



Elmwood's Junior Kindergarten News

October 2010

Welcome to the second month of school!

Now that fall is here and the weather is turning cooler, please make sure your daughter has suitable outdoor clothing at school every day, including a sweater or jacket, running shoes or boots, and a hat and mittens, if necessary. Also, Junior Kindergarten is a great place to encourage independence, so please send your daughter with clothing items that will facilitate her learning to dress herself (with assistance when needed, of course!) For example, jackets with snaps or zippers and shoes with Velcro straps or buckles.

We are keeping track of the number of days that we have been in school and are now up to 19. This means one bundle of 10 and nine 1s. On the 100th day of school, we will have a big party!

Kindergarten Field Trip to the Pumpkin Patch!

We are very excited to have the opportunity to go on our first field trip! On Monday, October 25th, we will be travelling by bus to Saunders Farm, along with the Senior Kindergarten class. Saunders Farm has a wonderful kindergarten autumn-themed programme that we will be taking part in. The programme includes a wagon ride to the pumpkin patch, a puppet show, a child-sized maze and fun-filled play structures for outdoor activity. A letter and consent form will be sent home shortly. Parent volunteers are more than welcome to join us for the day.

School Bags

Please make sure that you send your daughter to school with an appropriate school bag everyday. A central part of kindergarten is learning to be responsible for one's own belongings. The students are frequently asked to place their completed schoolwork in their bags for safekeeping. Mrs. Kathie and I also place their Home-School communication folders and At-Home reading folders in the school bags to ensure that they reach you.

PYP Unit of Inquiry

The students are enjoying their first unit, *I Am Special*. The girls are learning about their physical characteristics, their likes and dislikes and how these compare to those of their classmates. We will continue to explore concepts of change and growth in themselves and others, expressed through drawing, writing, art and group discussion.

Baby Photos

As part of this unit of inquiry, we will be building a class bulletin board featuring baby photos of the students. Please help your daughter select a photograph of herself when she was a baby. We will be using these photographs to help the students explore how they have grown and changed since they were babies. The photos will be displayed anonymously at first and the students will be encouraged to match the photograph to the

student. Please give the photograph to me directly and remind your daughter that her photograph is a surprise for the class.

“All about me” Bags

Each student will soon be bringing home a bag that she has decorated. These are “All about Me” bags. Please help your daughter choose some small objects (photographs of special people and places, pictures she has drawn, a favourite small toy) for her special bag. The students will be sharing the contents of their bags in small groups or partners to learn more about what makes each of them special and unique. Please help your daughter to remember to bring her filled bag to school on **Wednesday, October 13th**. I will also send an email reminder closer to the date.

Scholastic Update

A special thank you to those who have purchased Scholastic books for their children. With each Scholastic order, our class receives bonus coupons that we can put towards books and other educational resources. I am expecting the order to be delivered shortly and will send the books home with your daughters as soon as they have arrived. Please check your daughter’s Home-School communication folder for the October Scholastic selection.

Uniform

Please ensure that all clothing items are clearly labelled with your child’s name. If your child has lost any items, please check the Junior School’s Lost and Found, which is located in the cupboard underneath the glass display case to the left of the main office.

After School Pick-Up

Our school day ends at 3:00 p.m. We are very appreciative of parents who arrive on time to pick up their children; however, if you are ever late picking up your child due to unexpected traffic delays, etc., your child will be in good hands, as she will be taken to the 3:26 Club until you arrive.

Lunch and Snacks

The children are managing their lunches and snacks quite well with minimal assistance. Thank you for helping to keep all our students safe by remembering not to send any foods with nuts to school.

October Events

October is a busy month in Kindergarten. Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

- ❖ **Grandparents' Day** is on **Tuesday, October 12th** at 10:15 a.m. We look forward to receiving our special visitors into the classroom!
- ❖ Field Trip to **Saunders Farm** on **Monday, October 25th**.
- ❖ Our annual Junior School **Halloween party** will be held on **Friday, October 29th**. Students from the Senior School will assist in entertaining our little ghosts and goblins in the afternoon. The students are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to school that day. Please make sure that the costume is comfortable, not too warm and easy to take on and off for washroom use.