \$50 (grade K-3) Annual Montessori Material fee. Please visit the school website for further details.

We are looking forward to a terrific year! Please let us know if you have any questions. You may call Wheatland Elementary anytime at 403-934-3318, or email leanne.pinel@ghsd75.ca.

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