



# Kindergarten Orientation

Sundance School  
May 2026



Calgary Board  
of Education



# Acknowledging the Land Where We Gather

**Oki, Dadánast'áda, Ába Wathtec, Tānisi, Taanishi, Bonjour, Hello**

The Calgary Board of Education acknowledges the traditional territories and oral practices of the Treaty 7 Nations, including the Siksikaitstapi, comprised of the Siksika, the Kainai, the Piikani, and the Amskapi Piikani Nations. We acknowledge the Tsuut'ina Nation, the Îyârhe Nakoda, comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney Nations, the Métis Nation within Alberta, and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of southern Alberta.

This land on which we gather is traditionally known as Moh'kinstsis (Blackfoot), Guts'ists'i (Tsuut'ina), Wichispa (Nakoda), and otòskwanihk (Northern Michif & Cree).

As a learning organization, we are committed to advancing the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action focused on Education for ReconciliACTION.



# Sundance Staff



Principal

Melanie Tindall

Assistant  
Principal

Heather White

Office Admin.

Tracy Westall  
Joanne Monaghan

Kindergarten  
Teachers

Catherine Trudel (Learning Leader)  
Andrea Sulek

Educational  
Assistant

Abra Greffen

# Agenda



- Learning through *PLAY*
- Enhanced supports in kindergarten
- Getting ready for kindergarten- tips for parents
- Important dates & times
- Transportation
- First day of kindergarten

# 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



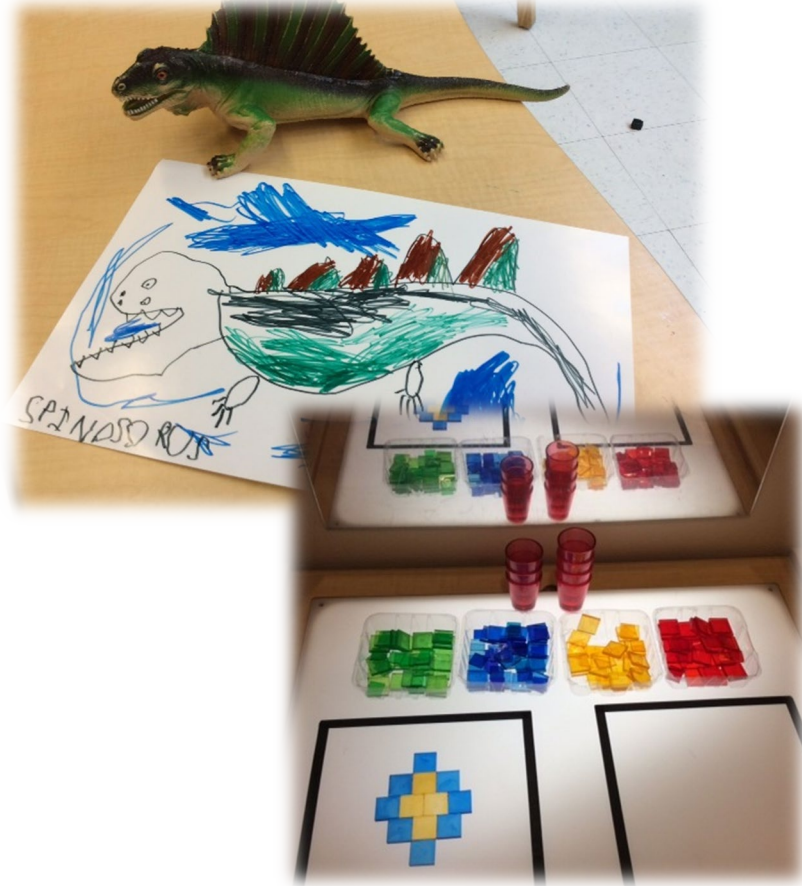
# Learning Through PLAY



*“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*

# Early Literacy & Numeracy



# 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

Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs)

Psychologists

Occupational Therapists (OTs)

Physiotherapists (PTs)

School Family Liaison (SFL)

# Getting Ready for Kindergarten



**Build your child's independence by encouraging them to:**



- dress themselves (zippers, buttons)
- 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
- develop a consistent bedtime routine



# Getting Ready for Kindergarten



## Read to your child every day:

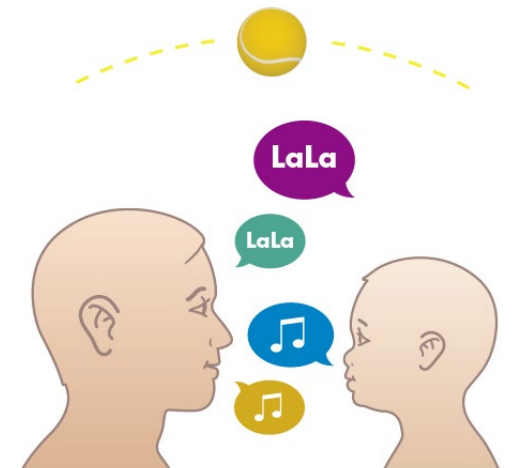
- read stories together in *your first language* to help your child develop vocabulary, listening and speaking skills
- enjoy reading different types of books: picture books, information books, nursery rhymes, poetry
- encourage your child to talk about the pictures and stories as you read together
-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

# 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



# Staggered entry



August 31 **or** September 1:



**Children attend for one hour only on one of these days.** See information pack for details



Your child will meet the teachers, their new peers and familiarize themselves with the space.

They will have a chance to play at some centres.



# Important Times & Dates



Office Opens: Wednesday, August 26

First day for Gr 1-6: Monday August 31



Entry: 7:55 am

Instruction: 8:00 am - 11:40 am

12:25 pm - 2:36 pm

**Friday classes: 8:00 am – 11:40 am**

Flexible recess in the morning

Lunch: 25 minutes to play outside

20 minutes to eat inside



**Kindergarten children attend school:**

Monday & Wednesday all day - with alternating Fridays

OR

Tuesday & Thursday all day – with alternating Fridays

# Transportation | Bussing



- Two-way transportation is available to families who live outside the Sundance "walk zone"
- Application is made online via MyCBE accounts and must be submitted by **June 14** to be given a stop for the fall
- **Stop locations and times will be added to MyCBE accounts during the summer break**
- A second stop can be added at an extra charge for day homes or alternative addresses
- Stops in brand new communities are only added if 10 applications are received
- We encourage you to apply. You can cancel before September 30 if the service does not work for your family
- Applications received after the deadline will still be processed. **Children will be added to existing stops only and cannot ride until the application is complete**

MyCBE



# Transportation | Bussing



May 23 & 24  
Register today!



# First Days of Kindergarten



**For the first full day of kindergarten, your child will need:**

- Indoor shoes
- Backpack
- A lunch, snacks, and a water bottle

**Everything needs to be labeled with your child's name.**

A day in kindergarten can look like:





# Sundance School Website

<https://sundance.cbe.ab.ca/>

403-777-8690

Calendar

Quicklinks

For Staff

Translate

Search..



Calgary Board of Education



Sundance School

Apprendre à s'élever | Learning to...

About Us

Contact & Information

Teaching & Learning

Programs & Classes

Culture & Environment

Well-Being, Extracurricular & Support

Get Involved

Parents & Volunteers

Registration

Fees & Transportation



Taco Time Sundog Lunch, June 9/10, 2026

CULTURE / SPIRIT

**MAY**

Weekly Update, May 18-22, 2026

- WEEKLY UPDATE
- PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Apply Now for Yellow School Bus Service for 2026-2027

Sundance Volunteer Appreciation

Please join us for a celebration with refreshments and musical presentations by all grades

**FRIDAY, JUNE 5**

Sundance Volunteer Appreciation 30 AM

Sundance School Gym

Weekly Update, May 11 - 15, 2026



Calgary Board of Education



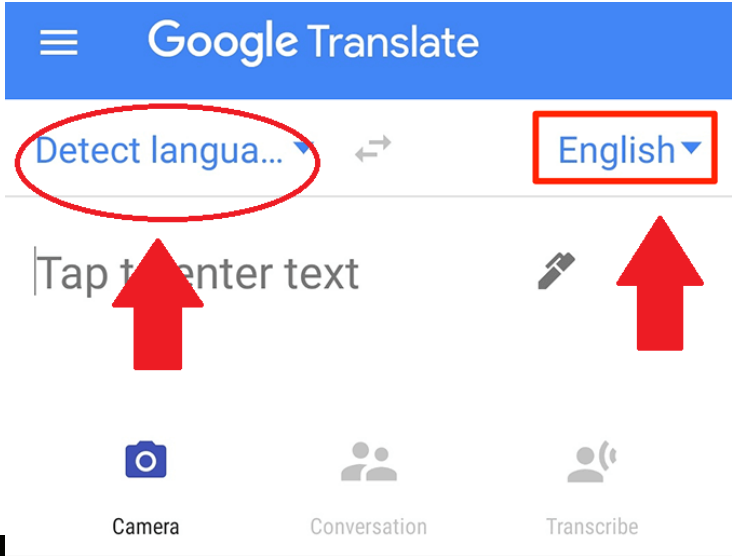
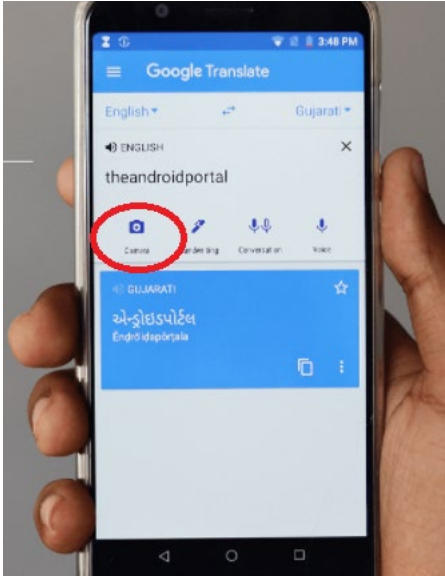


# Google Translate on CBE Websites

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `school.cbe.ab.ca/school/ForestLawn/Pages/default.aspx`. The browser's address bar and tabs are visible at the top. The website header includes navigation links: News Centre, Calendar, Print, For Staff, QuickLinks, and a search bar. A red circle highlights the "Google Translate" button in the navigation menu. A large red arrow points from the bottom of the page up to the Google Translate button. The main content area features the Forest Lawn High School logo and name, along with a navigation menu with categories: About Us, Teaching & Learning, Extracurricular, Culture & Environment, Get Involved, and Registration. Below this is an orange alert banner: "ALERT: KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 12 LEARNING FROM HOME". The bottom section contains a blue banner with the words "HAPPY" and "AFRAID" overlaid on images of children's faces, and a red banner for "CBE Recognizes CMHA Mental Health Week 2021". The Calgary Board of Education logo is in the bottom right corner.



# Google Translate App



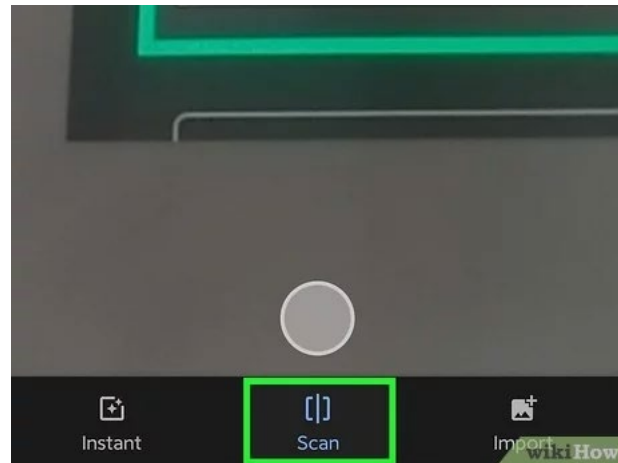
learning | as unique | as every student





# Google Translate App

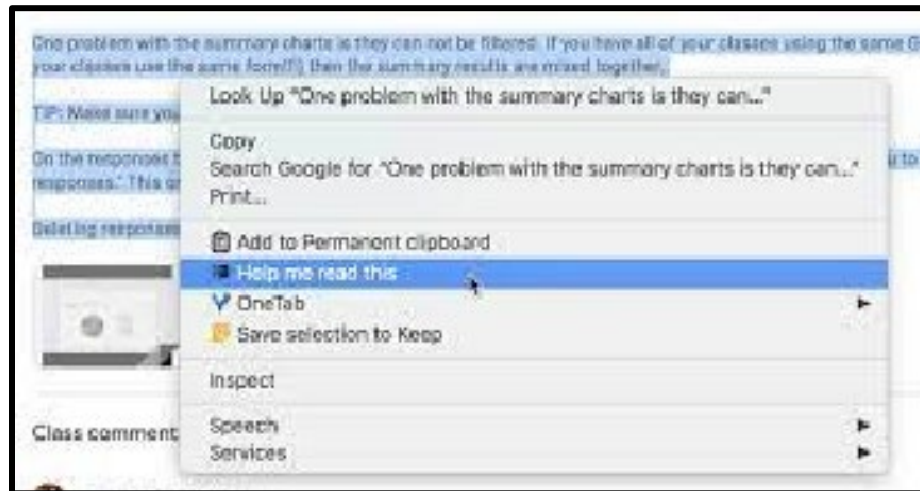
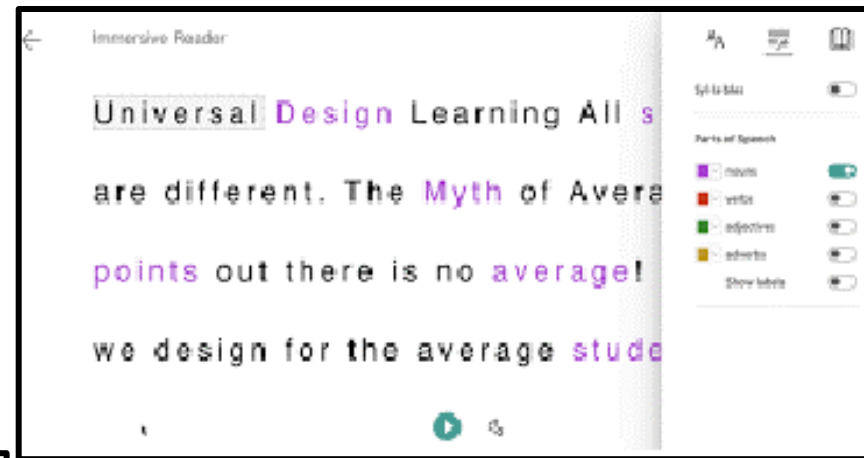
If you have a **long document** tap the **camera** and then the **scan button** at the bottom of the app to translate the entire document.



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



# Immersive Reader

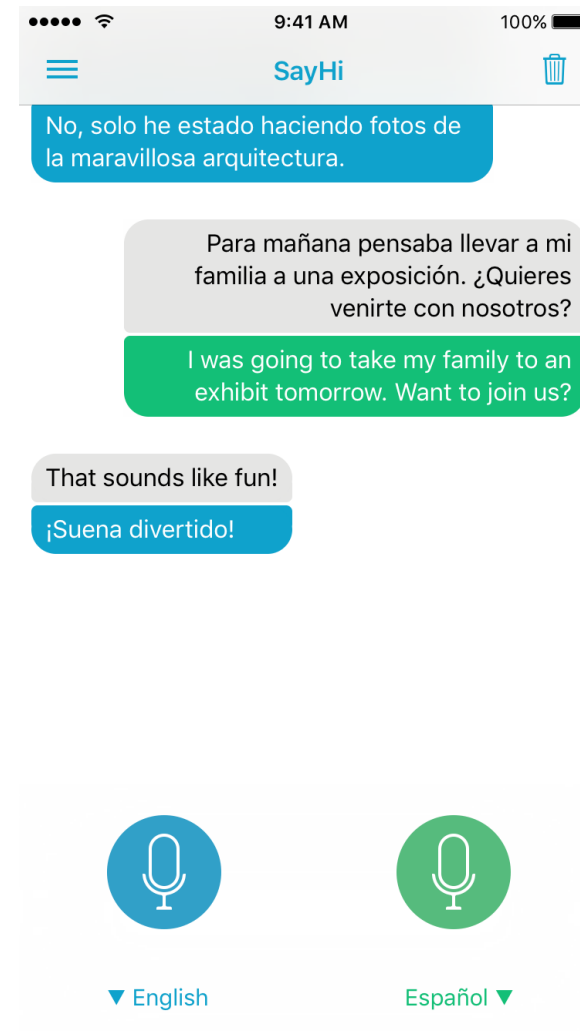
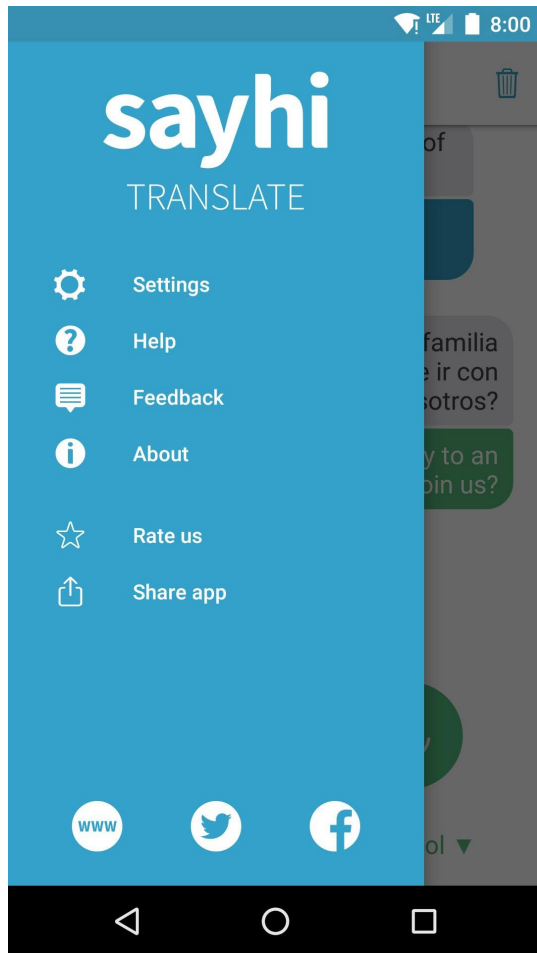


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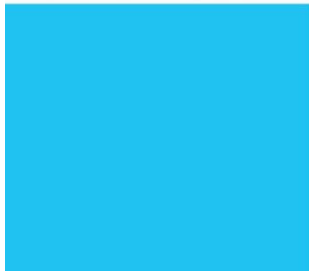
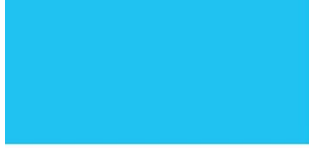




# SAY Hi App for Speaking Translation



# School Council



- School Council consults with and advises the Principal on any matter relating to the school. They work for the collective good of our students
- The Sundance School Council and Sundance Parent Association (SPA) Casino has fundraised for technology, literacy resources, books for classrooms and The Learning Commons, and special events such as Artists in Residence
- They also plan school and family events such as the amazing Halloween Dance and Sundog lunches/snacks for all children from Kindergarten to Grade 6
- School Council also recognizes the staff with a Staff Appreciation Luncheon and hosts the Tears & Cheers program during the Kindergarten Introductory Session days
- **WE NEED YOU** to join School Council!

# 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/1859193\\_931\\_books\\_to\\_get\\_ready\\_for\\_kindergarten?\\_ga=2.167944481.1601611572.1619640025-939542020.1599601380](https://calgary.bibliocommons.com/list/share/393767397_calgarylibrary_kids/1859193_931_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](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

