

**Special points of interest:**

- Visiting Occupational Therapists
- Monthly Fire Drills
- Parent's To-Do List
- Scholastic Book Orders

## A Little Bit of Everything!

Language and Literacy textbooks suggest teaching should offer a combination of thematic units, literature studies and inquiry projects. This year we will put this to the test! We started September with a short thematic unit on caring for others, followed by the exploration of *The Three Little Pigs* and *The Three Kittens*. For October, we will examine and investigate the topic of transportation.

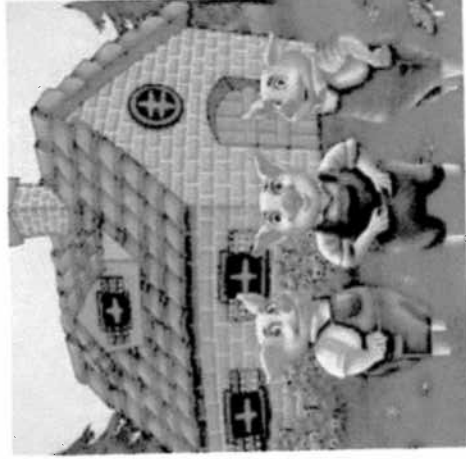
During October, we will be looking closely at the modes of transportation used regularly. Typically, inquiry involves: collecting data (photos, crayon rubbings, interviewing), conducting research (books, field visits, listening to others), and

then reconfiguring our new understandings in a new ways. For teachers, inquiries are both exciting and risky! Much knowledge comes from the home environment and children's passions, thus, we do not preplan, but rather facilitate the chil-

dren's quest for a better understanding of the topic. We have to listen better, record students' ideas more, and seek answers from new sources. I wonder how our learning will unfold over the next four weeks!

The first request is for you or your children to

**photograph how they come to Junior Kindergarten** (feet, bike, car, truck, van, bus, LRT etc). This will likely be followed by a request for a photo of any other modes of transportation your family uses for work, entertainment, or travel.



### I CAN Statements Fulfilled in September Included:

- I can be comfortable at Junior Kindergarten.
- I can look at a book independently.
- I can follow a routine.
- I can retell a story.
- I can walk to and from the gym quietly.
- I can dramatize/ act out a story.

### OCTOBER LEARNING WILL INCLUDE:

- ~INQUIRY ON TRANSPORTATION
- ~DISCUSSIONS ABOUT DIFFERENT SOCIAL SCENARIOS
- ~LEARNING NAMES OF TEACHERS AND CLASSMATES
- ~LETTERS: O, F

### Inside this issue:

Gym	2
Sickness & Staying Home	2
Daily Special Helpers	2
Transition Outside at Day End	3
Parent's To-Do List	3
More Furniture Donated	3
Loving Our Friends	4

## Gym

We are blessed with a gym space created for young children that we visit Mondays and Wednesdays. There are photos on the front bulletin board.

On Monday and Wednesdays please have your children wear socks that are easy to pull off and on. In addition, indoor footwear should also be easy to independently put on and take off. Independence can be fostered at home by encouraging your children to do tasks themselves. Be sure to give plenty of time, encouragement and praise! Journeying between our class and the gym (under the Educa-



as we walk through new territory and encounter 'big learners,' university students. The children are expected to hold onto a pompom and, if they like, have quiet conversations. If they get too noisy a yellow piece of paper is held up as a warning. If the volume does not decrease a red paper is held up and gym class is missed. This means if we are on our way to the gym, we turn around and go back to class. If we are coming back from the gym, the following gym class is missed. This system (continued on page 6)

tion gym in the far SW corner of the basement) can be challenging!! We walk together using a skipping rope that has colored pompoms attached to it. The rope provides a sense of security

## Tis The Season of Sickness

Young children quickly tend to runny noses by using their sleeves, fingers, and the back of hands! At Junior Kindergarten the teachers are greatly outnumbered! Please keep children with runny noses at home.

Dr. Tang (interviewed on CBC radio) stated that sneezes and coughs travel 6 meters a second.

When someone is sneezing or coughing at Junior Kindergarten there is no place that stays uncontaminated. Please keep children who are sneezing and coughing at home. Also, encourage them to cough or sneeze into their "coughing pocket," their bent elbow.

## Special Daily Helpers

A special helper is a student who helps the teachers keep the class organized and in order! One person will be assigned for each day of class. Your child is welcome to bring in a special toy or book from home on his/her assigned day for show and share. This special item should be in a bag or box and stored in his/her cubby until the last few minutes

If possible, please <sup>place</sup> show-and-share in a bag or box to create suspense for classmates!



**Please look at the calendar to see when your child's special day is!**

Bring an item that is special to your children. Thank you!

## Transitioning Outside At The End of Class

We will work on transition-ing outside at the end of class. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather as we will be outside at the end of each class to greet you in the yard. **It is best if you wait for us at the top of the stairs or in the yard.** We will do our best to be on time! Another way you could assist this process is to close the gate when entering in the yard and holding the door open for the teacher who is racing up the stairs with a basket of backpacks in hand! The teacher, not a child, must be the first to exit the door at the top of the stairs!

It is best if you wait for your children at the top of the stairs or in the yard. We will do our best to be on time!

ENTLY put on their outside footwear and coat and place their backpacks in the white basket. Some children are quick, while others are slow. We ask the children to sit in their cubbies if they are ready so we can see who needs help still. This sounds crazy, but it really does work to keep everyone safe. Then the boys put their hands on the wall with the posters. The girls put their hands on the door and wall with the pictures/photos. Once we are all ready, the boys hang on the rail with their left hand and the girls with their right. We always hang on to a rail and walk behind the person in front of us. This is a safe

way for us to get outside. Pushing or hurting others results in going to the back of the line. I hope with regular practise this transition will become quicker and less regimented. Equipment from the outside shed is only brought out if we are outside with 15+ minutes of class time remaining. Equipment is returned when there is only 5 minutes remaining of class.

Keep in mind Jenn and Ann need to return to class to clean and set up the room for the next group of children. Thus, once the parents arrive we will depart.

## A Junior Kindergarten Parent's To-Do List:

### Parents' To Do List

1. Dress your children in stretchy socks on Mondays and Wednesdays.
2. At the end of class, wait for your children at the top of the stairs or outside in the yard.
3. Dress your children in warm outdoor clothing.

4. Complete the permission slip for the Read In at Courts Library.

5. Hang the class directory in a safe and useful place.

6. Encourage your children to be letter detectives! Can they find the letters: B, b, M, m, O and o?

7. Remember Picture Day is

Tuesday, October 15.

8. Challenge your children to **INDEPENDENTLY** dress themselves in their fall outdoor clothing.

9. Sign your name on the volunteer calendar, posted in the front entry, if you plan on joining our class.

## More Beautiful Kohburg Furniture!!!

Kohburg is donating another round of amazing furniture!! In exchange the Junior Kindergarten will be used for a photo shoot on Friday, October 4. Apparently, the photos will be used in the Spectrum Supplier catalogues and on the Kohburg website.

Please let your children know some furniture will be new, but the school, children, teachers, and routines will stay the same!

To visit the Kohburg site go to <http://www.kohburg.com>



## The Blog

The Child Study Centre blog is the first Ann has maintained. To date Deb, the office manager, has created the posting. Now with a how-to list in hand, Ann will try to do this task independently. Please be patient, as many of Ann's attempts are not successful!

We can give gentle pats on the back and hugs, however, at school we do not kiss!

## Monthly Fire Drills

We hope to practise a fire drill monthly so that it is not a scary experience. Our procedure is posted outside the classroom. When necessary, the children are to take a pompom on the rope, used for gym, and sing Mary Had a Little Lamb as we walk outside to the large trees just outside of our yard.

## Fieldtrips

Fieldtrips for the year have been booked, and we are waiting for confirmation of the dates. Once received, a form listing the fieldtrips, requesting your permission and payment will be placed in your children's cubbies. Field trips away from the university will begin in January 2014.

## Loving Our Friends

At school we show affection with respectful encounters, admiration of talents and appreciation of areas needing work. We can give gentle pats on the back and hugs, however, at



school we do not kiss! Please explain to your children that there are too many germs at school for kissing

## “Walking Feet!”

With eighteen 3 & 4 year old learners, children often get accidentally hit or stepped on during class time. Please reinforce at home the use of “walking feet.” Having the children slowing down when going from one activity to the next will help to limit bumping into others.



When children forget, Ann and Jenn will say, “Please remind your feet to walk.” The children then say aloud, “feet please walk!” This is developing their self talk and inner speech, which will help to guide their actions.

## Daily Snack Time

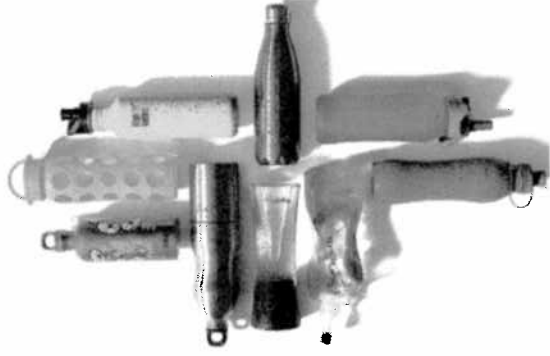
Approximately forty consecutive minutes are scheduled each day for centre time and snack. During this time the children sit down to eat. A few children are not coming to the snack table with enough time to eat, thus Jenn and Ann will help them get to the snack table so they have 10-15 minutes to eat.

Also, Junior Kindergarten is a fabulous opportunity to have your children

**Junior Kindergarten is a fabulous opportunity to have your children drink water, a healthy and refreshing habit.**

to drink water, a healthy and refreshing habit. Packing a water bottle is convenient because it can

be returned to lunchboxes without making a mess. Juice boxes are rarely finished, so much juice is wasted.



## Important Little Notes

### Parent Directory

Jenn has compiled the class directory. A paper copy will be provided and an electronic one emailed.

### Visiting Occupational Therapist

An Occupational Therapist (OT), hired by Alberta Health Services, will visit our class. This is an opportunity to discuss ways to best suit the learning needs of our young learners.

### Scholastic Book Order

is stapled to the newsletter. Scholastic provides books and kits at an affordable price. Typically, the books are delivered within a few weeks. Please return your book order with a cheque by Mon Oct 7.

## Picture Day

On Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> Real Moments Photography will spend the day with us taking individual, class, and candid photos. The photographer will be sending us more info that will be passed along to you.

This is the same service used last year!



## Gym continued from page 2

This system gives the children opportunity to make good choices and provides consequences we can follow through with. Thank you in advance for verbally reinforcing this process, especially if there is a day when your children are sad because we missed gym.

Sometimes the group is transitioning well to and from the gym, but an individual or a pair of children are not able to keep the conversations quiet or walk without bugging a neighbour or are walking too fast or too slow. In these situations one or two children are making the transition to the gym tremendously difficult for the entire class. In cases like this, the class as a whole will be able to go to gym and the individuals having a difficulty will sit for 3-4 minutes before playing on the gym equipment. A scribbler is in the backpack to help Jenn and Ann remember if the class or select students need help remembering how to walk quietly to and from the gym. Again, we want to ensure we follow through on the expectations we are presenting.

### Important October & November Dates

Fri Oct 4 Kohburg will conduct a photo shoot of the Junior Kindergarten

Mon Oct 7 Early Childhood Education student from Grant MacEwan joins am & pm programs (Oct 7-10 & Nov 12- Dec 6)

Mon/Wed Early Childhood Education students from the U of A join us for Oct-  
Brienne will come for the morning class & Casey for the afternoon

Tuesday 9:30-10:50 several U of A Early Childhood Education students will come to  
complete running records, a type of observational assessment.

Wed Oct 9 Read In at the Coultts Library 10:45-11:05 & 1:00-1:20 (PERMISSION SLIP)

Mon Oct 14 CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

Tues Oct 15 Picture Day -Real Moments Photography will take school photos for 2013-14 year

Wed Nov 6 CLOSED -Jenn & Ann are attending professional development

Thurs Nov 7 CLOSED -Ann & Jenn are attending professional development

Mon Nov 11 CLOSED FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

## CSC Junior Kindergarten

Classroom  
Room B03, Basement, 551 Education South  
780 492 6518  
jkclass@ualberta.ca

CSC Office  
Room 739, 7th Floor, Education South  
780 492 7341  
childstudycentre@ualberta.ca



**At the Child Study Centre Junior Kindergarten the emphasis is on inquiry learning, integrating curriculum around project work, and play. The project work provides the children with opportunities to learn from first hand experiences and represent their ideas in many different ways. This approach capitalizes on the familiar experiences of the children and provides a learning environment where children learn through investigation, observation, and discussion. Children are guided to develop interests in many topics and investigate through these projects. The project work becomes more elaborate as children apply new levels of skill and knowledge.**

**Samples of children's project work are displayed on the walls of the classroom to provide an ongoing account of the learning. The teachers provide photographic and written documentation to accompany the work being displayed. Children have opportunities to share their learning with other children and family members at celebrations of learning.**

**Play is considered as an important aspect of early childhood educational experiences. It is significant for the socialization and development of children for it provides many different experiences including aesthetic expression, communication, thinking, exploration, and language development. We acknowledge the importance of play in supporting children's learning in all areas.**

*Child Study Centre-a  
love of learning grows here*

## For The Afternoon Program

Welcome to Karen Wingean who is providing support for one of our young learners!

Karen is a parent and an educator. She is excited to be at the Child Study Centre Junior Kindergarten and we are excited she is sharing her expertise!!

Sometimes children see the extra help given to a child, who is working on particular skills, as getting more attention. Thank you in advance for explaining that this extra help often feels like work to the child because it often takes away from his/her playtime.

### Afternoon Routine

Welcome!

Calendar & Show and Share

Gym (Mon/Wed)

Music (Tues/Thurs)

Read Books Independently

Snack and Centre Time

Group Time

(circle game, story,

alphabet learning)

Goodbye