

# University of Alberta Child Study Centre Junior Kindergarten

February 2017

## Special points of interest:

- For the Valentine's Day Party, please bring a class set of cards that have your child's name on them, but not their classmates' names
- Please challenge your child to select a show and share that relates to animals

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## What To Expect From February—Embarking on A Learning Adventure

WOW! It's already February, the days are getting longer, and the learning more exciting! Now that the children know each other and understand school expectations, learning becomes increasingly group-based and exciting!

The both classes the majority voted to learn about animals, including the cartoon Paw Patrol. To begin our inquiry the children will engage in: crayon rubbings, observational drawings, and brainstorming to establish a focus and stimulates ideas for our future learning.

As you know, we will also be developing spatial and relational math skills, with the hope of integrating mapping into our inquiry. How we will do this will unfold as we learn more

about what interests the children.

Please encourage your child to bring a show and share that is related to



### Our inquiry will be on animals

animals.

Moreover, we would welcome guest experts and pets. Please coordinate with Ann. The children

LOVE learning from JK family members and their greater community!

The inquiry will wrap up in March and the children will proudly share it with you at the Celebration of Learning on Thurs. March 23.

Throughout February we will also support learning about the other topics we voted on (bodies, cars/trains, and mighty machines) with: the books we have in our class library, the toys we play with, and the pictures we colour and draw.

In March we will continue reading our book of class expectations. A mini copy will come home on Tuesday, Feb 2nd. Please be sure to share your feedback with us!

## Music With Frieda!!

Gung Hay Fat Choy! Thanks to all the families who have shared their Chinese New Year celebrations with us at the JK! We have all learned so much from you. February will see us exploring the connections between music

and Ann's math study (yes, we can talk about shapes and spatial awareness in music, too!), and also beginning to investigate the children's inquiry topic of animals. I love finding ways to link music to whatever the children

are learning about. . . I am anticipating lots of musical yoga, animal songs, and comparing instrument sounds to animal sounds!

**February and Cultivating Friendly Habits and Problem Solving**



February will be a time of thinking thoughtfully about others! As a result, card-making and letter writing will be cultivated in our class. The dramatic play area will be a Post Office, and the children will be encouraged to create mail for others

in their class.

We will also explore stories that focus on relationships, feelings, and how to problem solve with new and old friends.

Valentine's Day is a spectacular occasion to honor our classmates by bringing in

a card for each of them. Store-bought or hand-made cards are both thoughtful and perfect for sharing! Whatever type of card you use, be sure only your child's name is written on the cards. See more about the February party below..

Thanks in advance for your help with this authentic opportunity for your child to write her/his name over and over again.

**Valentine's Day-Friendship Party-Tuesday, February 14th**

On Tues, Feb 14, have your child bring their bag of cards into the class and place it on the table near the post office. With some teacher help, the children will deliver their cards to their classmates' mail bags. Thanks in advance for your help with this authentic opportunity for your child to write her/his name over and over

again. Be sure to start early! However, if writing a name is too difficult have them sign using only the first letter. **Make sure only your child's name is written on these.**

*At JK we reinforce treating all classmates fairly and with respect. Therefore, anything marked with a specific name will not be delivered with the teachers' assistance. If*

*your child has a special friend, give this special friend a special something in private,-not in front of other classmates. Thank you..*

Snack will be as usual. Anything extra will be placed in the children's mail bags.

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



**I can relate drums and dragons to celebrating Chinese New Year.**

I can share my ideas in class.

for 70+ days and we are getting closer to the 100th day

I can make a copy cat drawing in my journal.

I can contribute to a class vote by using a sticker to indicate my preference

I may be able to recognize: W, w, E, e, S, s, C and c.

I can cooperate with a small group of classmates to successfully complete a task at stations.

I can understand how my actions help make our class feel safe, friendly and respectful.

I can associate drums and dragons with Chinese New Year celebrations.

I can tell my family about our class expectations as we read our mini book.

I can identify some shapes.

I can try to write my name.

I realize we have been at JK

## How to Help Your Child Have a Successful Bedtime

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

Infants and young children need 10 to 12 hours of sleep daily to support healthy development. Parents also need to feel rested to be nurturing and responsive to their growing and active young children.

When your child does not get enough sleep, challenging behaviors are more likely to occur. Your child might get more easily frustrated, get upset more quickly, and be unable to engage well in interactions with others. Lack of sleep can also have a negative impact on your child's ability to learn. When

a young child sleeps, her body is busy developing new brain cells that she needs for her physical, mental and emotional development. Babies and young children thrive on predictability and learn from repetition. It is important to establish a bedtime routine that you and your child both understand and helps everyone to feel calm and relaxed.

### Suggestions for Families

Notice your child's signs of sleepiness.

A picture schedule can help your child understand the

steps and expectations of the routine.

Provide your child with activities, sounds or objects that help her feel calm and restful during the hour before bedtime.

Tell your child what will happen when she wakes up.

Give your child your undivided and unrushed attention as you prepare her

More details about these suggestions for families are described on the attached handout.



Did you know bones grow while a child sleeps?

## Field Visit to Muttart Conservatory on Wednesday, February 15, 2017

On Wednesday, February 15th we will meet at the Muttart Conservatory, 9626-96A Street. The conservatory is made up of four pyramids that contain plants from different ecosystems. It is nestled in the river valley and can be tricky to drive to. Be sure to check a map before leaving and give yourself some extra time. At the Muttart we will be

participating in a program that focuses on colour and texture. We will learn how plants use colour, texture, and shape to survive in extreme conditions. We will meet outside the front doors, weather permitting.

Morning: 9:00-11:00  
Afternoon: 12:30-2:30

Thank you in advance to the volunteers joining us:

### Morning:

Kerri (Caleb)  
Sonya (Avivq)  
Catherine (Thomas)  
Lei (Sophia)  
Jim (Rhea)

### Afternoon:

Pheap (Lilianna)  
Thanh (Chloe)  
Rebecca (Jessica)  
Kelly /Kathy (Julia)  
Marco (Luca's Nono)

**"Field Visit to  
the Muttart  
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## Child Study Centre JK Connects with U of A & Grant MacEwan

### RESEARCH IN OUR CLASS

**Dr. Lynn McGarvey**, a Math professor, will work with Ann as we participate in a math project that focuses on spatial and relational skills. Little has been published on how young children learn to map, so this will be the focus of the project.

### GRANT MACEWAN UNIVERSITY

#### Grant MacEwan Student

We will have an Early Learning and Child Care Program Student join us for the week of Feb 13 and for a month in March/April.

### COUTTS LIBRARY

We will let the librarians know our inquiry topic is animals. We wonder what excellent books and materials they may lend us!

## Child Study Centre Junior Kindergarten

### CLASSROOM:

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780 492 6518 jkclass@ualberta.ca  
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### ADMINISTRATION OFFICE:

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780 492 7341  
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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!

*Thursday, Feb 9*

**Mon—Fri Feb 13-17**

*Thursday, Feb 14*

**Wednesday, Feb 15**

*Thursday, Feb 16*

**Mon Feb 20**

*Thursday, March 2*

**Monday, Mar 13**

*Thursday, March 24*

**March 28-April 2**

*Ann's Children Volunteer*

**Grant MacEwan Student**

*Valentine's Day Party*

**Muttart Conservatory**

*JK CLOSED—A & J @Conference*

**JK CLOSED - Family Day**

*JK CLOSED-Teachers' Convention*

**Telus World of Science**

*Celebration of Learning*

**CLOSED—Spring Recess**