

Our full day Junior and Senior Kindergarten classes offer a well-rounded educational experience in a friendly and supportive environment. Our program is stimulating and diverse with a focus on educating the whole child- helping them to recognize their personal strengths and offering opportunities to excel in a multitude of disciplines. In addition to daily lessons in Language, Mathematics and the Sciences, the children participate in French, Physical Education, Drama, Music and Computer classes where they are instructed by specialist teachers. Our goal is to build self confidence and promote a love of learning while developing the fundamental skills that will enable students to achieve success as they transition into the Primary Division.

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Language

Reading

The Jolly and Primary Phonics programs as well as a variety of leveled phonetic readers are used to build the children's reading and basic sight word recognition skills. Students progress at their own levels, and the majority of students in our JK program are able to read short story books featuring CVC words and basic sight words before progressing to SK where they continue to develop their reading skills.

Writing

Students are instructed about the proper formation of letters as their sounds are introduced in the Jolly Phonics program. Daily teacher guided tracing and printing practice helps develop fine motor skills. Students print their own names using correct letter formation and are introduced to basic journal writing, as they create simple sentences to accompany pictures they draw.

Oral Visual Communication

During circle times, students participate in teacher guided conversations. They learn to listen to the ideas of others, and to share their ideas with others. During story times, students are encouraged to make prediction and ask questions about the story. Students learn to communicate in various social situations within the classroom, to express their needs and feelings in words, and to be considerate of the feelings of others.

Mathematics

Nelson Mathematics, a Ministry-approved resource, is used in the delivery of our Mathematics program and is enhanced with a variety of supplemental resources to provide students with rich problem- solving activities that involve important mathematical ideas and relate to real-life situations. Hands-on, interactive activities utilize the five strands of math- Number Sense and Numeration, Data Management and Probability, Measurement, Geometry and Patterning. Emphasis is placed on essential math processes such as strategizing, reasoning and proving, reflecting, representing and communicating. Children have ready access to a wide variety of concrete materials to aid them in their exploration of mathematical concepts. The mathematics program is aimed at developing a positive attitude towards math and an ability to persevere through challenging problems.

The Sciences

Children study Science and Technology through the exploration of various topics throughout the school year. The use of concrete materials, models, visuals, books, and computer software enhances the children's vocabulary development and their scientific and technological knowledge. Hands-on learning experiences encourage the students to develop their reasoning and inquiry skills as they are introduced to the Scientific Method.

Through thematic studies focused on character education, community studies, cultural diversity and more, children study Social Science. Opportunities are provided for students to discover their strengths, interests and abilities, put forth their ideas and create positive relationships with their peers, thereby developing social competence and learning to play a constructive role as a classroom citizen.



Health and Physical Education

The goal of the Physical Education program is to develop a foundation for a lifelong participation in and appreciation for healthy, active living. Students in JK participate in a structured Physical Education Program five times per week, for thirty minutes each day. The Paul Coffey park offers a beautiful and well-provisioned backdrop for many seasonal activities. The children develop body awareness, balance and coordination while learning to move with competence in a wide variety of physical activities. Participation in organized games contributes to the development of social skills and self-esteem as well as physical skills. In addition, students build important life skills through regular swimming and skating lessons scheduled throughout the year.

The Arts

The Visual Arts

Children participate in a wide variety of activities geared towards imagination, creativity and exploration of personal style and artistic expression while also develop fine motor control. Activities include cutting, pasting, colouring, and painting, sculpting and more. The visual arts are integrated cross-circularly within Science, Technology and Mathematics instruction.

Music

The Music program offers rich and meaningful opportunities for students to explore sound through singing, moving and listening. They are introduced to the verbalization and visualization of musical ideas. Children are introduced to musical theatre as they participate in a holiday musical play performed by the Primary Division each December.

Drama and Dance

Students participate in engaging activities such as role play, rhyme, puppetry, and movement. Imagination and problem-solving skills are used as they create unique pieces and contribute personal ideas and opinions about a variety of forms of drama and dance.

French

Junior Kindergarten students receive 90 minutes of French instruction per week. Songs, rhymes, and games are used to encourage the students to imitate sounds inherent to the French language. The program is flexible and thematic to keep the students interested and motivated. The aim of the program is to give the students a sense of success and accomplishment in a second language.

Technology

Students are introduced to the world of technology utilizing a thoughtful and balance approach. They learn the names of the computer parts, and safety rules to follow when using computers. They practice mouse control and begin to learn the letter locations on the keyboard using age appropriate software. Students have opportunities to explore educational software and internet sites that reinforce math and language concepts.



SENIOR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Language

Reading

Senior Kindergarten students build on the reading foundation of Junior Kindergarten. Sight words and phonetic readers are used to build decoding strategies and fluency in oral reading. Jolly Readers, S.P.I.R.E Decodable Readers and Usborne Books are used to engage students in regular reading practice. Written and oral comprehension activities accompany the readers to build analytical and higher-level thinking skills in guided, small group reading opportunities.

Writing

The mechanics of writing are introduced, as students begin to write longer sentences and eventually, short paragraphs. Formal spelling lessons based on phonetic generalizations begin during the second term. Resources including the MCP Plaid Phonics Program, The Canadian Spelling Program Level 1, and a wide variety of materials to meet the needs of all students.

Oral Visual Communication

Students continue to develop confidence in communicating ideas, expressing opinions, listening to others and asking meaningful questions. Students are provided opportunities to lead discussion, give oral presentations, building independence and leadership skills.

Mathematics

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The Sciences

Children study Science and Technology through the exploration of various topics throughout the school year. The use of concrete materials, models, visuals, books, and computer software enhances the children's vocabulary development and their scientific and technological knowledge. Hands-on learning experiences encourage the students to develop their reasoning and inquiry skills as they are introduced to the Scientific Method and participate as a class in the Newtons Grove Annual Science Fair.

Through thematic studies focused on character education, community studies, cultural diversity and more, children study Social Science. Opportunities are provided for students to discover their strengths, interests and abilities, put forth their ideas, become leaders and create positive relationships with their peers, while gaining independence and self-awareness. Students begin to develop a stronger understanding of their role as a student, as a family member, as a member of a community and as a global citizen.



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