



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

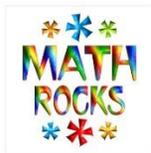


Religious Education: The Kindergarten Religion program is called "In God's Image". Throughout the year we will cover a variety of themes. 'All About Me' is an on-going unit, beginning with our names and our uniqueness. We will introduce our new friends to the 'Bucket- Filling' book. Jesus wants us to 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.

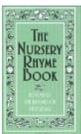
All four of our Kindergarten classrooms have access to the Kindergarten yard which often lends itself to being an outdoor classroom. What happens to the earth as we near Autumn? Why do leaves change colours? What other changes do trees undergo? What is happening at our Kindergarten Butterfly Garden in 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 AND over 50 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.



Rhymes/Nursery Rhymes: Did you know that rhymes are a great teaching tool for children? They develop language skills, tune in on rhyming skills and are just plain fun! Critical thinking questions can be posed after ANY Nursery Rhyme (ie. Do you think this could really happen? What would YOU do if...). In the coming days, ask your child to recite this month's rhyme with you. You can even make up actions to go with it!

**Jack and Jill went up the hill
To fetch a pail of water.
Jack fell down and broke his crown
And Jill came tumbling after.**

Why would children be getting water? Where might they go to get it? What did Jack break?

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".

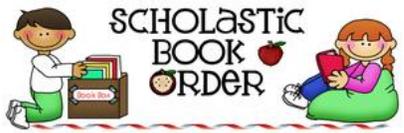


Our 'Snuggle Up and Read' program will begin shortly. The children will have an opportunity to choose a fiction or non-fiction book from our classroom library for you to read to them. Our Senior boys and girls will bring home little alphabet books and simple pattern books beginning at a later date.

Welcome to
**Jolly
Phonics**



Learning the alphabet is lots of fun!!!! Our Jolly Phonics program will begin in the next couple of weeks at which time we will introduce the name, sound and action of a letter.



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.,



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