

# Alexander Adaire Kindergarten FAQ 2020

Kindergarten is a significant transition for children and families. This document will provide you with answers to commonly asked questions. More information is available on the district wide [website: https://www.philasd.org/earlychildhood/programs-and-services/kindergarten/](https://www.philasd.org/earlychildhood/programs-and-services/kindergarten/). Below we'll start with an overview of our play culture and then continue with a list of FAQs.

**CULTURE OF PLAYING SAFELY:** We are committed to providing a safe playing and learning environment for students while also taking good care of the space. To support this we've begun a list that describes what it means to have a culture of playing and moving safely in our space. We hope that every family and student will embrace this process and lead by example.

1. Have FUN and remember that everyone can play!

2. RESPECT

- Respect yourself: Be a great example of positive behavior, stand up for yourself, and don't get talked into doing things that you know are wrong or make you feel uncomfortable.
- Respect each other: Show kindness & use appropriate language. This is a curse free zone.
- Respect the space: Play in unrestricted areas - the soft surface, the play structure, or blacktop. Stay clear of restricted areas. Planted areas are not for walking, running or human feet. The low slate-topped long bench is a sitting wall. Running, walking or jumping happens on the ground - not on or along the wall.
- Respect the Softness: The soft surface area and the toe path is only designed to support feet. Anything with a tire (bike, scooter, skateboard etc.) must stay on the blacktop only.

3. PLAY HARD: Not too hard!

- The schoolyard is a NO-CONTACT zone. This means all body parts to yourself. King-of-the-Hill, rough-housing, tackling, pushing, shoving, wrestling and any other activity that involves lots of contact is not okay. Use gentle or "butterfly fingers" to tag or get someone's attention.
- Ro-Sham-Bo is our Rock-Paper-Scissors version of conflict resolution. When kids disagree we encourage them to use this system instead of hurtful words, yelling or physical contact.

4. Parking & Traffic

- As a general rule, cars are never allowed in the schoolyard. Exceptions have to be made for garbage/recycle removal, some periodic deliveries and facility repairs.
- After 4 PM the teacher parking lot is available for activity (soccer, chess, etc.) pickup or drop off if absolutely necessary.
- The teacher parking lot has active car traffic throughout the day and especially in the morning and immediately after dismissal. This parking lot gate into the schoolyard is not a public access point. The gate is locked. Use the Thompson St. gate as an entrance and exit.

5. Other expectations to be aware of:

- Ball play is welcome before 8:25 AM, during supervised recess periods and after 3:25 PM.
- Parents & Caregivers - once your child has been dismissed from his or her teacher please stay connected to them.
- Snow is a no go. Official school district policy forbids throwing snow, ice or climbing on snow or ice on school grounds. We ask that every parent and caregiver reinforces this while monitoring children in the yard.

# FAQs

1. Is Adaire a **public school** and does my child live in the **catchment**?

Yes, Adaire is a K-8 public school. Sometimes public schools are referred to as neighborhood schools. Go to [www.philasd.org](http://www.philasd.org) to the Find a School and enter your official address to confirm your catchment school (the school your child would be assigned to based on your address).

2. Can I **tour** the school?

YES! Check out our calendar at [www.philasd.org/adaire](http://www.philasd.org/adaire)

3. How do I **enroll** my child at Adaire?

If you live in catchment visit the main office and pick up an enrollment packet or go to [www.philasd.org/adaire](http://www.philasd.org/adaire) and download the packet. Registration usually begins at the end of Jan. prior to the Sept. that you plan to enroll your child.

Please note that every child who becomes registered as a student in the school district will be assigned a student ID number. Some registration forms ask for this number and you will not have it until after your child is registered by the receiving school and entered into the district software system. Until that time you may leave that entry blank. This generally applies to only incoming children who are entering the district system for the first time.

4. How are students assigned to teachers? Can I **request** a teacher or classroom?

During registration parents will be invited to provide information about their child's interests and abilities. The kindergarten teaching team works together to match children with the best teacher for them and to create balanced classroom environments. **Parents may not request a specific teacher.** Sometimes folks still try to make "unofficial" requests. Requests are not accepted at all. We encourage you to trust in this process as all the Adaire kindergarten teachers are wonderful.

5. How do I know what **school supplies** my student will need?

Visit the Adaire School website [student tab](#) to find school supplies lists by grade. The list is generally posted in the late spring. <https://adaire.philasd.org/students/>

6. What is the **Kindergarten Interview**?

The week prior to school starting is known as Kindergarten Interviews. This simply means you and your child will schedule a time to visit the teacher and get to know each other and the school. The teacher will also do an assessment of the student to identify what she/he knows and what areas they will need to work on. For 2020 **ALL STUDENTS will officially start school on Monday, August 31st, at 8:36 AM. Interviews will be the week of Aug. 24th.** Adaire teachers will reach out to schedule a time the week prior.

7. What is the **drop-off and dismissal, inclement weather** process?

**8:36 AM** is an on-time arrival.

**3:05 PM** is an on-time pick up for Kindergarten. **12:05 PM** on half days

School officially begins at 8:36 AM. The first warning bell rings at 8:34 AM. All students must be lined up at their classroom number and ready for teacher pickup at 8:36 AM. Teachers escort students to their rooms. Parents or caregivers may not enter the building with their student. With close to 500 students this creates a safety issue.

Where do **arrival and dismissals** happen? How about on rainy, snowy or below freezing days?

All grades line up in the school yard area at their room number. Teachers come out to pick up their classes. Teachers dismiss classes at the exit doors inside the school yard area. Check with the office or teacher to find out which doorway your child will be leaving from.

On poor weather days K-2nd grades arrive in the gym area. 3-8th grade arrive in the auditorium. On poor weather days dismissals still happen via regular building exits.

When bringing children to school, you are welcome to wait with them outside until they line up and the teacher escorts them into the building. On inclement weather days, please do not escort your child through the building. Numerous adults entering the building brings up safety concerns. On poor weather days, escort your child to the doorway closest to the gym or the auditorium (depending on their grade) and drop off there. School staff are assigned to the gym and auditorium areas on these days.

**Please note:** Timing is not negotiable. A student that is repeatedly late, leaves early, or has unexcused absences will potentially lose privileges that might include field trips, field day, or other activities. Excessive lateness or unexcused absences involve serious consequences. Please speak directly to Principal Jenkins if you have any questions.

**8. EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS & CLUBS:** We do offer additional programs but please note that not every program is open to every grade or child and some programs happen during the school day while others happen after school. Some programs are identified by teachers who know that specific students will benefit or know that a particular program will work with their classroom schedule. Other programs will target specific grades or classes. Programs start and stop at different times throughout the year and happen both during the regular school day and after school. If a student is eligible for something a form is generally sent home with the student to have the parents read, sign and return. If you need more information please reach out to your child's teacher or the Community Partnership Coordinator. Some examples are listed below. This list is fluid and things frequently change based on student or school priorities and partners.

- During the School Day:
  - Experience Corps Literacy Tutoring (students identified by teacher)
  - Class Game Time (each class participates every other week)
  - Dance (specific classrooms)
  - Choir (specific classrooms)
  - Girls Inc. (Specific rooms)
  - Weekly Fresh Fruit & Vegetables (all classrooms)
  - Compost & Recycling Program (all classrooms)
- After School Programs:
  - Extended day classes for designated students who might benefit from tutoring or accelerated programming as determined by teacher
  - Soccer hosted by Soccer Shots (additional fee) and Intramural Soccer(5-8th)

#### 9. What are the Adaire **after school care options**?

Daily after care is not available on site at Adaire for K-4th grade. Students may stay to receive tutoring participate in enrichment clubs or Soccer Shots. These are generally teacher led after school programs that usually begin in Oct. or Nov. and run until Dec. Then may start up again in Jan. and run until Mar. or April. Typically these programs run one day/week until 4:15 or 4:30.

The following organizations provide after-school care and on-site pick up from Adaire. Contact each organization directly for more details about their program and pricing. Many also operate camps for days the school is closed and provide extended programming on half-days.

- Portsideartscenter.org (pick up via small bus)
- Fishtown Rec Center (pick up via walking)

- Northern Liberties Rec Center (shuttle service required)
- PlayartsPhilly.com (pick up via walking)

10. How can I help **prepare** my child for success in Kindergarten?

Academic: READ TO YOUR CHILD DAILY! Ask your child questions about the things you read with him or her. Prompt your child to ask you questions about what you are reading. These activities build your child's listening, inquiry and vocabulary skills. You may also want to encourage your child to draw, try to write their name (doesn't need to be perfect), and count items around the house. For fun activity ideas you can do at home, check out [Kindergarten Here I Come](#).

Social-Emotional: A big part of success in kindergarten is about being able to follow instructions, manage feelings, and get along with others. Check out [Conquering Kindergarten](#) for excellent tips on developing critical social-emotional skills at school and home.

11. What do Kindergarten **teachers generally expect** from Kindergarten families?

Teachers expect children to have excellent attendance and to arrive on time. **And they expect support in the areas of academic, social, emotional and behavioral lessons.**

12. What will our Kindergarten teacher expect my **child to know** as she or he enters school?

Teachers look for children to enter Kindergarten knowing many letters of the alphabet, the sounds of many letters of the alphabet, ability to write one's name, numbers up to 10, and with an ability to focus on a task (stories, games, etc.) for a short period of time. Children are also expected to use the bathroom independently.

13. What does a **typical Kindergarten week** look like? Check out the sample below.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast/Morning Work 8:36-9:00	Breakfast/Morning Work 8:36-9:00	Breakfast/Morning Work 8:36-9:00	Breakfast/Morning Work 8:36-9:00	Breakfast/Morning Work 8:36-9:00
Morning Meeting 9:00-9:20	Morning Meeting 9:00-9:20	Morning Meeting 9:00-9:20	Morning Meeting 9:00-9:15	Morning Meeting 9:00-9:15
Readers Workshop/Guided Reading 9:20-10:05	Read Aloud/Writing 9:20-10:05	Phonics/Shared Reading 9:20-9:50	Phonics 9:15-9:30	Girls Inc. 9:20-10:05
Art 10:05-10:50	Readers Workshop/Guided Reading 10:05-10:50	Gaming Period 9:50-10:20	Shared Reading 9:30-9:45	Shared Reading 10:05-10:20
Lunch/Recess 10:50-11:35	Lunch/Recess 10:50-11:35	Guided Reading/Centers 10:20-10:50	Readers Workshop/Guided Reading 9:50-10:50	Guided Reading/Centers 10:20-10:50
Phonics 11:35-11:50	Writing 11:35-12:20	Lunch 10:50-11:35	Lunch 10:50-11:35	Lunch 10:50-11:35
Math 11:50-12:50	Math 12:20-1:05	Writing 11:35-12:20	Writing 11:35-12:20	Library 11:35-12:20
Writing 12:50-1:35	Science/Social Studies 1:05-2:35	Math 12:20-1:05	Math 12:20-1:05	Math 12:20-1:05
Shared Reading 1:35-1:50	Shared Reading 1:35-1:50	Science/Social Studies 1:05-1:50	Science/Social Studies 1:05-1:50	Health 1:05-1:50
Read Aloud 1:50-2:10	Art 1:50-2:35	STEM 1:50-2:35	Gym 1:50-2:35	Science/Social Studies 1:50-2:35
Science/Social Studies 2:10-2:35	Intervention 2:35-3:05	Intervention 2:35-3:05	Intervention/Read Aloud 2:35-3:05	Intervention 2:35-3:05
Art 2:35-3:05				

14. What is the Kindergarten **100 Book Challenge**?

The 100 Book Challenge is an individualized reading program. Teachers provide students with books that match their reading comfort level. Daily, each child goes home with two books inside a folder. The student will read independently or with help as needed from families or guardians. The folder includes a log sheet that an adult at home fills out. The goal is to read a minimum of 100 books (and hopefully more)!

15. What constitutes **Honor Roll** or **Tops** in K?

**HONOR ROLL:** Not more than 4 absences per report period  
Not more than 4 lateness per report period  
Not more than 4 early dismissals per month  
On expected Reading Level

**TOPS REQUIREMENTS:** S and/or O in Personal & Social Development, (No "Ns")

16. **FOOD INFORMATION - including birthday celebrations**

**BREAKFAST PROGRAM:** Breakfast is available to every student at no cost. This year, breakfast will be served in the classroom during homeroom. We encourage every student to take advantage of this opportunity as proper nutrition is an important ingredient to one's well being. The menus are available on the Adaire website, but they are subject to change.

**LUNCH & RECESS PROGRAM:** Students are given approximately 20 minutes for lunch, 5 minutes to transition, 20 minutes for recess. A hot lunch is available to every student at no cost or students may bring their own lunch. Menus are available on the Adaire website, but are subject to change.

Grades K – 1: 10:50-11:35

**Birthday Celebrations:** Given the well documented negative impacts of refined sugar on the brain and body we have adopted new guidelines for birthday parties at school. Birthdays are special days for young children. We enthusiastically support kids celebrating with their families and friends during out of school time. If you wish to acknowledge a birthday in school please check in with your child's teacher first. Then you can decide to bring in one of the following items:

- Preferred way to celebrate - share inexpensive supportive educational materials like small erasers, notepads or single markers. Think simple but fun.
- Small (like one bite) and sugar-free snacks to share.
- Munchkins

17. **DRESS CODE:** All students wear the required uniform. It is mandated by City Regulations as well as School Board Regulations. Students are expected to wear uniforms every day, unless there is an exception being made school wide. The uniform policy will be strictly enforced. Students who persistently fail to dress for school as required may be subjected to disciplinary sanctions.

We offer a uniform swap on an ongoing basis and/or can advise you where to find very inexpensive options for your child. Anyone who is currently enrolled or who has an incoming student for an upcoming school year may drop off or pick up items during regular school hours in room 107.

The uniform consists of a light blue polo style shirt or light blue dress shirt or Adaire approved/logo'ed t-shirt, and khaki pants, skirts, jumpers or shorts. On gym days the uniform can be an Adaire or navy blue T-shirt, and navy blue sweatpants or shorts. On gym day students may wear the gym uniform all day - they will not be changing.

Cold weather clothing accessories, including sweaters, vests, sweatshirts or turtlenecks should be solid navy blue or an item sold through the school. For example we sometimes have royal blue sweatshirts with the

Adaire logo for sale. Neckties, tights, socks and winter coats may be of any color or pattern you wish. And footwear should be comfortable with a closed toe and back. Sneakers must be worn on gym days.

The school logo or school approved image is the only graphic permitted on clothing.

Students shall also observe basic standards of cleanliness, modesty, and good grooming. Students shall dress in a manner that neither disrupts the educational program nor poses a safety hazard.

Uniforms can be purchased from many retailers (Old Navy, Target, etc.). Adaire logo'd gym shirts or specialty shirts can be purchased in the main office.

- **NOT PERMITTED:**
  - Decorations - i.e. stripes, checks, non-Adaire approved logos, sequins, etc.
  - Blue Jean material
  - Hoodies
  - Flip flops, sandals, jellies, slides, clogs or any type of open front or back footwear
- **Dress Down Fridays** - if you wish, your child may dress down (out of uniform) on most Fridays. There is a \$2 fee. Unless it is a half day, then the fee is \$1. This money goes toward the student activity fund and is collected by the teacher. This typically begins the first Friday in October.
- **School Photo Day** - students can choose to wear anything they want except for facial/head masks. While this will be considered a "dress down" day, there will be no fee as per a normal dress down day.

## 18. EMERGENCY/EMERGENCY DRILL INFORMATION

**EMERGENCY CONTACT** information sheets are required to be filled out to register at Adaire. These papers contain vital information for all emergencies that may or may not occur during the school day. Please keep them updated during the course of the school year.

**EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS:** During a weather event or a building emergency, emergency school closings will be announced on the radio, please listen to KYW News Radio for that information. Or check the district website [www.philasd.org](http://www.philasd.org). In the event of a school closing during the day, we will follow your directions on the emergency school closing information sheet. Please review this information with your child.

**FIRE DRILLS & SHELTER-IN PLACE/LOCK DOWN DRILLS:** The District requires that emergency preparedness drills periodically take place at school. Drills help students to learn self-reliance and to respond sensibly to emergency situations. The District complies with all local, state and federal laws and requirements. Drills include fire, shelter in place and lockdown. Please contact Principal Jenkins or the Adaire School Counselor if you would like more information and/or if you are interested in materials or suggestions about how to best prepare your child for these drills.

Students will become familiar with the fire drill procedures that are posted in each classroom. When the fire gong sounds, every student is expected to focus on their teachers and respond immediately. If a student is not in class, he/she will leave the building by the nearest exit accompanied by a team member and will join his/her class in their designated outside spot. Teachers will take attendance outside the building. Please note that any student who pulls a false alarm will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

During a Shelter-In-Place or lock down drill all staff and students are required to be in their designated place inside the building and no one will be permitted to enter the building. All students and personnel are to remain in their respective areas until the all-clear signal is given.

**RESOURCES:** If you believe you or your child would benefit from talking with a professional about any anxieties related to emergency procedures, Adaire's School Counselor, Peter Zadro, is ready to help you and students of any age. Contact him at [PZadro@philasd.org](mailto:PZadro@philasd.org) or ask at the front desk. Mr. Zadro is available to talk with you and your child and/or help your family find additional resources.

19. Some (this is not a complete list!) **school activities and school district dates** to be aware of include . . .

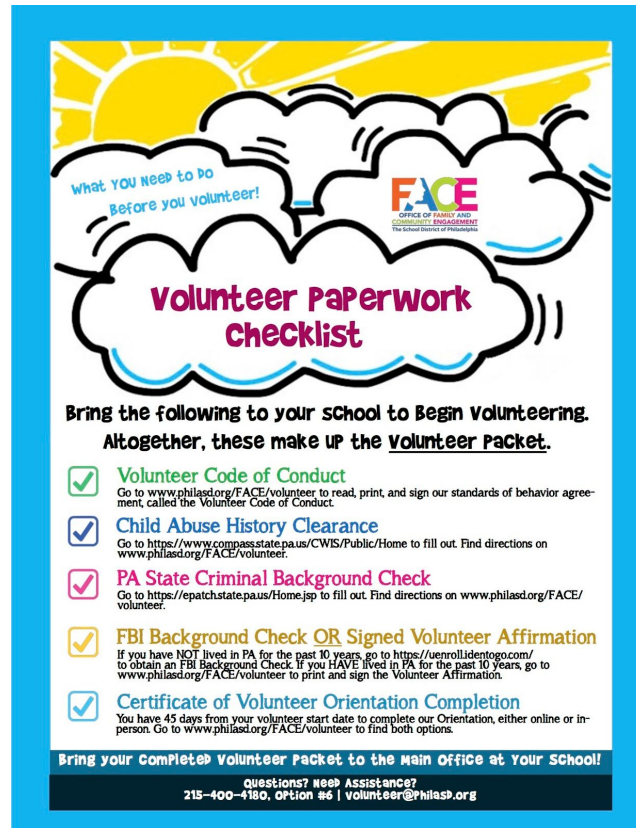
- **K - Move Up Day:** this is the last day of school for Kindergarten. Typically each class performs a few songs and poems to celebrate the transition to first grade. When the ceremony is over the children leave with their families. The event typically ends mid morning. Students typically dress up (not uniforms) and light refreshments are usually served at the end. This is a ticketed event with each child given a nominal number of tickets to give to guests. Please understand that we do not have the auditorium capacity to have a large number of guests per student.
- Please see the **district school calendar** for additional district dates. They usually have 2 years posted. [http://www.philasd.org/calendar/2019\\_2020/](http://www.philasd.org/calendar/2019_2020/)
- **Parent/Caregiver and Teacher Conferences** - These happen 3 times throughout the school year and are posted on the school district calendar. Special note - conference days always mean **early dismissal**. The school day will end at 12:05 for K on conference days.
- **Dress Down Fridays** - if you wish, your child may dress down (out of uniform) on most Fridays. There is a \$2 fee. Unless it is a half day, then the fee is \$1. This money goes toward the student activity fund and is collected by the teacher. This typically begins the first Friday in October.
- **Pretzels** - The school sells pretzels on Tues/Wed/Thurs beginning in early October. The cost is .50 cents. These funds go toward the student activity fund. Each classroom collects orders and money and the teacher typically assigns rotating pretzel runner-buddies. Please speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns.
- **95 Club** - This is a reward system used to honor those kids who have **YTD cumulative attendance of 95%** or better. The school provides these kids with incentives that include things like extra recess time. Local businesses also sometimes support this club with complimentary water ice, etc. The first round is announced in October. A child must be present to be counted as such - there is no make up work or excused absence that will increase a child's attendance percentage. This is a district wide policy. Things come up and once in awhile there is a reason a child should stay out of school which is why it is 95% and not 100%. If your child experiences a serious medical issue (one example would be surgery) please get in touch and talk it through with Principal Jenkins.
- **Halloween K-5th Gr. Parade Details** Every Oct. 31st (or closests school day) at 9 AM Adaire will host the annual Halloween Parade around the schoolyard. Kids should arrive to school with their costumes on top of their uniforms. They will be required to take their costumes off after the parade. When choosing a costume please remember that this is a school event. No toy weapons (including light sabers) will be allowed to remain in school. Costumes should be in the spirit of kid friendly Halloween - light on the horror and heavy on the fun. No rain date! Please contact your child's teacher if you have specific questions.
- **Field Trips** generally happen 1-2 times per year per classroom. Depending on the grade and curriculum trips might include visits to Penn Treaty Park, local museums, local farms, a movie theatre or university campus. Permission slips are always required for trips and will be sent home from the student's classroom teacher. ONLY parents with **completed clearances** may be allowed to chaperone on field trips.

20. Some ways to **get involved** with the school . . .

- Review the weekly newsletter that is emailed every Sunday at 5 PM. This tells you about what is going on and gives you a heads up about upcoming dates. The internal school calendar is dynamic and changes happen. This is the best way to stay on top of changes and it is the **ONLY** official form of electronic school wide communication. Sign up for weekly E-News at [www.FriendsofAdaire.org](http://www.FriendsofAdaire.org) Goto News & sign up.
- Join a committee or event team!

- Set up your electronic Box Tops account! They can be found on lots of grocery items, these little things add up.
- Shop on Smile.Amazon.com and choose FoA as your charity of choice. A small percentage of each purchase will be donated to FoA by Amazon!
- Join the Adaire School Community closed Facebook group
- Join the Friends of Adaire Facebook group
- Check out this sample list of opportunities in our full Handbook, available on our district website.

21. What **clearances** are necessary to volunteer at the school?



22. How do adults **enter the school**?

Always enter via the Thompson St. door. You will be buzzed in. Always check-in at the main office and sign-in.

23. What does being a **Title 1 School** mean? This means that the federal government provides annual funding. Funds are disseminated to each school district (LEA). The district distributes these funds to schools based on the following criteria: low income status and Title 1 school specific designation. Different schools have different income make-ups and designations.

24. What is the **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**? With input from parents, the district develops a written, district-wide parent and family engagement policy. The policy includes school and family expectations and commitments.

25. What is the **School-Parent Compact**? This document ensures that the school will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement. It talks about how the school will provide the necessary technical assistance to parents and build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to support and improve student academic achievement. The compact will also allow for parent involvement in the development, evaluation and revision of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.



26. What is the **Schoolwide Plan**? This is the school's roadmap to academic success. It includes current data, goals and a plan to achieve the goals.
27. What is the **School Advisory Council (SAC)**? SACs are collaborative teams composed of family members, the school principal, teachers or other school-based staff, students (for schools with grades 7 – 12), and community members. SACs champion the work for improved student achievement, effective teaching in the classroom, parent and community engagement in the educational process, and communication and support between home and school. SAC meetings are held monthly. SACs have data-driven, strategic conversations that center on academics, climate and family engagement.
28. What if I want to learn more about the specific **curriculum** my child's class is doing?  
Reach out to your child's teacher directly.
29. What if I **don't think my child is ready** for kindergarten? Reach out to the school Principal directly.
30. Will my child have **homework** in kindergarten? Homework is given to students as "Homework Bingo" with activities laid out in a choice board format. Students can pick a different activity each evening. Many of the activities are interactive and encourage parent or caregiver participation.
31. My child receives **early intervention** services (e.g. speech therapy, physical therapy, etc.) how will that work within the school setting? What do I do if I think my child may need early intervention services? There is a place on your child's school registration form where you should indicate any early intervention services your child has received to date. The school Special Education Liaison will contact you directly to determine if services will be continued. If you think that services may be needed in the future you should discuss this with your child's teacher.
32. How do K teachers handle taking kids to the **bathroom**? In the beginning of the year classes go together as a group. Later in the fall students begin to use the bathroom with a buddy. And by the end of the year most students are going to the bathroom alone.
33. Does my child really have to come to **school every day**? I thought kindergarten wasn't compulsory in PA? Kindergarten is not compulsory in PA but once your child is officially enrolled in public school it becomes compulsory. Enrolled students must be in school every day that they are not sick. Families who do not comply and allow students to take unexcused absences will face serious consequences. Review the full attendance policy in the Adaire Handbook.
34. Can kids have a **water bottle** to keep with them during the day? Is there a drinking fountain they can use? Certain times or as needed?  
Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school. Please put their name and classroom number on it. Bottles can be refilled in the hallway drinking stations. These stations serve as water fountains also. Drinking times are determined by classroom teachers.
35. Who is on the **playground supervising** the kids during recess and 95 club?  
Adaire has a team of 4 adults who supervise students during recess. And during 95 Club the Recess Coach and 4-8 parent/guardian volunteers supervise students.
36. Who else will be **interfacing** with my child during the day in addition to their primary teacher? (who are all the various non-teachers)  
You can review the list of staff on our district website.
37. Is it appropriate for kindergarten students to attend **parent-teacher conferences**?  
Student attendance at conferences is always left to the discretion of the families.

