

# University of Alberta Child Study Centre Junior Kindergarten

April 2016

## Special points of interest:

- Bring a white tshirt for your child when returning to JK.
- Scholastic order due Thursday, April 8th
- Dress your children for outdoor play on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

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## Noticing Spring, Teamwork and Problem Solving

When we return to JK in April we will focus on the many magical changes that occur in nature as the earth warms up and the sun moves closer. Our small courtyard will offer many opportunities to slow down and study the birds nesting, the plants growing, the bugs building, and the rabbits changing their fur color!

As it warms up outside we will also change how we use the courtyard. More activities will be introduced and the children will be responsible to work in a small group to set up and

clean them up. At JK we often say it easier to do a task by yourself, and more difficult and enjoyable to do it with others. This is one spe-



Reading with a friend at Book Buddy time demonstrates the ability to collaborate.

cific way we help the children develop skills that assist with working as a team member and solving problems.

Lois, our Grant MacEwan student, will continue to participate in JK as she develops her skills. Between April 4-14, Lois will continue to plan, prepare, introduce, observe, and reflect on activities she prepares for the children. This is an important time of Lois' career, and we appreciate your offerings of kindness, support, and wisdom.

The children will also be working on their "top secret" projects, which will be prepared for their families, and will be taken home and shared for Mother's Day.

## Music With Frieda

What better way to celebrate spring than to DANCE?

Music is for all kinds of dancing: circle dances, free dance/creative movement, and joining in the

dancing of animals. Spring is also filled with the wonders of new things, from what we find in nature to the clothes we wear. We will be creating our very own spring song to share

what is new in our world!



Enjoying the playground located beside a Hawrelak Picnic site.

**Year End Party - Thursday, June 2th Hawrelak Park**

As we look ahead, we are anticipating our yearend party. Last year we celebrated at Hawrelak Park. It was a delightful day. This year we will do the same!

For this event, each family will be asked to bring one item (chips, fruit, juice boxes, vegetables etc.). The list will be sent out with the May newsletter.

At the yearend party, the children will be able to play at the play ground, participate in a few events

we'll plan together, and sing around a campfire (weather permitting).

The covered picnic site near the playground has been reserved, and you'll be provided with a map of where to meet in May's newsletter.

Also, we are hoping to have a reunion party at Hawrelak during October 2017 at the same picnic site. Many of our past families have said they'd

love to see us, and quite frankly, Jenn, Frieda, and I would love to catch up with them too. If you are interested, you are welcome to attend. Many of this year's JK students also have friends from past years. We'll send out an email invitation in September next year!

“On this day, please place a small snack in your children’s pocket and send them to school with their sense of adventure!”

**Legislature Adventure—Wednesday, April 20, 2015—Regular Class Time**

Time for a class adventure into a very special place in our community—the Legislature Assembly, located just across the river!

**This field visit does not require a special drop off or pick up**

because we will leave and return to JK.

On this day, please place a small snack in your children’s pocket and send them to school with their sense of adventure! We will ride the LRT, and with the use

of maps we’ll explore the indoor and outdoor treasures located at the Legislature grounds!

**Last month at JK I Learned so much! Now I can ...**



Shona guides the children to do tricks with Jasper, her working dog

I can anticipate where I need to go when it is station time and be more independent with my learning

The four stations are:

1. Write/Draw in journal
2. Practice Printing
3. Play a Number/Speech Game -focusing on s, f, and l sounds
4. Listen to a CD Story

I can research my question about pets, represent a new understanding of pets in a way that makes sense to me, and share with my classmates and parents

I can learn more about pets from guest experts  
I can count down from 10 to 0 with help

I can recognize 100

I can recognize, and maybe say the sound for: N,n, J, j V and v

I can describe the race between the lion and lamb on our weather chart—*March comes in like a lion and out like a lamb?* Is this expression true this year?

**How to Help Your Child Recognize & Understand Frustration**

**Alyson Jiron, Brooke Brogje & Jill Giacomini: adapted by The GRIT Program**

Frustration is a common emotion in young children and typically occurs when a child begins to discover the many things he would like to do, but simply cannot do yet. *Frustration is a natural and healthy emotion and can provide a positive learning experience for a child.* The feelings of frustration that occur when your child has difficulty communicating his needs of completing a task are his cue that he needs to try to do something in a different way or that what he's doing is not working. You can show your child how to deal with frustration in a way

that is useful for him. Most importantly, you must respond to frustration when it arises before it changes into anger or leads to a meltdown. Two skills children must learn in order to deal with frustration are: 1) how to ask for help, and 2) knowing when to take a break!

**Suggestions for Families**

Notice and name when you, your child, or others, are frustrated. Explain that everyone, including adults, feels frustrated sometimes.

You might say:

About your self:

"I am frustrated. I've tried three times to fix the vacuum and it is just not working! I am going to take a break. I will come back and try again when I feel calmer!"

About your child:

"You are so frustrated! I see that you have been trying to build that tower and it keeps falling down! Let's have a snack and then try again together."

Read more in the attached handout about this topic.



**Frustration is a natural and healthy emotion and can provide positive learning**

**Scholastic**

Scholastic Book orders will be due Thursday, April 9th.

**White T-Shirt Please**

All JK students need to bring a white t-shirt, new or used, to class. We will tie dye them and then wear them at our year end party. Please ensure the t-shirt you send fits your children; sometimes the size is weird!

T-shirts need to be brought to JK in the first week of April..

Maybe Jenn or Ann's mom will come in to help us do the tie dying with the children! We can't wait!

**TOP SECRET WORK!!**

We will be working on projects that honor the children's families. This year, we will send home a family gift. We want to acknowledge our JK moms and dads!

Please respect our occasional need for privacy as we work on our "top secret projects."

Gifts will go home the Mother's day weekend.

**"Please bring a white t-shirt for your children on the first day back to JK."**

**Show and Share**

The children have been practicing asking questions and guessing before a show and share item is revealed. Now we'll change it up, yet again. Starting in April, the person bringing show and share will give three clues about the

item they brought in to share. Then two people will guess at what they think it may be. Lastly, the item will be shared.

Clues may be the item's : colour, size, texture, shape, use, or location where it is used. use, or storage.

Here's an example:  
It's purple.  
It's smooth.  
It's small.  
**It's my amethyst.**



## Child Study Centre Junior Kindergarten

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*Child Study Centre ~ A love of  
learning grows here.*

The University of Alberta Child Study Centre has been an integral part of the Department of Elementary Education, Faculty of Education since 1969. From its inception, the mandate of the Child Study Centre has been to provide early childhood educators with a model of contemporary, research-informed early childhood education practices, as well as to provide a site for both undergraduate and graduate students along with faculty members and researchers to further the field of early childhood theory and practice. The current leadership and teaching staff of the Centre are proud to continue this tradition and build on the history and strengths of the Centre to create a cutting edge early learning environments for the children and their families and to promote practice-based theories of early childhood education. In 2013, the CSC was selected as an affiliated site for the province wide initiative, funded by Alberta Education and Alberta Human services: Alberta Early learning and Child Care Curriculum framework.

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<http://uofajk.weebly.com>

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## Important Dates to Remember



Remember to record  
these dates in your  
calendar or day-timer!

<b>Wednesday, March 23</b>	<b>100th Day Celebration</b>
<i>Thurs, March 24</i>	<i>Celebration of Learning</i>
<b>March 28-April 2</b>	<b>CLOSED—Spring Recess</b>
<i>Wednesday, April 20</i>	<i>Legislature Adventure!</i>
<b>Friday, April 22</b>	<b>Earth Day</b>
<i>Sunday, May 8</i>	<i>Mother's Day</i>
<b>Thursday, May 19</b>	<b>John Janzen Nature Centre</b>
<i>Thurs, May 19 6-7:30pm</i>	<i>Open House for 2016-17</i>
<b>Monday, May 23</b>	<b>JK CLOSED Victoria Day</b>
<i>Thursday, June 2</i>	<i>Yearend Party—Last Day</i>