

The Primary Division at Newton's Grove School offers a well-rounded educational experience in a friendly and supportive environment. Our program is designed to help students discover their strengths, interests and abilities. With a focus on educating the whole child, students are offered opportunities to shine in a multitude of areas including academics, sports and the arts. Building self esteem and fostering a love of learning in our students is at the core of what we do. Teachers focus on the needs of students as individuals, enabling them to develop skills at their own pace, while providing a stimulating program that meets or exceeds the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum at each grade level. Students who have mastered skills are provided with enrichment opportunities in all areas of the curriculum.

Key Features:

- small class sizes
- dedicated and caring teachers
- structured daily classroom routines which provide stability and direction
- a well-developed curriculum that incorporates cross-curricular learning, inquiry, problem solving, collaboration and the development of strong foundational knowledge
- Student-focused teaching strategies that target individual needs
- a wide variety of extra- curricular activities

Language

The goal of the Primary Language program is to provide the foundational skills necessary for students to communicate with clarity and precision, orally, in writing, and through a variety of media. Instruction is focussed on the main areas of knowledge and skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Cross-curricular instruction of Language within other subject areas helps to reinforce skills and provide practice in communicating about a variety of subject matters. Small group learning and a wide variety of approaches help all students build their language skills at an individualized level.

Key Features:

- an extensive system of levelled readers that allow students to develop decoding and comprehension skills at an individualized level
- small, targeted reading groups
- formalized lessons in spelling, phonics, vocabulary, grammar and penmanship
- daily writing practice in a wide variety of genres and for many purposes
- emphasis on the process of writing (planning, drafting, revising, editing, publishing and reflecting)
- regular opportunities for students to listen and talk about a range of subjects including personal interests, schoolwork, and current affairs

Mathematics

The goal of the Primary Mathematics program is to build strong foundational skills with emphasis on fluency, problem solving, reasoning and proving, strategizing, representing and communicating. Students are taught to think logically and to apply concepts through a wide variety of lessons that stress the language of math and address the five stands of mathematics: Number Sense and Numeration, Measurement, Geometry and Spatial Sense, Patterning and Algebra, Data Management and Probability.

Key Features:

- lessons with an emphasis on problem-solving and real-life application of concepts
- an emphasis on understanding the concepts behind mathematical operations
- regular math exercises to build accuracy and speed with recall of basic facts
- the use of concrete manipulatives to assist students in developing a deep understanding of all concepts



The Sciences

Children study Science and Technology through the exploration of the 4 strands: Life Systems, Structures and Mechanisms, Matter and Energy, Earth and Space Systems. The goal of the Science program is to build scientific and technological literacy. Students learn to read and understand reports about science and technology, critically evaluate information, and confidently engage in discussion and decision-making activities. The use of concrete materials, models, visuals, books, and computer software enhances the children's vocabulary development and knowledge base. Hands-on learning experiences encourage the students to develop their reasoning and inquiry skills as they are introduced to the Scientific Method.

The Primary Division Social Studies program focuses on developing students' knowledge, skills and attitudes through active inquiry, problem solving and decision making. Throughout all activities students are encouraged to explore, investigate, and ask questions in order to heighten their own curiosity about and understanding of the world around them as they study the two strands of Social Studies: People and Environments, Heritage and Identity.

Key Features

- hands on, experiential learning opportunities with a focus on connecting Science and Technology to society and the environment
- participation (at a class level), in our Annual Newton's Grove Science Fair
- emphasis on building the skills, strategies, and habits of mind required for scientific inquiry and technological problem solving
- students develop an understanding of natural systems and their impact on society, with a focus on the Indigenous Peoples of Canada

Health and Physical Education

The goal of the Physical Education program is to develop a lifelong participation in and appreciation for healthy, active living. Students in the Primary Division participate in structured Physical Education classes for 90 minutes each week. The Paul Coffey Park offers a beautiful and well-provisioned backdrop for many seasonal activities. A variety of intramural sports offer students of all abilities to participate in team sports. The children begin to hone their body awareness, balance and coordination while learning the rules and strategies of a wide variety of sports. 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 developing 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 learn musical theatre as they participate in a holiday musical play performed in a professional theatre setting 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

Primary 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. Students learn conversational French and practice proper pronunciation. 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 balanced approach. They learn the names of the computer parts and safety rules to follow when using computers. They practice mouse control and practice keyboarding skills using age appropriate software. Students learn basic research skills and internet safety rules. Programs such as Microsoft Word and PowerPoint are introduced in the later grades.

