

University of Alberta Child Study Centre Junior Kindergarten

October 2016

Special points of interest:

- Thanks for dressing your children to playing outside on Mondays and Wednesdays
- Scholastic Book Orders are due Oct 6th
- Reunion for the families attending JK since 2013 will happen at Hawrelak Oct 1st 1:00-3:30 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 to the study of art.

We will begin by reading, recalling, and dramatizing "The Three Little Pigs." This careful study of story will help prepare the children for story acting—whereby, one by one each child will sit with Jenn or Ann to narrate a story.

After , we will begin an inquiry about art.

We will begin by finding out what we know. The

Music with Frieda

We are so lucky to have families who celebrate many different holidays! Special occasions often have music as part of the festivities, and this will be reflected in our music classes this year. Already a number of families have volunteered to share their celebrations and music with us—THANK YOU!! I am so excited to foster the connection with music in all

children will be encouraged to share their ideas and stories. Then we'll create a focus by conducting observational drawings, crayon rubbings, and print making with items brought from home. After



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

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-

aspects of children's lives.

I also hope that through this sharing, children will learn about some celebrations that are new to them, and begin the practice of respecting cultures and traditions other than their own. In the safe space of our classroom, we will celebrate some holidays together, like Thanksgiving. Others we celebrate in our

perhaps an art gallery or studio. 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 to mix colors, print making, studying the work of an illustrator, drawing people and pets, or art inspired by music. This learning process will be exciting!

families and share parts of them (songs, dances, stories, customs) with our friends at school, like Mid-Autumn Moon Festival, Rosh Hashanah, and Christmas. We don't all have to celebrate the same things, but we can learn about what brings joy to other families.



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 classmates' 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 opportunity to share the significant and important details.

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

Dressing For Outdoor Play Every Monday 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.

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



"Please tell me about the story of the Three Little Pigs."

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, indicate they are waiting for a centre and/or 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 Three Little Pigs"

-make the sounds for /F/ and /P/ and maybe locate the letters F, f, P and p in the environment

-wave hello and goodbye to JK teachers

-participate in a fire drill

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ALPHABET LETTERS *Scholastic Book Orders* Exercising Immune System

Jenn will be sending home a cardboard letter for you and your children to decorate with found items. Thank you in advance for decorating the letter together and returning it to class by **Tuesday, October 11th.**

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.

*If you are paying online:
~University of Alberta/
Ele Education
~teacher: Ann Sheehan
~bring order to class*

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 .Tues. Oct 18th
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. Schedule will be posted soon.
4. Support children in dressing independently. It takes longer for your children to dress them-

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
Tuesday,
Oct 18th.**

Connecting With the University of Alberta Community

**COUTTS LIBRARY
READ-IN**

On Wednesday, October 5th we will enjoy listening to the Coutts' Librarians read us some of their favorite stories!

**LITERATURE REVIEW OF
"The Pirate's Bed"**

With the children's help, we have written a book review for the Deakin Review of Children's Literature

**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 inviting one member of the Department of Education to read to the children for 15 minutes each month.



The CSC JK is part of the university learning community!

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>

Important Dates to Remember



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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3

WED, OCTOBER 5

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

WEEK OF OCT 11-14

WED, OCT 12

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

WED OCTOBER 19

THURSDAY, OCT 27

MONDAY, NOV 14

THURSDAY, NOV 24

JK REUNION

UOFA STUDENTS READ AT JK

COUTTS LIBRARY READ-IN

CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

GRANT MACEWAN STUDENT

CLOSED THANKSGIVING

PHOTO DAY

VISITING ARTIST DR PATTI PENTE

DRESS UP PUMPKIN PARTY

CLOSED IN LIEU OF PD DAY

CELEBRATION OF LEARNING- PARENTS ATTEND JK