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November, 2007.

**TO: PARENTS OF PRESCHOOLERS AND KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN**

**PLEASE READ BOTH SIDES CAREFULLY BEFORE FILLING**

**OUT YOUR 2008-2009 REGISTRATION**

PARENTS OF PRESCHOOLERS:

Thank you for showing an interest in our school. We wish, at this time, to explain the preschool classes that we have:

**2AM:** This is a Tuesday and Thursday morning class (9:00 - 11:25 a.m.) and is reserved for children at least three years of age (e.g. 3 years to 3 years 4 months) by September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year for which they are registering. This may be your child's first exposure to a formal preschool and it is a very exciting and special time for these little ones. Please note that your child must be toilet trained to attend this class.

**3AM:** This three morning a week class (Mon-Wed-Fri; 9:00 - 11:25 a.m.) welcomes children who are already about three and a half years old (e.g. 3 years 5 months to 3 years 9 months). This group is a little older than the 2AM class and there are programming differences between the two. Please note that your child must be toilet trained to attend this class.

**5AM and 5 PM:** These five mornings (9:00 – 11:25 a.m.) or five afternoons (1:00 – 3:25 p.m.) are reserved for children who are 3 years 10 months and older on September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year for which they are registering. It is a formative year prior to starting Kindergarten at the age of 5 years.

N.B.: When registering your child for the above preschool programs, you should attempt to correctly indicate which class you are looking for and to respect the age guidelines. The programs, as you can appreciate, are not identical but are aimed at a particular age appropriate developmental level.

Should you like some assistance with choosing the right class for your child, please contact Mme Anne McCaffrey, Admissions Officer at 240-1500 ext. 329 or by e-mail: [amccaffrey@cfis.com](mailto:amccaffrey@cfis.com)

PARENTS OF KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS:

We now have **Three full-day Kindergarten classes** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:25 p.m.

Our school is seriously concerned about automatically accepting students without evaluation of their readiness to embark in our intensive French Immersion Kindergarten program. In the past, our Kindergarten teachers have realized that there is often a noticeable gap in maturity between the students depending upon their overall readiness, regardless of age, when they arrive for Kindergarten.

For this reason we will be evaluating acceptance of applications for Kindergarten of all children on an individual basis as we appreciate that readiness for formal schooling is not only age related. It is necessary to reflect, depending on the circumstance, on whether your child would benefit from spending a year in a five half-day preschool program to allow them the opportunity of time to learn through more play rather than through structured activities in our challenging kindergarten program.

We appreciate and realize that every child is an individual and matures at a different pace when compared with his/her peers. Many years of experience corroborate our view that readiness is a real and important issue for your child's happiness and positive self-esteem throughout his/her total school career especially given the challenges of learning a second language. It is a crucial step in your child's education and as a team we wish to make the best decision for each student.

Because we value the happiness and success of each of our students as they attend our school, Calgary French & international School has developed a policy which emanates from the above guidelines.

Following these guidelines it is thus the policy of the Calgary French & International School should it be decided, in our view, that we are not acting in the best interest of the child by promoting the student from preschool to kindergarten, given the intensity of our program, the options for the parents are as follows:

- a) to abide by our recommendation to have their child remain in preschool.
- b) to find an alternative school.

This policy has been developed with the approval of, and consensus of, our Board of Directors. The Board of Directors have rendered their support behind the Principal in executing this decision where applicable.