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COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN 2020

Great Schools for Growing and Learning

Welcome to Kindergarten!

How exciting! Your son or daughter will be starting Kindergarten very soon. The St. James-Assiniboia School Division extends a very warm welcome to you and your child! You have been your child's primary teacher and will continue to be as your child continues to grow and develop socially, emotionally, physically, and academically.

At the heart of our Kindergarten program is play-based learning. A play-based approach involves both child-initiated and teacher-supported learning. Play helps children to develop their imaginations, express themselves creatively, and explore the world around them. The teacher encourages children's learning and inquiry through interactions that aim to stretch the student's thinking to higher levels, including creative problem solving. In a play-based environment, children experience learning in a fun and developmentally appropriate manner that helps build their self-esteem and a positive attitude toward learning. We are thrilled to be a part of your child's learning journey! As a school division, we recognize that the transition to school is a significant milestone in the life of a child. We offer several learning experiences, which are meant to create a welcoming and joyful transition to the world of school. Please read on to learn more about how we celebrate and support early learning in St. James-Assiniboia School Division. Come join us!



"Play is often talked about as if were a relief from serious learning. But for children play IS serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." - Fred Rogers
-Doreen Cost, Assistant Superintendent

Welcome to Kindergarten Evening

Bring your child to meet the Kindergarten teacher(s), staff and principal at your catchment school. You will have the opportunity to participate in activities with your child and will take home an early learning bag. This event happens in May or June. See page 2 for more details.

Literacy Links Home Visits

Enjoy the countdown to Kindergarten in the comfort of your own home! Through our Literacy Links program, which runs from May through August, families receive four home visits from trained and enthusiastic facilitators. This free program has been offered by the school division for more than 18 summers, and has been a huge success with parents and children. During each interactive one-hour session, facilitators will provide your family with lots of exciting games, activities and information on literacy and numeracy to help you learn together and prepare for school. Our facilitators work around your availability and can schedule visits in the morning, afternoon, or early evening. See page 4 & 5 for more details.

Rock & Read Family Literacy Program

Research shows that children who participate in literacy activities with their family demonstrate better learning skills and are more prepared to learn when they begin school. Rock & Read is a fun, five-week family literacy program that will have you singing, rhyming and reading together! See page 3 for times and locations.



To register contact Literacy Links: literacylinks@sjasd.ca / 204-885-1334 ext. 2304.

St. James-Assiniboia School Division is pleased to partner with The Learning Partnership to offer the Welcome to Kindergarten™ program at all of our early years schools. You are invited to attend the Welcome to Kindergarten evening at the catchment school that you have registered at. Get a feel for Kindergarten as you rotate through activity centres full of ideas for having fun and playing at home. Meet the Kindergarten teachers, resource teachers, principal, as well as other support staff who will play a role in your child's school life. In addition, community service providers, public health nurses and clinicians will be available with helpful information for you. At the end of the evening you will receive an early learning take home bag full of beautiful books and materials for your child to explore in the months leading up to Kindergarten. Please contact your school to confirm your attendance.



WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN SCHEDULE



Athlone School
110 Athlone Drive
Tuesday, May 26

Brooklands School
1950 Pacific Avenue
Wednesday, May 13

Buchanan School
815 Buchanan Boulevard
Thursday, May 28

Crestview School
333 Morgan Crescent
Thursday, May 14

École Assiniboine School
175 Winston Road
Tuesday, May 19

École Bannatyne School
363 Thompson Drive
Thursday, May 28

École Robert Browning School
130 Browning Boulevard
Thursday, May 21

École Voyageur School
37 Voyageur Avenue
Wednesday, May 20

Heritage School
47 Heritage Boulevard
Tuesday, May 26

Lakewood School
55 Kay Crescent
Thursday, May 21

Linwood School
266 Linwood Street
Thursday, May 14

Phoenix School
111 Alboro Street, Headingley
Tuesday, May 19

Sansome School
181 Sansome Avenue
Wednesday, May 13

Stevenson-Britannia School
1777 Silver Avenue
Wednesday, May 27

Strathmillan School
339 Strathmillan Road
Wednesday, May 27



Rock & Read

Rock & Read is a five-week family literacy program where parents and children will enjoy a variety of songs, rhymes, fingerplays and books together. Children will explore themes in books through art activities and activity centers, as well as make some new friends! Parents will create a special homemade book that their child will cherish as they begin their first school year. Please register for **one** session only.

Spring 2020 Session

Monday Mornings

May 25, June 1, 8, 15, 22
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Heritage Victoria Community Centre
950 Sturgeon Road

Wednesday Afternoons

May 27, June 3, 10, 17, 24
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Messiah Lutheran Church
400 Rouge Road



Summer 2020 Session

Tuesday Mornings

July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Deer Lodge Community Centre
323 Bruce Ave. East

Wednesday Evenings

July 8, 22, 29, August 5, 12
6:00 – 7:30 a.m.

Westwood Community Church
401 Westwood Drive

Thursday Mornings

July 9, 16, 23, 30, August 6
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Heritage Park Children's Programs
1 Braintree Crescent



Please register for one session only, beginning March 2, 2020.

To register, email literacylinks@sjasd.ca

Literacy Links Home Visits

Literacy Links Success Stories

"Literacy Links has given my son new thirst for knowledge. Now he can't wait to start school."

"The facilitator was fantastic! He was energetic, motivating and so patient with our daughter. She would count down the days until he would come back."

"I appreciated that the sessions were tailored to my child's individual learning needs."

"This program helped us to remove technology and screen time to do the fun activities!"

"We love that we were provided with valuable resources and creative games to make everyday living interesting, fun and an interactive learning experience for the boys and the entire family!"

"We highly recommend this program! Thank you for coming to our home and the flexibility of the facilitator to work around our busy schedule."



How do I register for the Literacy Links home visits?

There are several ways to register for the home visits. Fill out the Literacy Links registration form that is included with this brochure and hand it in at the end of the Kindergarten Information Evening, or when you register for Kindergarten. You can also fax or mail it in to the address found on the registration form. In addition, you may also register by email (literacylinks@sjasd.ca) or by phone (**204-885-1334, ext. 2304**).

When do the FREE Literacy Links home visits begin?

The Literacy Links program begins in mid May. Facilitators will be contacting registered families by phone to set up mutually convenient times for visits.

How long will the facilitator be in our home?

The Literacy Links facilitators will be in your home for approximately one hour during each of the four scheduled visits.

What happens during these visits?

Your facilitator will bring a bin full of books, activities and crafts to share with you and your child. You will learn new games and activities as well as ideas for things you can do at home that will help your child get excited about reading, writing, numbers and starting school.

As a parent, should I participate in these visits?

ABSOLUTELY! This program is for parents/grandparents and children to learn and play together. We encourage you to sit down with your child and enjoy the educational activities. Your participation will send a strong, positive message to your child about how you value learning. By participating, you will also learn many great ideas for adding literacy and numeracy to your child's life, which you can try during the summer.

Literacy Links Home Visits

My child has special needs. Can we participate?

Literacy Links is a great experience for *all* families in St. James-Assiniboia. When registering, be sure to indicate any particular learning needs to your facilitator. This will enable him/her to be well prepared and ensure your child's experience is a positive one.

What if there are other children in the home?

Siblings are welcome to join in the fun, as Literacy Links is a family program. Your facilitator will bring a bin full of educational activities that will keep everyone entertained.

My child goes to pre-school – will we benefit from participating in the Literacy Links Program?

YES! The Literacy Links program provides you and your child the unique opportunity to enjoy learning experiences in the comfort of your own home. A trained facilitator will introduce you to activities involving print, rhyme, beginning sounds and numbers – all designed to be done easily as part of your daily routine. It is also a wonderful opportunity for you, as a parent, to see your child's development and discover new ways to work together to enhance these emerging skills.

What if my child already knows how to read?

We will celebrate that with you and your child! We will also give you ideas for ways that you can challenge and stretch your child in other areas (i.e. writing and numeracy skills).

Who do I contact if I need to cancel our appointment?

Should you need to change the time of your visit, please contact your facilitator by calling the Literacy Links line at 204-885-1334, extension 2304. Please state the name of your facilitator when leaving your message. You will also be able to contact your facilitator by cell phone or email. You will receive this information on your first visit. We will make every effort to reschedule another mutually convenient time to see your family. As your facilitator will be busy working with many families this summer, advance notice for cancellations is greatly appreciated.

Will my facilitator take notes during our sessions?

Your facilitator will take a few notes on your child's literacy and numeracy development. These notes will be shared with you during the sessions and given to your child's teacher in September. All information gathered is subject to the rules of confidentiality. As a parent, you are welcome to read these notes at any time.

Tips for a successful Literacy Links home visit



- 📖 Schedule home visits at a time that works best for your family's schedule.
- 📖 Turn off the TV, radio or other electronics so you and your child can concentrate and have fun together.
- 📖 Put away distracting toys.
- 📖 Choose a quiet, clutter-free spot in your home where you and your child can comfortably enjoy books and work on educational activities.
- 📖 Encourage your child to be a problem-solver and answer questions independently during the home visits. Avoid the temptation to answer (or have older siblings answer) for your child.
- 📖 Celebrate your child's achievements and progress during the visits. This is a wonderful way to boost your child's self-esteem!



Email: literacylinks@sjasd.ca or
Phone: 204-885-1334, extension 2304



ST. JAMES-ASSINIBOIA Parent Child Coalition

The St. James-Assiniboia Parent Child Coalition promotes and supports community-based programs and activities for pre-school children and their families. Recognizing that parents are the first, most important and most lasting teachers in a child's life, Coalition activities create opportunities for parents and children to participate in quality programming together. Programs are always free and open to all St. James families with children (birth - 6 years of age). Cost: **FREE**.

Family Gym Drop In

Family Gym Drop In offers families the opportunity to be active and discover fun in the gym! We have bikes, balls, a bouncer, climber, tunnels, floor hockey and so much more. Children have loads of fun as they gain strength, balance, coordination and confidence. Drop in and join us for this open gym experience.



Book & Cook Club

Families are invited for a morning of story-telling, cooking, crafts and sharing on the last Wednesday of the month at our Deer Lodge Parent Child Drop In Centre.

Family Chefs

Family Chefs is a five-week program that offers families a hands-on approach to preparing nutritious snacks and meals and enjoy interactive activities.



Rhythm & Rhyme

Join us on a musical adventure as we use singing, instruments, movement, stories and rhythmic rhyme to explore the musical world!



MONDAYS	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Westwood Community Church 401 Westwood Dr (November to March)
TUESDAYS	9:30 am - 11:00 am Westwood Community Church 401 Westwood Dr (September to June)

Beats & Eats

An exciting intergenerational program of music and movement through a partnership with the St. James-Assiniboia 55+ Centre.



Shake Rattle & Roll

The importance of physical activity in pre-school play is a main focus in Shake, Rattle & Roll.



Parent/Child Drop In Centres

All Centres offer a warm, friendly and nurturing environment, where families with children birth – six years of age can come together and play. Each week we offer creative activities, nutritious snacks and circle time with songs, rhymes and story. No registration is required so drop in and visit and get to know other families in the community.



MONDAYS	9:30 am - 11:00 am Sansome School, 181 Sansome Ave
TUESDAYS	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Sansome School, 181 Sansome Ave
WEDNESDAYS	9:30 am - 11:00 am Deer Lodge Community Club, 323 Bruce Ave 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Buchanan School, 815 Buchanan Blvd
THURSDAYS	9:30 am - 11:00 am Crestview School, 333 Morgan Cres 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm Buchanan School, 815 Buchanan Blvd
FRIDAYS	9:30 am - 11 am Buchanan School, 815 Buchanan Blvd



Read our Family Focus newsletter and follow us on Facebook. For more information, please visit our website at www.sjapcc.ca. Contact Sandra Doell, Family Resource Coordinator by email at familyresource@sjasd.ca or by phone at 204-998-8400.

Kindergarten, Here We Come!

Children Who Are Ready for School

- ✓ Are eager to try new things
- ✓ Are curious about the world
- ✓ Get along with others
- ✓ Follow rules and instructions
- ✓ Take care of their belongings
- ✓ Show an interest in books
- ✓ Know some letters of the alphabet
- ✓ Show interest in printing their name
- ✓ Recognize numbers and can count



Hooray for Kindergarten!

Help your child get excited for Kindergarten by singing this song together.

Tune: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star

Kindergarten, here we come
We know we'll have so much fun
Come to school to learn and play
Paint a picture of your day
Lots of things to make and do
Reading, writing, counting too
Kindergarten, here we come
We know we'll have so much fun



Your Child's First Teacher: You!

Your child is constantly watching and learning from you. This makes you your child's first and best teacher! But you don't need to teach "a lesson" – just look for teachable moments. Start by watching your child. See what he or she is doing, then join in! Children learn by playing, so have fun with them.

Watch and guide their development in the following five key areas that impact a child's success in school:



1) Physical Health and Well-Being

Can your child dress, eat and go to the bathroom by him/her self? Can he/she run, jump and work with small objects?

- ✓ Children who are physically healthy are independent, rested and have good gross and fine motor skills.

2) Social Competence

Can your child share and play in a group? Does he/she trust other adults and children?

- ✓ Children with good social skills play and get along with others, share, show self-confidence and curiosity about new ideas.

3) Emotional Maturity

Does your child have self-control; is he/she able to wait when there is a delay? Does he/she show some understanding of other people's feelings?

- ✓ Children who are emotionally mature are able to concentrate on tasks, help others, show patience, and are not often aggressive or angry.

4) Language and Cognitive Development

Is your child interested in books and writing materials? Is he/she beginning to rhyme words and recognize some signs in the neighbourhood? Does he/she know their shapes, colours and how to count?

- ✓ Children who have language and thinking skills are interested in reading, writing, numbers, counting, and can recognize shapes and colours.

5) Communication and General Knowledge

Can your child express his/her needs to adults and other children? Is he/she able to express their thoughts in sentences?

- ✓ Children who have communication and general knowledge can listen to and tell a story, communicate with adults and peers, and ask questions about what they see and hear.

It's never too late or too early to help your child gain these skills! Start today!

Play is the way!

Research shows that play is the best way to learn in Kindergarten. Through play, children interact with, explore, and make sense of the world around them.

Play:

- ☺ Expands intelligence
- ☺ Is a testing ground for language and reasoning connecting to the challenges children face in school, such as literacy, math, and science concepts
- ☺ Stimulates the imagination, encourage creative problem solving
- ☺ Helps develop confidence, self-esteem, a sense of strengths and weaknesses, and a positive attitude toward learning
- ☺ Is a significant factor in brain and muscle development
(McCain, Mustard and Shanker, 2007)

Don't forget to play outdoors too!

Outdoor play:

- ⚙ Promotes physical fitness and builds gross and fine motor skills
- ⚙ Strengthens the immune system, increases Vitamin D and positive mental health
- ⚙ Encourages problem solving skills, creativity, risk-taking and boosts academic performance
- ⚙ Builds an appreciation for nature

Questions?

If you have questions about any of these programs, please contact
Deidre Sagert, Early Years Support Teacher
at 204-885-1334 ext. 2352.

Play nourishes every aspect of children's development. It forms the foundation of intellectual, social, physical and emotional skills necessary for success in school and in life. (Hewes, 2006)



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