

# Kindergarten Term 1 Newsletter

Dear Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to the start of a wonderful school year! I am so excited to begin this learning journey with your children. Below are some updates on what we are learning this term and ways you can stay connected.

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## Staying Connected with SpacesEDU

I will be using the **SpacesEDU app** to share classroom updates, photos of student learning, and important announcements. Please check the app regularly to stay up to date on what's happening in our Kindergarten class.

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## Allergy Awareness

We are an allergy-aware classroom. This means that we have students who cannot eat nuts. Please remind your child not to share food with anyone in the classroom. In the past, families have brought in special treats for special occasions. For these events, please remember to bring treats that everyone can enjoy. Students are reminded that snacks and lunch are to be eaten in the classroom. For safety reasons, such as allergies, we cannot eat recess snacks or lunch on the playground.

Some best practices we do in the school setting to be allergen-aware are:

- Students wash their hands before eating.
  - Allergy Alert Signs are at all classroom door entrances.
  - Students are not to share food, utensils, or containers.
  - Students will only eat the food that they have brought from home.
  - Desks are washed twice throughout the day.
  - Notre Dame school staff and our family community are aware of allergies through school and classroom newsletters and SPACES EDU.
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## Important Dates:

- September 29<sup>th</sup> – CISPG Co-Missioning Day (no school for students)
- September 30<sup>th</sup> – National Truth and Reconciliation Day (no school for students)
- October 1<sup>st</sup> – Picture Day (K-4)
- October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Picture Day (5-7)
- October 13<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Day (no school for students)

- October 17<sup>th</sup> – Prayer (grade 6)
- October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> – Pro D (no school for students)
- October 31<sup>st</sup> – Character Day
- November 11<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Day (no school for students)
- November 14<sup>th</sup> – Prayer (grade 3)
- November 21<sup>st</sup> – Mass (at the church)
- November 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> – Student Led Conferences (early dismissal at 1:45)
- November 28<sup>th</sup> – Non instructional Day

## Class Norms

In Kindergarten, we are learning how to build a safe, caring, and respectful classroom community. These are the norms we are practicing each day:

- **Raise your hand** to speak or to get permission to leave your seat. ✋
- **Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.**
- **Listen carefully** when someone is talking. 🗣️
- **Follow directions the first time** they are given.
- **Treat everyone with kindness and respect.** ❤️

These simple expectations help us learn, play, and grow together in a safe and happy classroom.

## **A** English Language Arts

This term, we are beginning **UFLI Foundations** to learn letters, sounds, and early reading skills. We will also be working in **Literacy Centres** to practice and reinforce these skills in fun, hands-on ways (such as letter matching, rhyming games, and story exploration).

Our Learning Intentions for Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening:

- I can play with sounds, words, and rhymes
- I can notice when words start with the same sound or rhyme.
- I can try out new letters and sounds when I read or write
- I can listen with curiosity and ask questions about stories.
- I can connect stories to my own life.
- I can share what I wonder about when I look at books and pictures.
- I can explore the use of simple, available tools and technologies to extend my capabilities
- I can share ideas, information, personal feelings, and knowledge with others

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## **12** **34** Math Learning – Big Ideas

In Kindergarten math, we are exploring the following **Big Ideas from the BC Curriculum**:

- **One-to-one correspondence and a sense of 5 and 10 are essential for fluency with numbers.**
- **Familiar events can be described as likely or unlikely and compared.**
- **Repeating elements in patterns can be identified.**

You may notice your child talking about counting carefully, predicting what might happen, and creating patterns with colours, shapes, or sounds. Encourage these conversations at home — count objects together, ask questions like “Do you think it’s likely to rain today?” or “What pattern do you see on your shirt?”

Our Learning Intentions for Math are:

- I can use noticing and wondering to help me learn new math ideas.
  - I can use one-to-one correspondence to count objects, touching each one as I say the number
  - I can break numbers apart and put them back together (e.g., 2 and 3 make 5)
  - I can join groups together to find how many in all
  - I can take away from a group to find how many are left
  - I can make a graph using pictures to show information.
  - I can find patterns around me
  - I can tell what repeats in a pattern
  - I can continue a pattern
  - I can demonstrate effective work habits and organizational skills
  - I can develop my skills and add new ones through play and collaborative work
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## **Social Studies**

Our Social Studies **Big Idea** this term is:

- **“Our communities are diverse and made up of individuals who have a lot in common.”**

Students will be learning about themselves, their families, and their classmates. They will share stories, talk about what makes them unique, and discover what they have in common with others in our classroom community.

Our Learning Intentions for Social Studies are:

- I can talk about what makes me unique
- I can identify important events in my life
- I can recognize how having my needs and wants met, keeps me healthy and safe
- I can identify what my rights, roles, and responsibilities are as a learner

- I can identify and appreciate the roles and responsibilities of people in my schools, families, and communities
  - I can generate ideas from my experiences and interests
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## Science

In Science, our **Big Idea** is:

- **“Daily and seasonal changes affect all living things.”**

We will explore weather, the changing seasons, and how plants, animals, and people adapt to these changes. We will also make daily observations of our weather in our environment to notice patterns over time.

Our Learning Intentions for Science are:

- I can notice how the weather changes plants and animals.
  - I can see patterns in the weather when seasons change.
  - I can notice how animals and plants change in each season.
  - I can see how people and animals change what they do in different seasons.
  - I can tell what living things do during the day.
  - I can tell what living things do at night.
  - I can share an idea and try it out.
  - I can use simple tools and materials to build or make something.
  - I can demonstrate effective work habits and organizational skills
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## Arts Education – Visual Arts

Our Arts Education focus this term is **Visual Arts**. The **Big Idea** guiding us is:

- **“People create art to express who they are as individuals and community.”**

We will explore self-expression through drawing, painting, and collage. Students will learn to use **elements of visual art** (line, shape, colour, texture) to create art that tells a story about themselves and the world around them.

Our Learning Intentions for Arts Education are:

- I can make art that shows who I am.
- I can use colours, lines, shapes, and textures in my art.
- I can tell a story by drawing, painting, or collage.
- I can share my artwork with others.

- I can notice and enjoy the art made by my classmates.
  - I can use trial and error to make changes, solve problems, or incorporate new ideas from myself or others
  - I can work respectfully and constructively with others to achieve common goals
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## **Thank You**

Thank you for your continued support as your child begins Kindergarten. Together, we will make this a year filled with curiosity, creativity, and joy in learning.

Sincerely,  
*Alyssa McLain*