

# University of Alberta

## Child Study Centre

### Junior Kindergarten

October 2015

#### Special points of interest:

- Thanks for dressing your children to playing outside on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- Scholastic Book Orders are due Oct 10th
- Reunion for the families attending JK since 2013 will happen at Hawrelak on Oct 3rd 1-4 pm

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#### From A Story To An Inquiry

October is going to be an exciting month where our focus changes from classroom routines and expectations to the study of stories and an inquiry about bodies.

We will begin by reading, recalling, and dramatizing "The Ugly Duckling." This will be the second story we've studied carefully, and will help prepare the children for story acting. One by one they will sit with Jenn or Ann to narrate a story, which will be placed in their binders.

After , we will begin an inquiry about bodies. This is the focus because the children last year were fascinated by the body, brains, muscles, bones,

germs, immune systems etc.

We will begin by finding out what we know. The children will be encouraged to share their ideas and stories. Then we'll create a focus by conduct-



It is almost time to bring out the class set of clip boards and begin

ing observational drawings and crayon rubbings. After this we'll think about our questions and what our focus should be. We'll be

seeking guest experts, and places to go for field visits- perhaps a Doctors' office or X-ray lab. Please let Ann know if you, grandparents, family members or friends may be interested in helping us with our learning.

The children REALLY LOVE INVOLVING THEIR PEOPLE in their studies! As we conduct our inquiry our information will be posted on the bulletin boards in the music room. Be sure to have a peek!

Possible inquiry focuses may be: how muscles work, skeleton construction, comparing animal & people bodies, and understanding what occurs when a person gets sick and then recovers. This learning process will be exciting!

#### Important Upcoming Events

##### Photo Day

Monday, October 5th



Kim Doyle Thorsen of Real Moments Photography will come in and take photos of the children posing and while they learn at JK.

Kim will post the photos on a site that you will need a password to access. You'll be able to view, and place an order if you like.

A few weeks after the closing date, the photos will be delivered to Junior Kindergarten and placed in your children's cubbies.

##### Alphabet Letters

Due Back Oct 19th

Jenn will be sending home a cardboard letter for you and your children to decorate with found items. Thank you in advance for returning Oct 19th



Would you guess that when eaten these cookies turn a human into a minion?

**TELL ME ABOUT THIS!**

The Child Study Centre Junior Kindergarten program honors social, emotional, academic, and physical learning.

**SOCIALLY**, the children have opportunity to share their ways of communicating, while learning about their classmate's and teachers'. In September, the children bring the social tools they have cultivated at home and in their communities to JK. Some skills are a perfect match, some need refining, and others need to be reserved for out of school. The goal of creating common social language is to make

school feel friendly and safe for all.

**EMOTIONALLY** a range of feelings are explored in the context of play, literature, and problem solving. Presently, we are practicing taking deep breaths when we feel agitated, excited, or frustrated. The children are also encouraged to ask for teacher help.

**ACADEMIC** skills and knowledge are cultivated in many ways. When studying literature and narrating stories, the children are developing their sense of story. When participating in an inquiry the

children research, question, speculate, wonder and study. The children are challenged to represent new understandings in a way that makes sense to them.

**PHYSICAL** skills are supported by having space for physical activity both inside and outside.

At JK, we try to balance teacher and self directed activities. Often the items your children bring home, have been created with care and attention. Saying, "Tell me about this"" creates the children opportunity to share the important details that are

"We like to take opportunities to explore when it rains and snows."

**Dressing For Outdoor Play Every Tuesday and Wednesday**

We LOVE the time we spend together outside in the courtyard. The courtyard is a beautiful space and lends itself to spontaneous games and taking time to admire the wonders of nature.

When we are in the yard, the children play on the grass and the pavement. We do not allow exploring in the garden, on the grates and rooftops. When there are many children and two

adults, the play needs restrictions to ensure safety. We acknowledge and respect these restrictions may not be the same when your family plays together, but ask you to respect them when in the courtyard.

The upcoming seasonal changes offer many opportunities to observe, infer, and learn about weather, animals, and the many forms water can take. Nature is SO EXCIT-

ING and we like to take opportunities to explore when it rains and snows. Thank you in advance for packing appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear for this.

Please note: When the temperature dips below -10C, we will stay indoors and the children will enjoy an indoor gym.



"Please tell me about the race between the turtle and the rabbit."

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

During September we focused on creating a predictable, safe and friendly classroom community. Your children should be able to confidently show you that they can:

- find and explain the visual calendar that lists the day's events
- try to independently use the bathroom before JK

-locate their names cards and explain that a name card indicates the place they should sit during circle time, and can be consulted when writing names

-list the three class rules: walking feet, listening ears, and kind words

-agree we work together to be safe and friendly while at Junior Kindergarten

-recall the events of the story

"The Rabbit and the Turtle"

-make the sounds for /F/ and /T/ and *maybe* locate the letters T,t,F, and f in the environment

-wave hello and goodbye to JK teachers

-participate in a fire drill

**Show and Share      Scholastic Book Orders Exercising Immune System**

Show and share provides opportunities for the children to share and speak about what interests them.

During the month of October the children can bring another item from home that is special, however, beginning mid October **Thursdays will be reserved for music show and share**, and will take place during music class. This will continue until all children have had an opportunity to participate.

Monthly Scholastic book orders will be stapled to the newsletters.

Scholastic provides books and kits at an affordable prices. Typically, the books are delivered within a few weeks.

**Please return your book order by the 10th of each month.**

Dr. Raj, who speaks on CBC radio, explains that once children return to school their immune systems really have to exercise! They come into contact with more germs than they typically interact with over the summer.

Thank you in advance for keeping your children home when they have the sniffles, sneezes and coughs.



Licensing requires grapes are cut in half when brought to JK as a snack.

**Parents' To Do List**

1. Remember PHOTO DAY is Mon Oct 5th.
2. Cut grapes in half when sending as snack.
3. After your children change into their indoor shoes, take them to the bathroom so they can have "a try" Encourage them to do this independently.
4. Encourage your

- children to wave hello and goodbye to the teachers.
5. Sign up to volunteer for field visits that fit with your schedule.
4. Support children in dressing independently. It takes longer for your children to dress themselves, so be sure to budget your time accordingly!

5. Pack a bottle of water (not juice) for your children's snack.
6. Look at the weekly blog posts at <http://uofajk.weebly.com>

**Remember  
PHOTO DAY  
is Mon Oct  
5th.**

**Connecting With the University of Alberta Community**

**COUTTS LIBRARY—READ IN**

On Tuesday, October 7th we will enjoy listening to the Coutts' Librarians read us some of their favorite stories!

9:45-10:00 & 1:15-1:30

**LANGUAGE & LITERACY CLASSES VISIT**

Classes of university students will stop in for 20 minutes to read with your children. These events will be posted

**MONTHLY GUEST READERS**

In an effort to share our amazing program we are encouraging members of the Department of Education to read to the children for 15 minutes. September's visits were fabulous: Thanks Dr. Fern Snart and Marilyn Armstrong!! See our blog entry!

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CLASS DOING OBSERVATIONS Oct 6 & 8th**



The CSC JK is part of the university learning community!

## 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>

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## Important Dates to Remember



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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3	JK REUNION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5	PHOTO DAY
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6	STUDENT OBSERVATIONS
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7	COUTTS LIBRARY READ-IN
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8	STUDENT OBSERVATIONS
MONDAY, OCTOBER 12	CLOSED THANKSGIVING
THURSDAY, OCT 29	DRESS UP PUMPKIN PARTY
WEDNESDAY, NOV 11	CLOSED REMEMBRANCE DAY
THURSDAY, NOV 12	CLOSED IN LIEU OF PD DAY
THURSDAY, NOV 26	CELEBRATION OF LEARNING- PARENTS ATTEND JK