



On behalf of the Kindergarten Team at St. James the Greater School, welcome to October in Kindergarten!!! September was a really busy and exciting month and we are ready for the next! We are very impressed with how the children are adapting to all of the rules and routines of school. For the most part, we are sitting properly and listening with our whole bodies (eyes looking, ears listening, mouths quiet, hands still and body facing the speaker.) We are also remembering to tidy toys and materials up after we are finished using them.



Religious Education: We will discuss the Sign of the Cross and also talk about The Lord's Prayer - what does it all mean? Other topics this month include "Thanksgiving", "Autumn", "God knows me by name" and "Our Senses". We're having lots of fun learning about taste buds and testing out different tastes.



Mathematics: Number Sense and Numeration
This month, the children will participate in a variety of activities...
What is a number? Where do we find numbers? What do we use numbers for?
Investigate numbers from 0 to 10 (SKs who are ready will go beyond 10). Count aloud each day.
Identify, compare and create sets with more, fewer and the same.
Count objects using one to one correspondence (touching each object as we count).

Create a large class number line: What happens when we move up the line/down the line? Place 5 objects on the number 5 etc.

SK children will participate in a weekly problem solving activity.



Language Arts: Each day in Kindergarten, children have numerous language-based experiences: daily opportunities for self-selected reading (i.e. looking at books), teacher read-alouds, shared reading with Big Books, poems and charts, shared writing, opportunities to write at the various Centres, printing and of course the ALL important Oral language opportunities (i.e. sharing of thoughts and ideas/conversing/answering questions/asking questions). When answering questions, we encourage the children to respond in complete sentences; for example, "The weather today is _____", "I would like to pray for _____", "I notice that _____". This further develops their oral language skills and also sets the foundation to articulate their thinking.



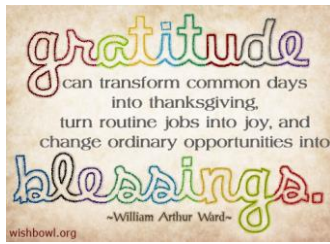
Nursery Rhyme: "Little Miss Muffet". With the monthly Nursery Rhyme, we always ask the students if this could really happen... It's interesting to listen to their thoughts. We also dramatize the rhyme, substitute children's names, "Little Miss Blakely..." and talk about new vocabulary (ie. muppet, curds, whey...)

October Birthdays!

Griffen turned 4 on October 1st!!!!



Terrific Kids Theme: The Virtue of Gratitude



A grateful person is one who...

- feels or shows gratitude no matter what the situation
- is grateful for what he/she has
- expresses gratitude
- uses polite words and actions (Please & Thank you, waiting our turn...)



Teacher Tip:

With the colder weather soon upon us, let us make a couple suggestions about your child's winter clothing that will help promote independence when getting dressed for outside play.

- * **PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING!** You won't believe how snow boots and snow pants all begin to look the same!
- * mitts are easier than gloves to put on - **No gloves please!**
- * neck-warmers only please (no scarves)
- * children should practise putting on and taking off their winter boots

Let the Children Play!!!

"There is scientific evidence that neural pathways in children's brains are influenced by and advanced in their development through exploration, thinking skills, problem solving, and language expression that occur during play". (The Kindergarten Curriculum, page 19).



Below are some of the "Belonging & Contributing" and "Self-Regulation & Well-Being" goals as outlined in the Kindergarten Curriculum. Please remember that this is a 2-year program!!! ☺ (You may want to get that cup of tea again...):

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: speaking kindly, sharing, helping, using nice words, waiting our turn to use an item or when people are speaking, solving disputes appropriately (ie. using our words, getting an adult when we need more help with a situation...) and of course, keeping our hands to ourselves (remembering that God made our Hands for Helping).

LISTENING SKILLS: looking at the speaker, listening when others are speaking, following instructions, taking turns in conversations

More important routines and rules: (Please review them with your little one and ask them how they are doing. Which routines/rules are they really good at following and what is a goal they will work on?)

We line up when we hear the bell or whistle.

In the line, we keep our hands to ourselves and we look straight ahead so that we know what is happening.

We stand tall and proud with our hands at our sides while we sing Oh Canada.

We try our best to make the sign of the cross before praying.

While sitting at the large group carpet we sit criss-cross on our bottoms (so everyone can see) and our hands are in our laps (sometimes we wiggle our thumbs when we are waiting).

We sit on our bottoms while eating and working at the tables.

We sit on our bottoms on the Book furniture (keeping feet off of the couches).

When someone is speaking, we look at them and listen. We wait for our turn to speak.

At the end of playtime when the lights go off and the teacher sings "Hands on top, that means stop...", we stop what we are doing and come to our parking spots.

We work together to help tidy up.

When using the washroom, we close the door for privacy. We remember to flush and wash our hands with soap and water

At the noon recess when the bell rings to line up, we return any toys to the black bin and line up right away.

Perhaps most importantly, we are kind to one another.

There are A LOT of rules and routines in order to ensure everyone's safety, ability to learn and work together. All we ever need to know we certainly do learn it in Kindergarten ☺ Thank you for taking the time to review the rules and routines with your child. We are all a work in progress!

Have a terrific month everyone!

Yours in Catholic Education,

St. James the Greater Kindergarten Team