

Special points of interest:

- Sense of Self and Place
- Daily Literacy & Numeracy Stations
- Creating Dioramas, Portraits & Maps

January—Sense of Self and Place

Sense of self and place will guide our learning in the month of January.

We will explore artistic representations of people. Photos, illustrations, and famous artistic works will be analyzed and a multitude of materials will be used to create our own masterpieces.

It would be ideal if someone could come to our class and offer artistic instructions for drawing faces or bodies - Please speak with Ann if you or someone you know would be willing to share time and talent with us.

Conversations about feelings and problem solving will continue. Ideas about how to be good friends were identified and recorded while reading books in December. These will be revisited to create a class poster.

Since we have had a two week winter break, we will

review appropriate school behavior. The song “Elephant listens with its ears, ears, ears” uses the tune of the wheels on the bus and reinforces how we conduct ourselves during group circle time. In addition, “high five” will be introduced as a prompt to remind the children to do the following during class discussions: eyes on speaker, listening ears, quiet mouth, thinking cap on, and still body.



We will also explore our classroom and how it is connected to the Education building. Dioramas will be used to represent the classroom using unrelated items. For example, a box may represent the class, blocks may represent tables, and lego people the students. After dioramas, we will explore maps as symbolic/pictorial representations of concrete places and things. Will the children understand mapping? Perhaps not, but it is an excellent opportunity to introduce another use of language.

If you have any books about or involving maps, please consider sharing them with our class.

I CAN Statements Fulfilled in December Included:

- I can collaboratively write a letter
- I can identify the following feeling: excited, frustrated, surprised, scared, disappointed, tired, angry/mad, and thankful
- I can share instances when I felt the above feelings
- I can create cards using paper, stamps, stickers, and ribbon
- I can sing Jingle Bells and Frosty
- I can make a gift for my parents
- I can identify what is important about different people and things

JANUARY LEARNING WILL INCLUDE:

- ~ REPRESENTING PEOPLE & PLACES
- ~ CREATING A COLLABORATIVE CLASS BOOK
- ~ REVIEW: MBOFSADP
- ~ LETTERS 't' & 'i'
- ~ MAPPING
- ~ DAILY LITERACY/ NUMERACY STATIONS

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Daily Literacy / Numeracy Stations

Small groups of children will work on an assigned task for 5-10 minutes each day.

In an attempt to foster a love of literacy and numeracy, learning stations have been organized.

Small groups of children will work on an assigned task for 5-10 minutes each day. The morning class will focus on stations after calendar time; the afternoon class after book buddies.

The following stations will be used during the first week: journal writing, listening to a CD story, and reading environmental print. At first, every group

will do the same activity/ station, but by Thursday, each group will be at different stations.



Eventually, stations for numeracy, printing, and word work will be added.

Hopefully, the children will enjoy working in small groups and gain more independence over time.

The children will be excited to show you their new skills at the next Celebration of Learning (March 27).

Same, same, but different!

Attributes will be explored using math manipulatives. Collections of coloured, plastic items will be set out for the children to sort and

categorize using different criteria like colour and size.



New LEGO!!

Time to explore building with LEGO. Four basic sets have been added to the Junior Kindergarten's LEGO collection.

LEGO creations will collect throughout the week and will be disassembled on Thursdays.



Royal Alberta Museum Field Visit

Wednesday, January 22

The Royal Alberta Museum is an extraordinary facility that is always exciting to visit!

The Royal Alberta Museum is an extraordinary facility that is always exciting to visit! We will explore the exhibits via a scavenger hunt, so come ready for fun!

With cameras and checklists, the children will document information about animals and birds that can be used in February, when animals becomes the focus of our learning.

The groups will roam the museum's amazing

exhibits, stop for snack , and , if time permits, interact with the visiting exhibit Pattern Wizardry.

The Royal Alberta Museum is on the north side of the river, located at 12845 102 Avenue. The parking is free and it has bus access.

The museum entry is on the building's south side, away from the main road. Drop off and pick up will occur in the room located inside the front doors and to the right. Here you will find a coat room, bathroom, and sitting area.

MORNING CLASS
MEETS AT 9:15 &
LEAVES AT 11:30

Helpers:

Kim/Ian, Marcia, Kim, and Natasha have volunteered. Three more adults are welcome.

AFTERNOON CLASS
MEETS AT 12:45 &
LEAVES AT 3:00

Helpers:

Brinsley, Kathy, and Stacey have volunteered. Four more adults are welcome.

A Junior Kindergarten Parent's To-Do List:

Parents' To Do List

1. Consider coming on the Museum field visit—Wed., Jan. 22
2. Ensure your children stay home if they are coughing , sneezing, or have a runny nose

3. Encourage your children to find the letters T, t, I, i in environmental print—posters, signs and books
4. Leave outdoor footwear on rubber mats
5. When necessary, help mop the front entries

6. Say to your children, "please, tell me about your drawing." Our focus on portraits and maps may become evident at home.
7. Encourage question asking by saying, "wow, that's a good question."

8. Email children's favorite song.

Show and Share Will Facilitate Question Asking & Answering

After the helper of the day shares his/her show-and-share, two children will each ask a question.

Please continue to bring show & share items in a bag/box to build an element of suspense!



Important Dates

- Mon Jan 6 First class of Junior Kindergarten in 2014
- Wed Jan 22 Field Visit to Royal Alberta Museum
- Mon Feb 17 Closed for Family Day
- Tues Feb 18 Spring Open House for families interested in the 2014-2015 program—6:00-7:30 p.m.
- Wed Feb 19 Peter Rabbit Comes for Visit to JK—Guest Expert
- Wed Feb 26 Closed for Teachers' Convention
- Thurs Feb 27 Closed for Teachers' Convention
- Wed Mar 19 Field Visit to Valley Zoo
- Thurs Mar 27 CELEBRATION OF LEARNING morning 10:15-11:15 & afternoon 1:45-2:45
- Mon Mar 31–Fri Apr 4 Closed for Spring Recess
- Mon Apr 21 Closed for Easter Monday
- Wed Apr 23 4 Cats Art Studio (bus will transport children—meet at Junior Kindergarten)