

University of Alberta Child Study Centre Junior Kindergarten

December 2015

Special points of interest:

- 2016-17 registration for JK opens Dec 1st
- JK is closed Dec 21- and reopens Jan 4th
- Donate clean, sturdy, recycled household items for our JK grocery store
- Remember top secret work is happening

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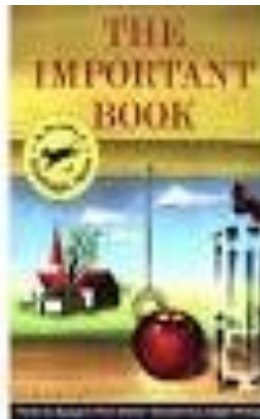
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Celebrating Our Family, Friendships, and Winter Fun!

December promises to be a time of being thankful for our families, friendships, and winter fun!

We will revisit "The Important Book" and use its poetic format to express how we feel about our bodies, our families, and winter.

The children will be busy preparing a gift to share at winter break. Much needs to be done: painting, recording ideas, wrapping, and getting dirty with preparations. Be sure not to ask too many questions: The gifts are TOP SECRET!



The Format of "The Important Book" will inspire work we create in December!

Junior Kindergarten will also offer two activities associated to the upcoming holiday season. First, the dramatic centre will be a Grocery Store, to mirror holiday preparations and the sharing food.

PLEASE DONATE ANY EMPTY FOOD CONTAINERS WE CAN USE IN THE GROCERY STORE. A few suggestions would include: cracker boxes, juice bottles, egg cartons, grape plastic containers etc. The children love it when the store items come from their homes!

Second, the drawing table will facilitate card and letter writing.

Lastly, it's time for winter fun on Tuesdays and Wednesdays! At JK, the children will put on their outdoor gear in this order: snow pants, boots, coats, hat /scarf & mitts.

Thanks for a Superb Celebration of Learning

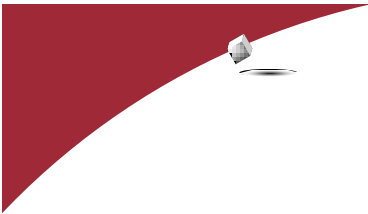
Your children were eager to be "teacher" during the celebration of learning. Hopefully, their preparations paid off!

Thank you to Sara and Delainey, UofA volunteers who participate in our class on Thursdays, for taking photos!!

We hope the celebration of

learning was an opportunity for your children convey how eager and excited they are to learn at JK and demonstrated how learning is embedded in everything we do at JK. Sometimes, learning is teacher directed and sometimes the children shape the direction of our learning (the paper body representations).

It was also a time to celebrate our body inquiry, which ended up being a compilation of many activities: a baby display, a doctor's office, a body museum, exploring bones, a Chiropractor's visit, and the children's representations. A learning story was in the binders and will also be emailed to the families to enjoy.



Just What *is* Music??

Just what *is music??* We are exploring different ways of answering that question in music classes this year. We started in September by hearing all **sound** as music. In October we experimented with **rhythm**, creating it with instruments and with our bodies (including our voices, as we chanted texts). November fo-



cused on **melody** (the tune); the children tried out their improvisation skills by creating melodies on the xylophones and metallophones, and also discovered how their bodies move upon hearing different melodies . Now in December we will be picking those melodies apart

to talk about **pitch** (individual notes, high vs. low) through imitation of patterns and creative pairing of pitches with words. This may all sound very complicated, but our music time is very playful, with lots of movement and laughter!

**2016-2017
Junior
Kindergarten
Registration
Opens
December 1st!**

SUCH A PLEASURE WORKING WITH YOU!!

We sincerely thank you for the care and attention you invest into your families! The journey parents and children travel is rewarding, challenging, and always changing. As we spend time with your children we become increasingly aware of the support you provide at home:

Thanks!!
Care givers and extended family we want to tell you that we also notice the contribution and support you provide. We love to see you when you pick up, drop off, and help out in class. You make a difference!!

2016-17 Registration

Thanks in advance for helping us spread the word that next year's registration for JK opens December 1st.. There will be a morning (9:00-11:30) and an afternoon (12:30-3:00) program.

Open House Feb 18 6-7:30

Last month at JK I learned so much! Now I can ...



I can represent parts of my body on paper.

I can identify different parts of the body.

I can sing Head & Shoulders, Knees & Toes

I can share my ideas in a discussion

I can create an observational drawing & crayon rubbing

I can represent parts of my body on paper.

I can help construct a bar graph on shoe size and hair color.

I can understand that signs convey meaning - green circle with a hand means you can touch and a red circle with a strike over a hand means no touching

I can find or remember interesting information provided in a book.

I can carefully touch and study a model (of the brain, a skeleton, or a skull)

I can wonder about something that is interesting and speculate possible answers.

I can identify Aa, Bb, and Cc. I may be able to identify their sounds.

Selections Copied From “How to Help Your Child Understand and Label Emotions”

Brooke Brogle, Alyson Jiron & Jill Giacomini www.challengingbehavior.org

Try This at Home

Simply state how your child is feeling. “You look really excited! I see your eyes are big and your mouth is open.”

□. State how others are feeling, “Wow, that little boy is really mad. I see he is crying and making fists with his hands. I wonder why?”

□. State how you are feeling. “I am really frustrated that the lawn mower is broken. I think

I’m going to take a break and come up with some solutions to this problem.”

□. Use books as teaching tools. There is a huge selection of children’s books that focus on emotional literacy.

Visit <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/resources/strategies.html#list> where you will find a book list, book activities and other resources for teaching

emotional literacy.

The Bottom Line

Children with a strong emotional vocabulary:

- ~Tolerate frustration better
- ~Get into fewer fights
- ~Engage in less destructive behavior
- ~Are healthier
- ~Are less lonely
- ~Are less impulsive
- ~Are more focused
- ~Have greater academic achievement



“He looks mad: he is making fists with his hands & he looks frustrated. I wonder why?”

The Benefits of Being a Program In the Faculty of Education

GUEST READERS

Many faculty members venture into JK to read to our children mid month. In December Dr. Randy Wimmer, the Interim Dean of Education, will read to the morning class. In January, Dr. Maryanne Doherty, the Interim Chair of Elementary Education, will read to the afternoon class.

We think our program and young learners are AWESOME and are eager to share them!

RESEARCH IN OUR CLASS

Dr. Lynn McGarvey, a Math professor, will be conducting research at JK. Her project is titled *Noticing Opportunities for Mathematical Interactions in the Preschool Classroom*.

Our class routines will be video taped six times between now and March to help us become increasingly aware of how math concepts are and could be embedded into JK routines and learning.

OUR BELOVED COUTTS LIBRARY!!!!

We LOVE working with the Coutts Librarians, and borrowing their amazing resources!! Sara, a **puppet**, continues to seek the children’s input about friendly conduct at JK. Our class library is richer because of the amazing **books** from Coutts. Lastly, borrowed **anatomical models** make us feel like real scientists and help us better study bodies!

“Dr. Randy Wimmer, the Interim Dean of Education, will read the morning class in December.”

Parents’ To Do List

1. Get a teacher’s attention with a hello and goodbye wave when entering and leaving class
2. Ensure your children are getting plenty of rest
3. Sign up for additional field visits, if interested
4. Encourage your children to find the letters C, c, W, w, I, i in environmental print
5. Remember JK is closed from Dec 21—Jan 3
6. Leave outdoor footwear on rubber mats
7. Help mop the front entry
8. Read more about Kindergarten preparations at <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/what-to-expect-grade/>
9. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, when the weather is cooperative, please unpack your child’s: snow pants, hat, mitts, and scarf. This will help your child successfully and independently dress when it is time to go outside.
10. Remember to breathe during this busy time of year

[ready-kindergarten](#)

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.

View Weekly Blog Posts
<http://uofajk.weebly.com>

Important Dates to Remember



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

THURSDAY, DEC 17

DEC 21—JAN 3

MONDAY, JAN 4

Wednesday, Jan 20

Thursday, Feb 4

Monday, Feb 15

Thursday, Feb 18

Thurs, Feb 18 6-730pm

Thursday, Feb 25 &

Friday, Feb 26

CLASS PARTY

WINTER BREAK—CLOSED

JK RESUMES

4Cats Calgary Trail

Ann's Children Visit

JK CLOSED for Family Day

Telus World of Science

Open House for 2016-17

JK CLOSED for Teachers'

Convention