



Elmwood's Junior Kindergarten News

September 2011

Welcome to Junior Kindergarten at Elmwood School!

I would like to welcome all the Junior Kindergarten students and their parents to a new school year! I am very happy to be working with all of your daughters this year. This class newsletter will be sent home monthly and is intended to update you on any important Kindergarten news, as well as to fill you in on many of the exciting things that are happening in our classroom. Please share this newsletter with your child, as she will appreciate your interest and enthusiasm regarding our activities.

Teaching Assistant and Specialist Teachers

To facilitate in the teaching and learning process in the classroom, we are lucky to have our own Teaching Assistant. Mrs. Kathie Theriault will be with us everyday until 3:00 p.m.

During the day, the students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of lessons with specialist teachers. Mrs. Pike is our music specialist and Mr. Perreault is our technology teacher. Madame Gavan will be teaching the girls French on a daily basis.

Parent-Teacher Communication

Parent communication and involvement is an extremely important part of our program. We value your ideas, thoughts and contributions. The best way to communicate with me is to speak to me directly or email me at rnerrallah@elmwood.ca. I will do my best to reply by the end of each day.

Scholastic Book Club

Our class will be participating in the Scholastic Book Club this year. Each subsequent catalogue will be sent home on the first Monday of each month. The due date for each order will be the subsequent Friday. Please look over the catalogues with your child and if you wish to purchase any books, please return the order form by the due date with a cheque made payable to Scholastic Canada. Your child's book order will be delivered within a couple of weeks. Participation in this Book Club provides students with the opportunity to purchase books, while earning points towards free books and other items for our classroom. In addition, it encourages emergent readers with motivating texts.

Unit of Inquiry: I am Special

The first unit of inquiry in our Primary Years Programme is called "I Am Special." The central idea of this unit, which we will explore as a class for approximately nine weeks, is "My personal characteristics make me

unique.” This unit is a wonderful vehicle for the students to begin building self-awareness within the social context of the classroom.

Show-and-Share/Student of the Week

Every week, the student of the week will perform special tasks, such as being line leader. At any time during her designated week (you will soon receive the schedule), she may bring in a show-and-share item, a special treat for the class or perhaps a parent or family member to come and read a story! The options are limitless. Please let me know if there is something special you would like to do. Show-and-share should be curriculum focused. For example, a special treasure might start with the letter of the week (again see attached schedule) and/or our current PYP unit. Examples for our “I Am Special” unit of inquiry would be baby or summer photos, a family storybook that you made together or a baby scrapbook. Show-and-share is an excellent opportunity to increase your child’s self-confidence and ability to speak in front of a group. Please assist your child in selecting her Show-and-share item and discuss some things she would like to share about it with her classmates.

Uniform

Please refer to the uniform requirements outlined on the Elmwood website under “Parents” and scroll down to “Uniform Requirements.” Should you have any questions regarding the Kindergarten uniform, please feel free to ask at any time.

Please note that hair accessories should be in the uniform colours (hunter green, gold, black, or white). Other colours may be worn on days when uniforms are not required, such as spirit days, sports afternoons, and House days.

Nut-free Lunches and Snacks

In order to ensure the health and safety of all our students, please be sure to pack lunches and snacks that are healthy as well as **nut-free**. If your daughter would like to bring in treats for the class to celebrate a special occasion, **please send in Certified Peanut-Free snacks**, such as mini-chocolate bars, Teddy Grahams or Bear Paws, so that all the students in our class can enjoy the treat. Your care and attention to this matter is very much appreciated.

Kindly include appropriate utensils in your child’s lunch and please pack all food items in a simple manner so that the children can manage them independently.

Junior School Scanner

Please read the Junior School Scanner (**distributed on Thursdays by email**) to find out more details every week regarding special school events. Parent evenings, activity days (i.e. school photos, concerts and fundraisers) will be highlighted and explained in important detail. Please email me if you have any questions or concerns

Run-for-the-Cure Barbeque Lunch

The students are invited to participate in a barbeque lunch on Friday, September 9 in support of the Run-for-the-Cure campaign. If you would like your daughter to participate, please fill out the form and send it with your daughter to school and a lunch will be provided for her that day.

Curriculum Night

All parents are invited to an evening session next Tuesday, September 13 to learn about the Junior Kindergarten curriculum. The session will begin at 7 pm in the Multipurpose Room on the third floor of the Junior School. I hope you will be able to attend.

Important Dates in September

- Tuesday, September 13 – Curriculum Information Night
- Friday, September 23 - Junior School Bake Sale
- Friday, September 23 - Welcome Back BBQ 4 pm
- Monday, September 26 - Photo Day
- Wednesday, September 28 – Pink Accessory Day - Change for the Cure

Junior Kindergarten – September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6 First day for JK students (9 – 11:30 am)	7 JK students at school from 9 -11:30 am	8 JK students remain at school until 1 pm	9 JK students remain at school until 1 pm	10
11	12	13 Curriculum Information Night 7 pm	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23 Junior Bake Sale – Welcome Back BBQ at 4 pm	24
25	26 School Photo Day	27	28 Pink Accessory Day – Change for the Cure	29	30	