

# University of Alberta Child Study Centre Junior Kindergarten

December 2015

## Special points of interest:

- JK is closed Dec 24- and reopens Jan 9h
- Donate clean, sturdy, recycled household items for our JK grocery store
- Remember top secret work is happening

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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 copy the poetic format of "The Important Book" to express how we feel about class expectations & family.

We've mastered JK rules and are ready to collectively discuss what our class expectations of being safe, friendly and respectful look like at school. Perhaps we'll create a book.

We'll also begin stations. The children will work with a teacher in small groups of 4-6 children for



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

5 minutes daily to complete one of the following activities: journaling, playing math games, and listening to a CD story.

In addition, the children will be busy preparing a

gift to share at winter break. Much needs to be done: painting, recording ideas & wrapping, -be sure not to ask too many questions: The gifts are TOP SECRET!

Junior Kindergarten will also offer two activities associated to the upcoming holiday season. Mid Dec, the dramatic centre will become a Grocery Store, mirroring holiday preparations and the sharing food. **Please donate clean, empty food container to use in the grocery store.**

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

## Thanks for a Superb Celebration of Learning

WOW! The celebration of learning was a very exciting day. We were grateful for your participation and proud of our many young teachers!

Thank you to Ivy, our Grant MacEwan student, for taking photos!!

We hope the celebration

of learning was an opportunity for your children to 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 (paint being available in the art studio).

We hope you read the learning story about your children located their binders, which are becoming valuable treasures!



## Music With Frieda

We are excited to welcome many special guests to our music classes this month.

We are celebrating our families and our holiday traditions, and are delighted that so many of you are willing to share

your special events with us. Both classes will be exploring music and customs related to St. Nicholas Day, Hanukkah, and Christmas, and our morning class will also host the Dionysos Greek Dancers as part of the fun.

There are still spaces available in the afternoon class if you would like to join us and share your family's favourite winter seasonal music—just talk to me (Frieda) and we will find a time!



### 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!!

### Scholastic Orders

Scholastic orders are due **MON, DEC 5th**  
If necessary, please mark the order form with 'GIFT' to ensure your children do not see your order.



I can independently use and clean up my painting materials.

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

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| I can identify Matt James as an illustrator                | I can sing <i>Johnny Plays With Five Hammers</i>   | I can wonder about something that is interesting and speculate possible answers |
| I can independently use and clean up my painting materials | 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 identify Hh, Ii, Tt, and Mm. . I may be able to identify their sounds     |
| I can share my ideas in a discussion                       | I can find or remember interesting information provided in a book  | I can draw a face and mix magic (primary) colours                               |
| I can create an observational drawing & crayon rubbing     |  |   |
| I can make works of art                                    |  |   |

**Selections Copied From “How to Help Your Child Understand and Label Emotions”**  
 Brooke Brogle, Alyson Jiron & Jill Giacomini [www.challengingbehavior.org](http://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 Elaine Holtz, Space and Faculties Admin, will read with our children.

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

### RESEARCH IN OUR CLASS

Ann will study under Dr. Lynn McGarvey, a Math professor, with a focus on mapping skills. There are few publications that discuss very young learners using spatial orientation and relations. Thus, Ann will involve the children in mapping activities and in the new year write an article that will hopefully be published. Watch for consent forms.

### OUR BELOVED COUTTS LIBRARY!!!!

We LOVE working with the Coutts Librarians, and borrowing their amazing resources!! Sunny, a **puppet**, will revisit our class, this time with her friends to help the children articulate what it looks like when we are friendly, respectful, and safe at JK.

We were also grateful to be involved in thanking Matt James for his illustration.

“Sunny, a puppet, will revisit our class, this time with her friends to help the children articulate what it looks like when we are friendly, respectful, and safe at JK.”

## 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. Encourage your children to find the letters M,m, L,l, G, g, W. and w in environmental print

4. Remember JK is closed

from Dec 24—Jan 8

5. Leave *wet or dirty* outdoor footwear on rubber mats

6. Help mop the front entry

7. Read more about Kindergarten preparations at <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/what-to-expect-grade-ready-kindergarten>

8. On Mondays and Wednesdays, when the weather is –10C or warmer, 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.

9. Remember to breathe deeply during this busy time of year

## Child Study Centre Junior Kindergarten

### CLASSROOM:

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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>

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## Important Dates to Remember



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

**Thurs, Dec 15**

**Ivy's last day with children**

*Thurs, Dec 22*

*Winter Pajama Party*

**Mon, Jan 9**

**JK Resumes**

*Wed Jan 18*

*Alberta Gallery of Art*

**Tues Feb 14**

**Friendship Party**

*Wed Feb 15*

*Muttart Conservatory*

**Mon Feb 20**

**JK Closed—Family Day**

*Thurs Mar 2*

*JK Closed Teachers' Convention*

*Fri Mar 3*

*JK Closed Teachers' Convention*