



## MIKE MOUNTAIN HORSE

### SCHOOL SONG

We've got a special spirit  
In the hallways you can hear it  
The music and laughter everywhere  
We learn to work together  
We share with one another  
At Mike Mountain Horse we care.

**Chorus:**

It's the place to be,  
The place for you and me.  
With a future yet to share  
At Mike Mountain Horse we care.  
room.

Binders, books, and cases  
And kids with happy faces;  
Friendship and excitement fill the air.  
Rules are meant for everyone.  
They make it safe; they make it fun.  
At Mike Mountain Horse we're fair.

**Chorus:**

It's the place to be,  
The place for you and me.  
With a future yet to share  
At Mike Mountain Horse we care.

Recess is a fun time  
And when we hear the bell chime  
We know our learning will resume.  
In class we like discussions,  
We help to make decisions;  
At Mike Mountain Horse there's  
room.

**Chorus:**

It's the place to be,  
The place for you and me.  
With a future yet to share  
At Mike Mountain Horse we care.

*Written and composed by Elaine Unger-Pengilly*

***For more information about Mike Mountain Horse please go to our website at:  
[mmh.lethsd.ab.ca](http://mmh.lethsd.ab.ca)***

***We have a Special Spirit!***

# Parent Handbook 2012-2013

## Kindergarten



### **Mike Mountain Horse Elementary School**

155 Jerry Potts Blvd., Lethbridge, AB T1K 6G8  
Phone (403) 381-2211 Fax (403) 329-0547

For more information and our school monthly newsletter go to [mmh.lethsd.ab.ca](http://mmh.lethsd.ab.ca)



## KINDERGARTEN COMMUNICATES

Please review our Kindergarten Communicates bulletin board often. This bulletin board is located across the hall from Room 1. Newsletters and sign up sheets are often posted there. You can now see our full newsletter every month on our website [www.lethsd.ab.ca\mmh](http://www.lethsd.ab.ca\mmh)

## DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Please be aware of parking signs around the school. They are there for the safety of your child. Children are not to arrive earlier than **5min. before school begins**, as there is no supervision provided prior to class time. For safety reasons classroom doors will remain locked until 5min. prior to class time. If by chance your child is late for school, please stop by the office on your way in. **Late children need to pick up a late slip before coming to class.** Please be prompt in picking up your children for dismissal time, or phone if unavoidably delayed. Our classes will meet their parents and guardians outside the door of their classroom. Classroom doors may open up to 5 minutes prior to dismissal to allow time for you to assist with shoes, speak to teachers, etc. **We are asking parents to park on the street and walk on the sidewalk between the school and the staff parking lot to the Kindergarten boot room doors instead of using the main doors.** This is important as it helps to keep noise levels down for the other classes that may still be in session close by. On the first day of school you will be asked to complete a form indicating who will be dropping off and picking up your child each day. Your child WILL NOT be released to anyone but these people unless prior arrangements are made.

**PARKING:** Please watch for, and obey, all traffic and parking signs at the front of our school on Jerry Potts Blvd. The safety of all students at Mike Mountain Horse is our primary concern. With everyone working together, this goal can be accomplished! Again, please park on the street and walk on the sidewalk to the Kindergarten doors.

Together, Angie Fallwell, Marnie Morton and Krista Seaman would like to welcome children and their families to Mike Mountain Horse and look forward to a very special year together. We hope this handbook has provided some background information and important details about our program.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Angie Fallwell Mrs. Marnie Morton Mrs. Krista Seaman



## NEWSLETTERS AND CALENDARS

Throughout the year we will be sending home monthly kindergarten newsletters and calendars that will keep you informed as to what is going on in our classrooms. You will find out what themes we are studying as well as what special events are coming up. Please post it on your refrigerator and refer to it often. Please check your child's backpack daily for both messages from school and completed work. Some notices will need to be returned with a response. Again, you can find the school newsletter on our website [www.lethsd.ab.ca\mmh](http://www.lethsd.ab.ca\mmh)

## SNACK DAYS

Each family will be asked to send a low-maintenance (easy set up, easy clean up) healthy snack for the whole class about once every month and a half. The days you are asked to bring in snack will also be your child's "Special Day". This is the day mom, dad or other special person, is encouraged to come and be in the classroom as a volunteer. When parents are unable to personally volunteer in the classroom, we encourage you to consider other people in your child's life: grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles or regular babysitters, keeping in mind the importance each child places on having his/her own special helper in the class that day. We ask that you DO NOT send a snack just for your child unless they need a special snack due to allergies. If this is the case, please speak to your teacher ASAP. Your snack day will be arranged as close as possible to your child's birthday. Your child may have an "un birthday" birthday if you choose, if his/her birthday is during the holidays. Snacks do not have to be large or expensive but must be nutritious. While you are welcome to send juice, it is not necessary, having water is great too. Please bring along napkins. Cups and plates are provided. While parents are welcome to bring in a special snack for birthdays, please be aware that many students are VERY affected by sugar and food colorings and this makes any learning that needs to take place after snack, very difficult. Please consider this when you are choosing your child's birthday snack (many cakes have more icing than cake!). Thanks so much!

**There are SEVERE nut allergies in kindergarten this year. As a result we must insist that our kindergarten classrooms be NUT AWARE. Please check all food items carefully before bringing them in to class. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask.**



## FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

We believe that family involvement in learning is essential to each child's success. This includes a range of activities already mentioned such as supervising on field trips, providing snacks, helping in the classroom and reading at home. **If you are a parent willing to help out on a regular basis, such as weekly or bi-weekly, please let us know!** As a volunteer you may be asked to assist at a learning center, read to children, supervise simple games, obtain, prepare or clean materials, set up snack, wash snack dishes, assist with bulletin board displays or perform clerical duties. When helping in the classroom, please wear clothing that can survive being splattered with paint, food, etc. We have an open door policy in our kindergarten classes (although many times the door is physically closed to keep noise from our busy activities to a minimum). If you have a free day and would just like to drop by, please feel free to do so. Siblings are often welcome on a student's special day and can be a very welcome addition to our classroom! However, if as a parent you feel your younger child will interfere with classroom activities or your ability to assist in the room, please make alternate arrangements for childcare. Finally, if you are a parent with an interest/talent or exciting job that you would like to share, we would be glad to include this in our program!

## FIELDTRIPS

Our kindergarten classes will go on several field trips in order to enhance the classroom experience, including a few skating sessions through the fall. We always use buses as transportation but require parent supervisors to participate in our field trips. We will keep you posted as to when help is needed. Skating times are posted below. Siblings are welcome to join us for our skating trips but are unable to attend most other fieldtrips. Thanks.

## KINDERGARTEN PROGRESS REPORTS

Your child's progress will be assessed in an ongoing basis in our room and results communicated as needed. Formal report cards will go home in November, March and June.



## PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Please keep in mind that clothing, shoes and jackets that are easy to get on and off will be most efficient for your child to have this year at school. We love to play and explore, and this can result in some dirty clothes. **Please make sure that coats, boots, sweaters, hats, mitts etc. are labelled.** It really helps us at home time. We encourage the children to take care of their own belongings, ie.. hanging up their own coat and backpack. Please be sure your child can put on and take off his/her own jacket and shoes. With a large student teacher ratio it is impossible for every student to be dressed by an adult each day. It is important that students learn to be independent. Your child will need his/her backpack every day.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND TOYS TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD!

## KINDERGARTEN ROUTINES

Kindergarten is a wonderfully active place to be. While our daily activities do vary, there are certain activities that fit into our routine each day. Most school days begin with group **circle time** in which we talk about our day, the calendar and share with each other. Circle time evolves throughout the year as the students learn more and more. Each day also includes a **center time**, in which students will learn in smaller groups for curriculum-integrated activities such as **math, language, art and science**. There is a very strong emphasis on letters, sounds and other literacy concepts in our kindergarten classrooms. By the end of kindergarten, students will be printing words using invented spellings, using beginning reading skills, counting and printing numbers and using beginning problem solving skills.

Students will work individually, as well as in small and large group settings throughout the year. We have time set aside each day for snack, washroom breaks (in Sept.) and physical play (outdoor or indoor). Kindergarten emphasizes small and large motor skill development; therefore movement is a priority in our program.



# CLASS TIMES:

Kindergarten Classes are Monday through Thursday

Morning Classes: 8:15—11:28 am

Afternoon Classes: 12:03—3:16 pm

Preschool Program: Morning 8:45—11:30 am Afternoon 12:15—3:00 pm  
Grade 1-5: 8:20-11:45 / 12:25-3:05 with Friday dismissal at 11:45am

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to be your child's teachers this year. Kindergarten is a time of new beginnings, of making friends, and of learning lots of new things each and every day. You will receive a handout by mail over the summer. This mailout will contain your child's classroom assignment, supply list, and staggered entry start date. The staggered entry allows each child to have a day in class with only a few classmates. Each child will attend one staggered entry day during the first few days of classes and then all students will be attending as a full class. Again, the mailout will have more details regarding this.

As a team, we have developed a program based on the Kindergarten Program Statement published by Alberta Education. The kindergarten program strives to integrate experiences and activities that develop the social, emotional, intellectual, physical and creative abilities of the child. Here at MMH we have a particularly strong focus on developing reading and writing readiness skills, language comprehension and math concepts in order to prepare children for positive learning experiences in the future. Community and environmental awareness, physical skills and well-being, and creative and cultural expression are also explored. In addition, the kindergarten program strives to help children develop personal and social responsibility.

### We Teach Reading and Writing Based on These Beliefs

Reading and writing for meaning is paramount.

Reading and writing must always be rewarding.

Children learn to read by reading, and also by experimenting with writing.

Children need to be read to everyday.

The foundations of literacy are laid in the early years.

If you need to contact us for any reason, at any time throughout the school year, feel free to call the school (381-2211) or send an email or note with your child. We will respond as quickly as possible.

Mrs. Angie Fallwell ([angie.fallwell@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:angie.fallwell@lethsd.ab.ca))

Mrs. Marnie Morton ([marnie.morton@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:marnie.morton@lethsd.ab.ca))

Mrs. Krista Seaman ([krista.seaman@lethsd.ab.ca](mailto:krista.seaman@lethsd.ab.ca))

