

University of Alberta Child Study Centre Junior Kindergarten

September 2015

Special points of interest:

- On Mondays and Thursdays pick your children up in the classroom
- On Tuesdays and Wednesdays pick your children up in the yard (weather permitting)
- Classroom doors will be unlocked at: 8:55, 11:30, 12:25, 3:00

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We Are Excited for the 2015-2016 Year at Junior Kindergarten!

We are excited to learn with the children and families participating in the Child Study Centre Junior Kindergarten program!

At JK learning opportunities blend together literacy, numeracy, social, and inquiry skills. Independence, collaboration, and curiosity are highly valued.

In September we will grow our learning community. There are names to learn, greetings to practice, toys to explore, games to play, songs to sing, and expectations to uphold. (see pg 3)

Initially, the focus will be on ourselves. The children will paint their names and create representations of themselves, starting the documentation that will be posted in the music room.



Jenn's working beside the kids.

At JK we invest much energy into helping our young learners navigate our class environment. A visual calendar predicts

the day's events and posters provide reminders of class expectations.

Teachers will be found playing, demonstrating, guiding, listening, praising, and discussing. We may look distracted, but don't be fooled, our eyes and ears are always noticing what is happening in class. Perhaps this is why we go home exhausted!

Please feel free to approach any of us (Ann, Jenn, or Frieda) with questions, comments and/or concerns. We love to chat!

What Do Children Do at Junior Kindergarten?

<u>TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY & THURSDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY & THURSDAY</u>
MORNING & AFTERNOON	MORNING CLASS	AFTERNOON CLASS
~Self-guided Learning	~Self-guided Learning	~Self-guided Learning
~Teacher-Directed Circle Group Time	~Teacher-Directed Group Time at Circle Rug	~Music with Frieda
~Snack & Self-Guided Learning	~Snack & Self-Guided Learning	~Snack & Self-Guided Learning
~Book Buddy Time	~Book Buddy Time	~Book Buddy Time
~Outside Exploration	~Music with Frieda	~Teacher-Directed Group Time at Circle Rug



Counting the number of days we've attended JK provides authentic, daily numeracy practice.

"You and your children will need to tape or glue items, images, or photos to the cardboard letter you are given."



Sharing a representation of the class sitting at the circle rug for group time.

Numeracy

Knowing numbers is powerful! Numbers are used to count things we can feel, but also used in an abstract sense to represent an amount. Understanding place value is essential for future success in math. We will practise daily by using a Popsicle stick to represent each day at school. Once ten are collected we will bundle them together. Eventually, we will be practising how to count by ones and tens.

Important People & Research

The location of our program is AWESOME! We can be connected to the great people who work and research in the Department of Education. This year we have a few partnerships planned, and more will unfold as the year progresses. Here is what we know so far:

Dr. Christina Rinaldi will extend an invitation to all JK families to participate in her **Early Childhood Parenting**

Study (packages will appear late September)

Dr Anna Kirova and assistant Nicole Jamison will likely conduct research with a focus on **Preschool Children's Multiliteracy Practices at Home and School**

Also, once a month we'll have a member of the Department of Education visit our JK to read to the children. Dr. Fern Snart will be our first guest reader!

Enjoying Literature and Developing Literacy Skills

We playfully approach developing literacy skills. Letters and their corresponding sounds are explored using images, puppets, songs, toys, and literature. The letters of the alphabet are learned out of sequence, and typically the letter links to what we are learning. For example we will learn about F when we learn about friendship and T when we read *The Turtle and the Rabbit*.

Children usually learn consonants

prior to vowels because articulating them provides more feedback to the mouth. Compare /b/ and /o/!

Collectively, the children will also create a class alphabet. To do so, you and your children will need to tape or glue items, images, or photos to the letter you are given.

Jenn will be distributing the letters along with instructions later in September.

Also, in September and Octo-

ber the children will study the stories: *The Turtle and The Rabbit* and *The Ugly Duckling*. A prolonged study of a story creates a common understanding that a story has characters and events. Stories have a beginning, a middle, and an end. It also develops a sense of community as we revisit a common story and recreate it in various ways. There is something special about sharing a common plot and enjoying its multiple representations.

At Junior Kindergarten I learn so much! Now I can ...

There are so many ways school and home can work together. We do many things to build strong connections between home and school.

~We conduct home visits

~We display family photos in the classroom

~We try to incorporate greeting words represented in our home environments

~We create weekly blog posts you can look at and talk

about with your child

~We chat with our families at the beginning and end of our Junior Kindergarten classes

~We let you know what your children are learning about at JK. Each newsletter will list what your child should be able to do or identify at the end of the month, and also list what they will be working on for the upcoming month.

September We Will:

*Learn the Letters: Ff, Tt

*Practice saying, "hi" and "bye" to Jenn, Ann, and Frieda

*Become comfortable with the JK routine (p. 1)

*Use walking feet, listing ears, and kind words (p. 3) while at JK

*Learn how classmates are similar and different

*Learn and use names

Show and Share

Show and share provides opportunities for the children to share and speak about what interests them. In addition, they learn about and respect what interests others. Anticipation is created by placing the ONE special show and share item, in a bag or box!

Please consult the monthly calendar to find out your children's show and share day

Parents' To Do List:

1. After your children change into their indoor shoes, take them to the bathroom so they can have "a try" It is not a big deal if they don't pee, but this routine may prevent unnecessary interruptions in their play
- 2.. Have your children leave their toys at home

Scholastic Book Orders Fire Drills

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.

3. Support children in dressing independently. It takes longer for your children to dress themselves, so be sure to budget your time accordingly!
4. Encourage your children to eat independently at home.
5. Pack a bottle of water (not juice) for your children's snack.

To prepare for emergencies, we practice monthly fire drills.

Our emergency procedure unfolds like this:

- sing Mary Had A Little Lamb
- line up by holding the walking "train" rope
- walk up the stairs & exit
- gather outside the fence
- take attendance



If there is a real emergency, come to St. Joseph's College. Map is posted in class entry.

"After you children change into their indoor shoes, take them to the bathroom so they can have 'a try.'"

GREAT EXPECTATIONS CLASS EXPECTATIONS- THE RULES WE ALL FOLLOW

We keeps our rules/ expectations clear, simple, and consistent. At the beginning of the year we focus on: walking fee, listening ears, and kind words. There are posters on the wall to remind the children and the teachers carry small visual cards to show the children.

Later in the year we will learn about being friendly, helpful, and safe at school.

WALKING FEET

When we forget to walk, we touch this sign to remind our feet to slow down and be safe.



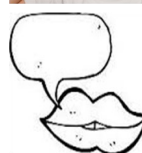
LISTENING EARS

When we forget to listen to the teacher or classmate, the teacher will say, "put on your listening ears"



KIND WORDS

Kind words = Safe School



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!

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12	CLOSED THANKSGIVING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29	DRESS UP PUMPKIN PARTY
WEDNESDAY, NOV 11	CLOSED REMEMBRANCE DAY
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12	CLOSED IN LIEU OF PD DAY
THURSDAY, NOV 26	CELEBRATION OF LEARNING-PARENTS ATTEND JK