



Kinder News September 2017

Welcome to the first edition of Kinder News. We hope that this newsletter will keep you as informed as possible of all the exciting events that will occur in Kindergarten and our school as a whole. This is an extremely LONG newsletter so get ready and get comfy...



Kindergarten The major focus of the Kindergarten program is to ensure that every child grows and develops in a number of interrelated areas: social, emotional, communication/language, cognitive and physical. The program will provide opportunities for learning, self-expression, self-regulation, and self-discovery in a variety of areas. Our hope is that school will be a happy and positive place where children will learn and contribute. The students will be exposed to a variety of experiences and learning situations that will help their spiritual, cognitive, social, physical and emotional development. With this in mind... "Play is the highest form of research". Albert Einstein

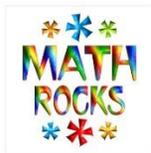


Religious Education: The Kindergarten Religion program is called "In God's Image". Throughout the year we will cover a variety of themes. 'All About Me' is an on-going unit, beginning with our names and our uniqueness. We will introduce our new friends to the 'Bucket- Filling' book. Jesus wants us to fill other's buckets by saying and doing kind things; we will try our best not to be bucket 'dippers' by purposely hurting anyone or making them feel sad. This month, we will be busy paying attention to the changes in our Earth as summer comes to an end and Autumn begins. We begin each day by making the Sign of the Cross - "In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". Children are then asked to tell us of a person or pet who needs our prayers by saying, "I would like to pray for...". We then put all of these intentions into Jesus' loving hands, we close our eyes and talk to Jesus. We finish these intentions by blessing ourselves again with the Sign of the Cross.



Inquiry-Based Learning: Most children have a natural interest in exploring and investigating to see how things work and why things happen. The Kindergarten team uses Inquiry Based Learning to build on children's spontaneous desire to explore. With guidance, a child's natural curiosity will become more focused and systematic as they explore, observe, question, investigate and communicate their findings.

All four of our Kindergarten classrooms have access to the Kindergarten yard which often lends itself to being an outdoor classroom. What happens to the earth as we near Autumn? Why do leaves change colours? What other changes do trees undergo? What is happening at our Kindergarten Butterfly Garden in September? What kinds of flowers do butterflies like?



Math in September: Data Management

Children will have numerous opportunities to sort objects by colour/size/attributes - ie. How can we sort these toys? How would you sort these animals? We will collect data and make graphs (ie. How did you get to school today? How many 3, 4, 5 year olds do we have in our class? Are there more boys or girls? Do you like worms? What is your favourite colour? Do you have a pet?) Senior students will state the sorting rules as well as pose a question for collecting data.

CLASS SHARING CIRCLES: Once a week - and/or whenever the need arises - we will have a class 'Sharing Circle'. The purpose of the circle will be to discuss a variety of topics: How are we all feeling about the way things are going in our classroom community? What are we as a class most proud of? Is there anything bothering us that needs to be addressed? What is a goal for next week? The children will learn about the rules during our Sharing Circle Times : One person speaks at a time/ We listen when others are speaking/ We can say 'pass' if we do not wish to have a turn to speak. When it is our turn to speak, we hold our "Talking Piece" (which for our classroom is a feather.)



Our 'Snuggle Up and Read' program will begin shortly. The children will have an opportunity to choose a fiction or non-fiction book from our classroom library for you to read to them. More information will be sent home soon.

Welcome to
**Jolly
Phonics**

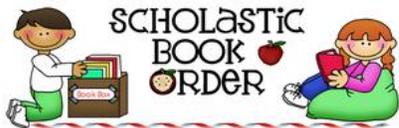


Learning the alphabet is lots of fun!!!! Our Jolly Phonics program will begin the second week of September at which time we will introduce the name, sound and action of a letter.

September Birthdays!



Happy Birthday to our September Baby...
Did you know our friend Sorayah turned 4 on Sept. 2nd ? We hope all your birthday wishes come true for you!



Order forms will go home each month. There is absolutely no obligation to buy. If you are interested however, please send forms back to school in a zip-loc baggie or an envelope labeled with your child's name by the due date. Cheques can be made out to Scholastic Canada Inc. You can also pay on-line if that is more convenient for you.

Books make great gifts too! If you are ordering something for "you know who" and would like to keep it a surprise, simply write "GIFT" on your order form and we can send it home secretly disguised in an envelope with your name on it. Each time you order, the class is awarded with Bonus Coupons that can be used to buy books and resources for the classroom.



Terrific Kids: Each month, a different Virtue is the focus (for example, Peace, Love, Justice, Faith). We discuss this theme throughout the month as part of our Religious Education program. One to three children from each class are chosen as the Terrific Kids for that month. An assembly is held at the end of each month to honour these children. You will be notified when it is your child's turn. September's Terrific Kids' Virtue is HOPE.



Dates to Remember:

Meet the Teacher BBQ: September 20th

School Photo Day: September 21st

Terry Fox Walk: September 29th at 1 p.m. (we will be looking for parent volunteers to join us for this walk).

Have a super September!

From the St. James Kindergarten Team