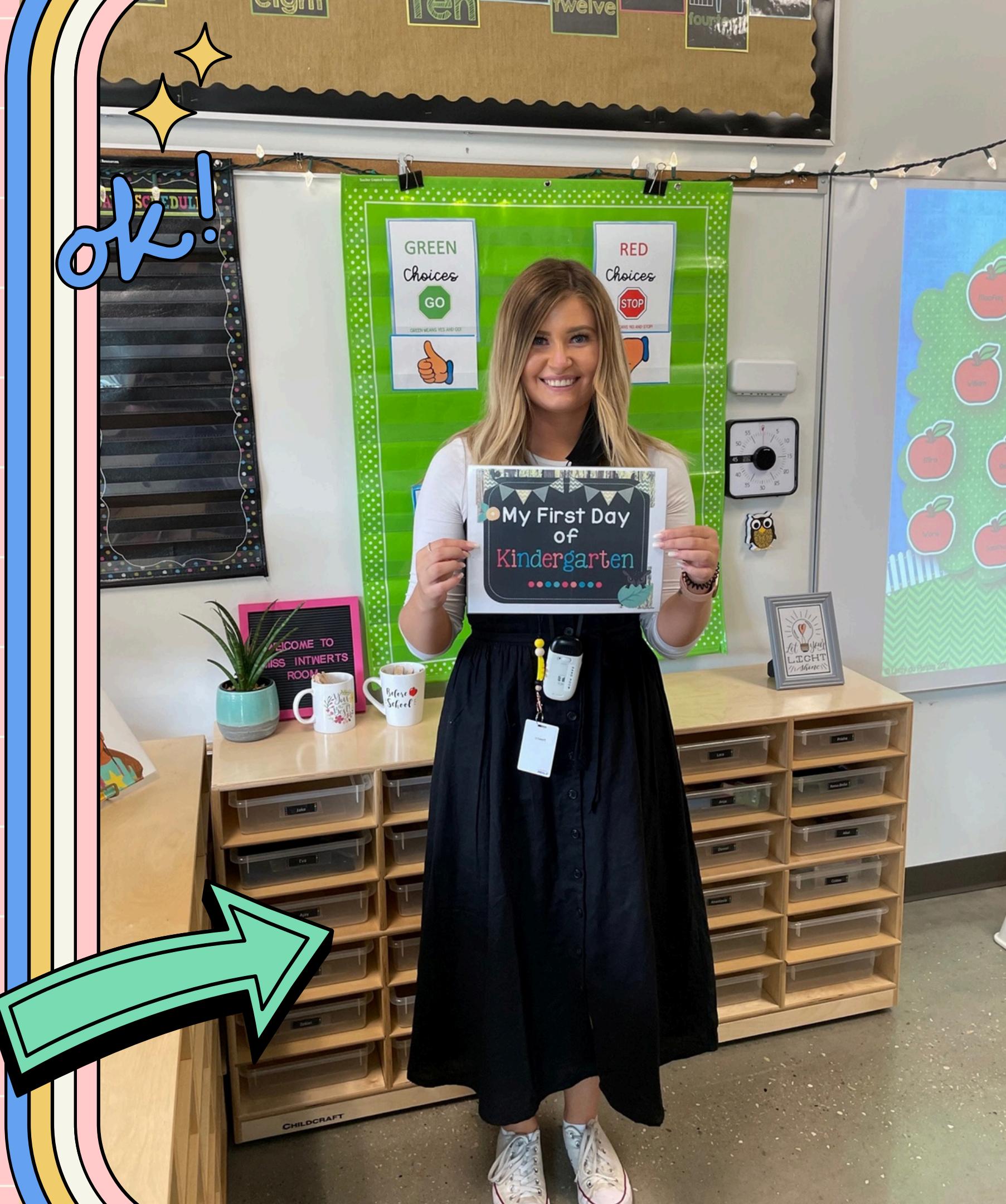


MRS D'AMORE

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

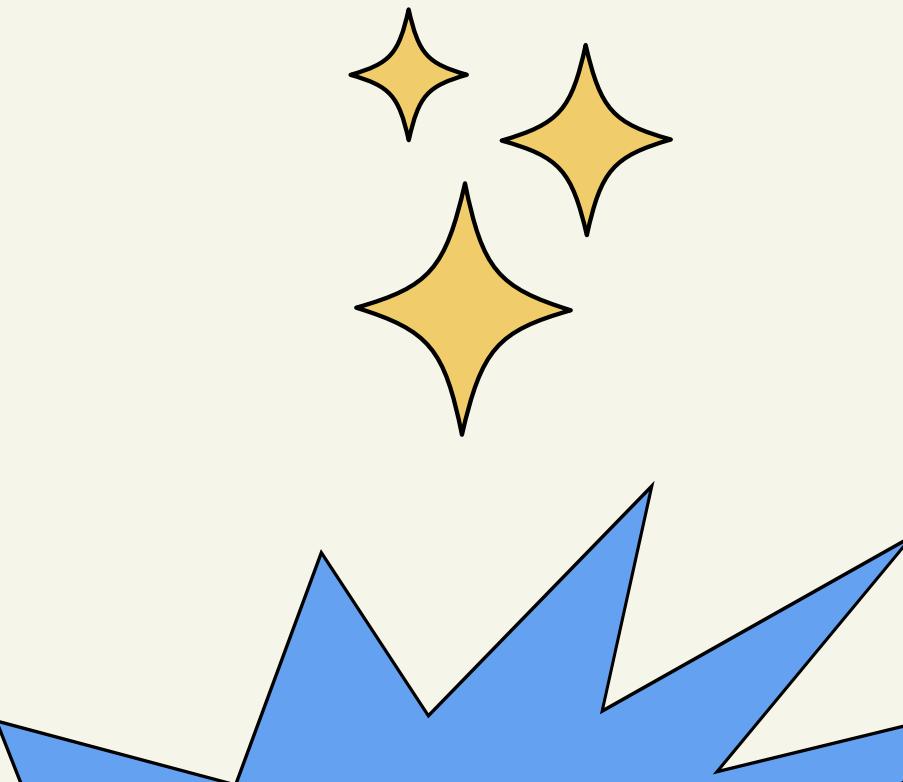




WELCOME PARENTS!

Welcome to Kindergarten in Room 9

Welcome to Kindergarten in Room 6! I am excited to embark on this incredible journey with your little ones this year! Kindergarten is my absolute favorite grade to teach, and together, we will explore, create, and inquire through a hands-on, academic approach that makes learning fun and meaningful. Our primary goal is to ensure that your child's first year of school is not only successful but also exciting, engaging, and filled with positive experiences that will lay a strong foundation for the years ahead. I can't wait to watch your child grow and thrive as we make this a year to remember!



WHAT MAKES OUR SCHOOL SPECIAL

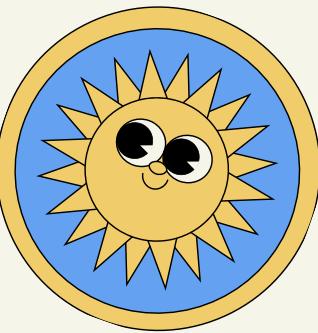
Students, parents and teachers work in partnership to support student learning and well-being for all.

- Focus on achievement, learning, success and well-being for all students
- Use of technology to support student learning, such as smartboards and Chromebooks.
- Wide variety of clubs, such as Running Club, Table Top Club and School Council
- Commitment to teaching skills and competencies needed for the 21st century learning
- Specially curated makers space to develop creativity, problem-solving, collaboration, design thinking, higher level thinking and STEAM skills
- Flexible learning environments for students
- Excellence in teaching staff and educational assistants
- Strong community connections and community events
- Involved parent council and parent association to enrich the school experience for students, family and staff
- High parental involvement



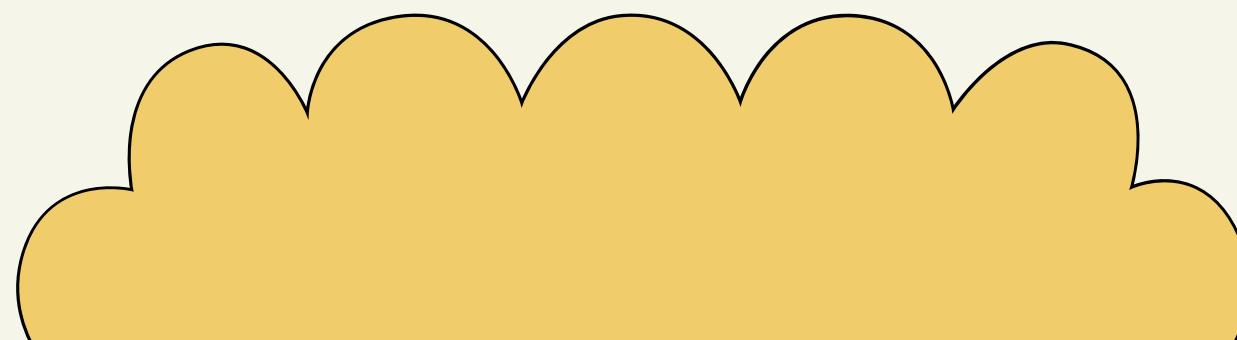
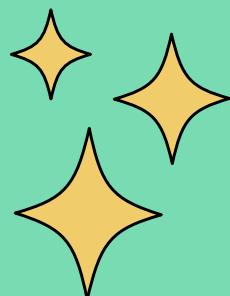
“Our goal is to promote high levels of student achievement, engagement and leadership. We aim to prepare students academically, socially, emotionally and behaviourally. Students will become capable, connected, contributing, independent learners, thinkers and leaders.”

OUR PHILOSOPHY



Our Philosophy:

“At Patricia Heights, we believe that success is achieved when we work together. Students, parents, and teachers collaborate to support student learning and wellness for all. Our goal is to provide a positive learning environment where we prepare responsible, respectful and successful learners.”



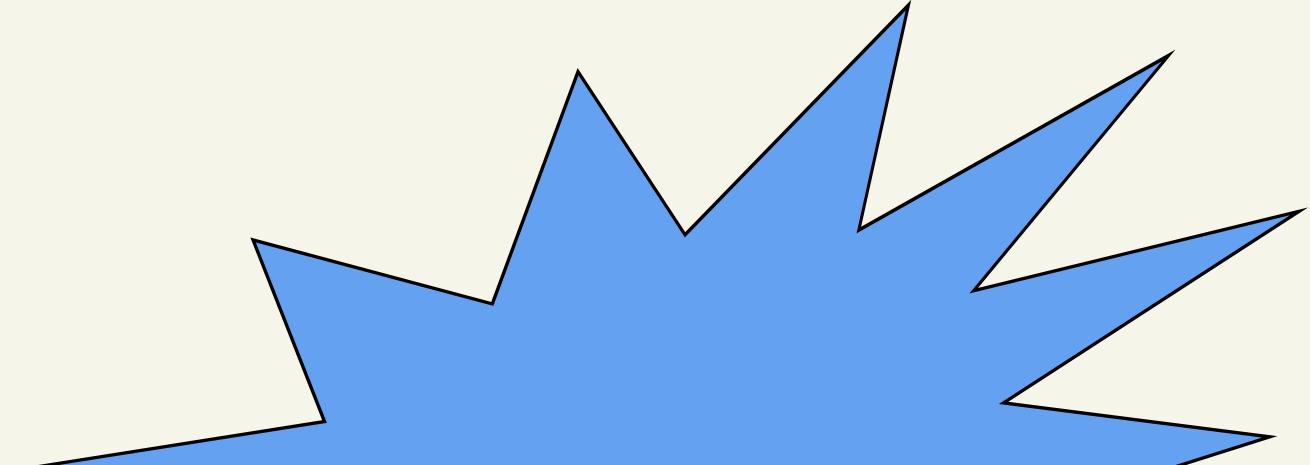


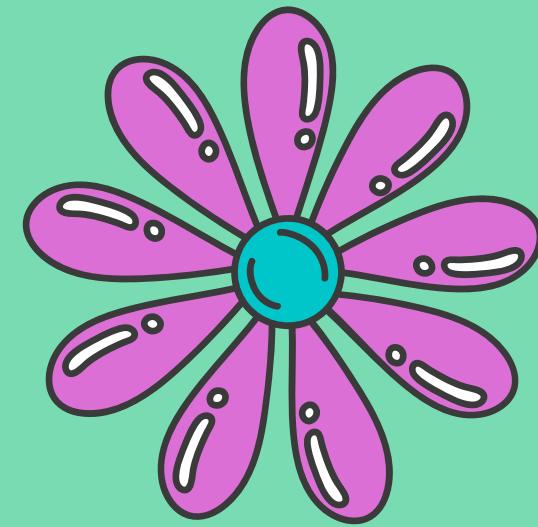
THE ALBERTA KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM



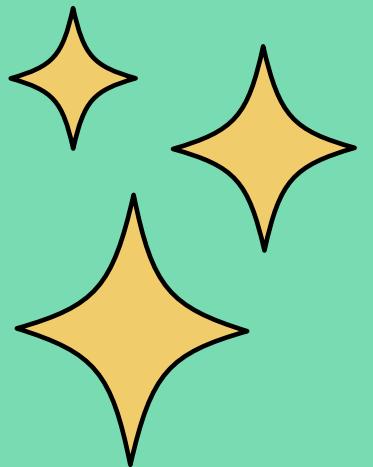
Edmonton Public Schools follows the Alberta curriculum. It is broken into 6 components:

1. Early Literacy
2. Early Numeracy
3. Social
4. Science
5. Physical Skills and Well-Being
6. Creative Expression

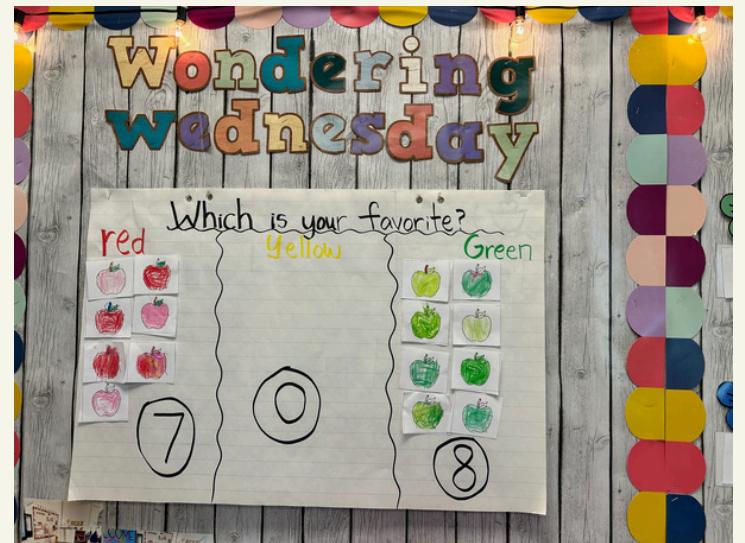




OUR WEEKLY PLAN

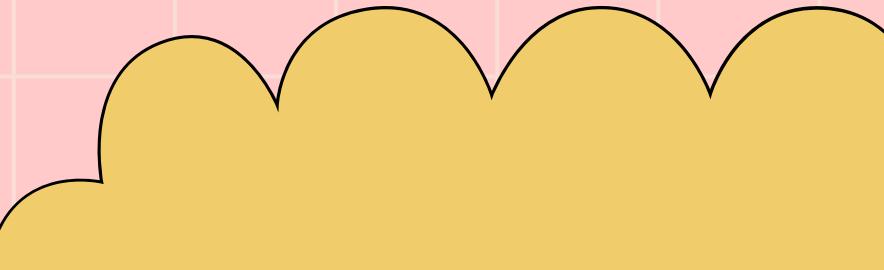
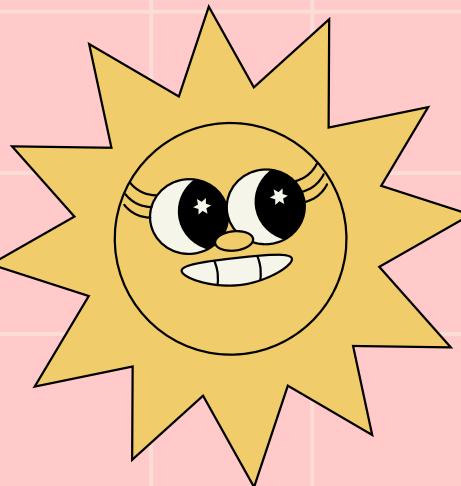


- Jolly phonics and UFLI (Early Literacy)
- Learning numbers 1-10 (September-December) and 10-20 (January-June), shapes, patterns, time (Early Numeracy)
- Wondering Wednesdays- We will explore the science curriculum during this time. Weekly science experiments and inquiries. (Science)
- Play Centers- Free play where they can explore a variety of sensory and dramatic play that tie into outcomes from the curriculum. (Social)
- Table Time Centers- Morning centers focused on Literacy, Numeracy, fine motor and STEM challenges.
- Creative Expression - Art, dance and musical concepts are explored throughout the week. Our goal is to do at least one art piece a week (these will be sent home in memory books at the end of the year)
- Physical Education and Well Being - Gross and fine motor skills will be developed outside and in the gym. Social emotional learning and executive functioning skills will also be developed throughout the year together.





KINDERGARTEN IS THE START
OF AN EXCITING AND MEMORABLE ADVENTURE
FOR YOUR CHILD. THESE EARLY
YEARS ARE A TIME OF
SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT
AND POSITIVE LEARNING
EXPERIENCES.
KINDERGARTEN IS THE
FOUNDATION FOR OUR
STUDENTS TO BE LIFE LONG
LEARNERS.



EARLY LITERACY

At Patricia Heights, we use the Jolly Phonics program, a dynamic phonics-based approach that helps children learn to read quickly and effectively. We begin by introducing letters starting with "S," "A," and "T," which gives students a strong foundation for early reading success. Each letter is paired with a fun song, engaging story, and a corresponding action to make learning interactive and memorable. Alongside phonics, we will also practice proper letter formation to strengthen writing skills. Starting in January, we transition to using the phonics program UFLI, and will introduce home reading, journal writing, and heart word recognition to further enhance literacy development.

Ww

I see the clouds moving,
/w/-/w/-/w/
I see the kites flying,
/w/-/w/-/w/
I see the trees bending
/w/-/w/-/w/
The wind is blowing strong

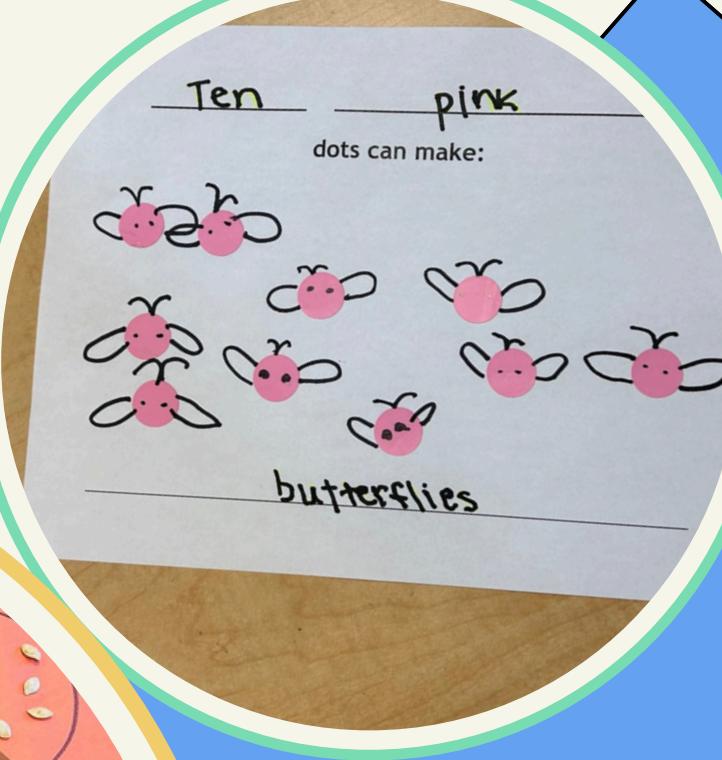
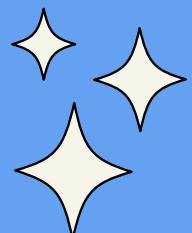
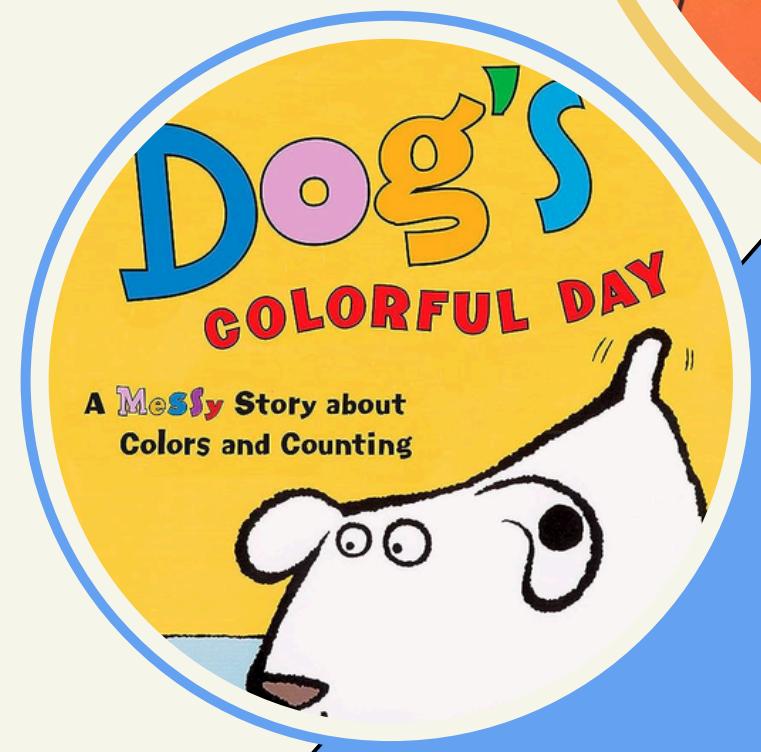
Jj

ACTION:
Blow onto open hands like the wind, repeating wh, wh, wh

I can read!

EARLY NUMERACY

Throughout the year, we will explore numbers 1-20 in a variety of engaging ways, including through dice, ten frames, tally marks, and more! Students will also explore 2D and 3D shapes, discover patterns, and develop foundational skills in early addition and subtraction as we progress through the year. Each concept will be explored through hands-on activities to make learning both fun and meaningful.



ASSESSMENT IN KINDERGARTEN



Student Reporting

- November Conferences - discuss kindergarten readiness skills
- Student led conferences (March)
- Progress Reports (January and June)

Other Assessments

- Observations/ Anecdotal notes
- Memory Book - a portfolio that contains a collection of work over the course of the school year
- Class discussions
- Social interactions



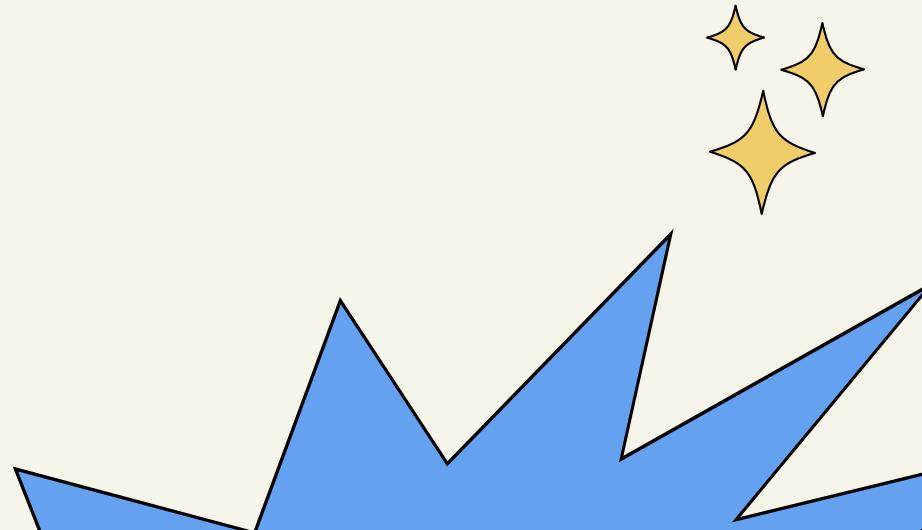
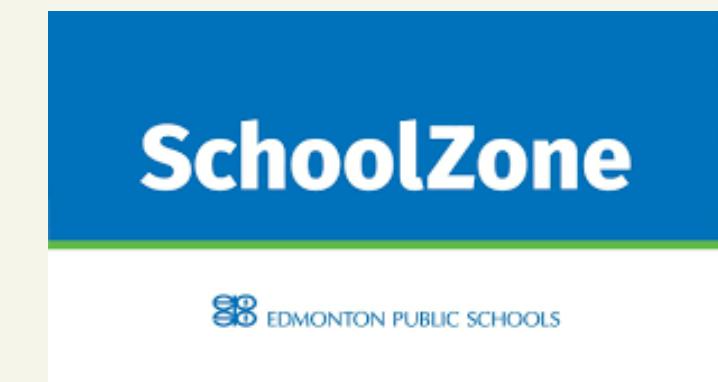
COMMUNICATION

School wide news

- SchoolZone will be used for school wide news. Please check weekly. You will get a SchoolZone log in on the first day of school. This is also where progress reports are posted.

Classroom news and updates

- I prefer to communicate via email, as it's the most efficient way to keep in touch. Each week, I will send out a newsletter that highlights what we've been learning and any important upcoming events or information. Additionally, I will have a Google Classroom set up, where you can access Jolly Phonics videos, practice materials, and a record of all emails sent. This will ensure you have all the resources and updates you need to stay informed and engaged in your child's learning.





LIFE LESSONS IN KINDERGARTEN



- **Social-Emotional Learning:** This is a key part of our Kindergarten program, where we focus on developing essential social skills such as making friends, being kind, playing cooperatively, and being a good friend. If your child comes home saying they have no friends or were playing alone, please don't be concerned. Building friendships takes time, and we make sure every child feels included. If your child mentions being pushed, it's likely part of our learning process as we navigate group interactions. We are still working on using polite phrases like "excuse me" when we need to move through a group. We're helping them build the language and confidence to express themselves in these situations.
- **Independence:** I know it can be tough as a parent to watch your child handle tasks on their own, especially when you're in a rush. However, fostering independence is crucial for your child's success in Kindergarten and beyond. We focus on skills like opening backpacks, unpacking lunches and snacks, zipping jackets, and putting on shoes. These simple tasks help build their confidence and self-reliance, setting them up for success in Grade 1 and beyond!

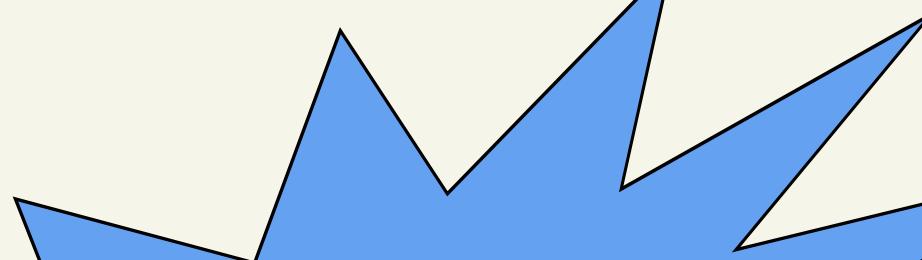
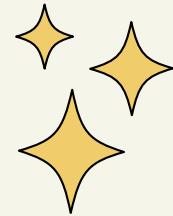
PARENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIPS

As this may be your child's first experience in a structured school environment, there will naturally be some conversations around their development and progress. Please know that I'm here to support both you and your child as we're on the same team.

My role as a teacher is to share observations that can help guide your child on their learning journey. You might hear things you haven't heard before, and that's completely normal. This is likely the first time your child is being observed in a setting with consistent routines, clear expectations, and a larger group of peers.

It's important to remember that children often respond differently in a classroom environment than they do at swimming lessons, with a babysitter, or even at daycare. The structure, pace, and social dynamics of school are unique, and it can take time for children to adjust.

These observations are never meant as criticism, but rather as insights to help us work together to support your child's growth and success. I appreciate your openness and trust as we navigate this exciting new chapter together.



KINDERGARTEN READINESS CHECKLIST

*These are recommendations on how you can best prepare your child for success in Kindergarten. These are not required skills to be mastered before Kindergarten. Exposure is key.

Early Literacy and Language

- I am beginning to recognize and identify some letters of the alphabet
- I can recognize which letters are in my name
- I can speak in complete sentences

Fine motor and writing

- I am beginning to print my first name
- I can hold a pencil or crayon with a tripod grip
- I can draw some recognizable pictures or shapes
- I can hold and cut properly with scissors

Early Numeracy

- I can identify and recognize some numbers to 10
- I can count to 10
- I can recognize and identify some shapes



KINDERGARTEN READINESS CHECKLIST CONT.

Social/Emotional Skills

- I can share and take turns during play
- I can follow two-step directions
- I can sit and listen to a story
- I can manage disappointment
- I can manage impulses
- I can wait my turn
- I can ask for help when I need it
- I can listen to a grown up when I am told no, or stop
- I can play well with others

Independance

- I can zip up my jacket
- I can put on my shoes
- I can open up my snacks

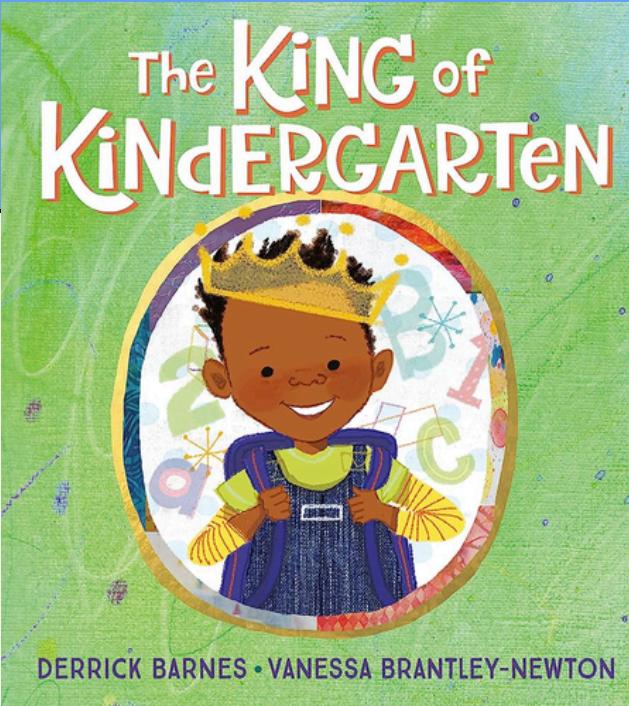
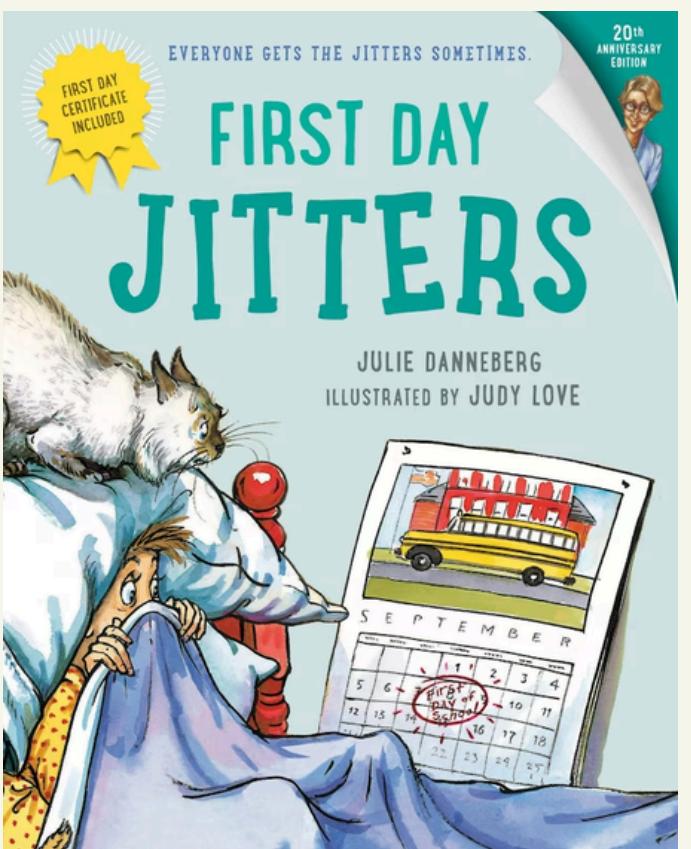
Extra

- Take your child for a check up: We advise you to take your child to the Optometrist to have their eyesight/eye tracking checked and to their Pediatrician to have their hearing checked.



BEFORE MY FIRST DAY...

1. Label all items coming to school(except for school supplies, as they are used communally)
2. Pack a small snack
3. Provide indoor shoes and a backpack
4. School supply lists will be posted a couple weeks prior to the first day of Kindergarten. Please bring all unlabeled supplies to our first day together!
5. Keep a look out for any emails being sent in regards to staggered entry dates/times for the first couple days of school



SOME THINGS TO NOTE ABOUT THE FIRST DAY...

- **Making Friends:** Building friendships takes time, especially if your child doesn't already know many classmates. It may take a little while before new friends are mentioned at home. If you ask who they played with today, they might say "nobody." However, this doesn't necessarily mean they were alone all day. Often, it simply means they were busy exploring new activities and toys, or they may not yet remember the names of all the children they interacted with. With time, your child will begin to name friends and enjoy connecting with others.
- **Saying Goodbye:** I understand that saying goodbye can be tough, but keeping it short and positive helps ease the transition. A quick, reassuring hug, telling your child when you'll see them next, and then leaving is often the best approach. Rest assured, I will make sure your child feels safe, comfortable, and knows you'll be back soon.
- **Kindergarten Transition:** Even for children who have attended preschool or daycare, transitioning to Kindergarten can still be a big change. Your child may feel more tired or emotional as they adjust to the new routines, people, and experiences. Patience is key! Maintaining a consistent bedtime routine, and adjusting it if needed, will help your child get the extra rest they might need. Be supportive and understanding as they sort through these new feelings, and with time, they'll soon be loving school. If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out!

