



Elmwood's Junior Kindergarten News

October 2011

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 on the 100th day of school, we will have a big party.

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 things in their bags for safekeeping. Mrs. Kathie and I also place their Communication Folders, At-Home Reading Folders and library books 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 **Tuesday, October 18th**. 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. Please check your daughter's Communication Folder for the new Scholastic selections at the beginning of each month.

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.

Field Trip

We have already planned our first field trip of the year. We will be going to Valleyview Little Animal Farm on Friday, October 14. The students will go on a train ride to see the crops, watch a presentation about harvest, play on the play structure, and visit large and small farm animals. We always love to have parents come along on our field trips. We believe that a higher adult-to-student ratio makes it safer for our students. If you would like to join us, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can make sure there will be room for you on the bus. A letter with more details and a consent form will be sent home soon.

October Events

Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

- Elmwood's **Thanksgiving** holiday is from Friday, October 7 to Monday, October 10, inclusive.
- **Grandparents' Day** – Tuesday, October 11.
- **Keller House Day** – Wednesday, October 19. All students in Keller House may wear their House colours to school. Other students are required to wear their Number One Uniform.
- Our annual **Halloween Party** will be held on Monday, October 31st. Students from the Senior School will assist in entertaining our little ghosts and goblins in the afternoon. Your daughters will be allowed to wear their Halloween costumes at school all day.

😊 **We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!** 😊

