

3 and 4 Year Old Program

Sacred Heart School is providing a new initiative called the Early Learning Program. It is intended for children who have not yet entered kindergarten, specifically for children between the ages of 3 to 4. It is also designed for parents/caregivers to help support their child's school readiness. In a positive and encouraging environment, this free program will address and promote various domains of the child's development such as: logical reasoning, fine motor skills, eye/hand co-ordination, following instructions, building vocabulary, auditory discrimination,, and visual discrimination.



Some of the concepts that will be covered during the year will include:

Alphabet, Numbers, Colours, Patterns, Shapes, Rhymes, Opposites, Sequencing, Size/Measurement, Matching/Classification, and Association.

Children will have the opportunity to expand their critical thinking skills by participating in a variety of activities based on the above concepts. Centers will be set up to reinforce the concept of the week. Parents/caregivers will have the opportunity to support, and encourage their child's learning by helping them with hands-on activities.

When: 12:30pm – 1:15pm

See the latest newsletter for dates.

Where: Sacred Heart School Library

Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

As a parent of guardian, you are your child's most important teacher. It is well documented that children achieve higher success when parents are engaged in the life of the school and with the in-school experience of their children. Therefore, we encourage you to become involved in every aspect of your child's school and program.

Children Need:

- someone to talk to then
- someone to listen to them
- someone to read to them
- someone to share experiences
- someone to encourage their efforts as they grow and develop
- someone who knows what they do in kindergarten is important

Our staff will provide an active and challenging learning environment. We believe your child will have a variety of experiences, all of which will be engaging and will provide growth opportunities. You can actively help your child be successful by:

- Enjoy books and stories together
- Asking you child questions
- Getting to know your school and the staff
- Attend parent-teacher conferences

You can also become involved in the life of the school by joining the School Council, Parent Support Group and participating in school activities.

Together, you and the teacher can create a nurturing environment that will lead to student success. By working together, we will help your child success. We look forward to the partnership with you as your child grows academically, socially, and spiritually at Sacred Heart School.

Kindergarten Program

The Kindergarten program is designed to help children broaden their base of information, form concepts, acquire skills, develop positive attitudes to learning and to begin to strengthen their abilities and talents in a wide range of areas. Teachers, members of the school community and families must work together to provide constructive and consistent learning experiences that will build students confidence, encourage them to continue to see learning as both enjoyable and useful, and provide a strong foundation for their future intellectual, social and spiritual development.



The Kindergarten Program provides opportunities for growth in five areas of learning:

- personal and social development
- language
- mathematics
- spirituality
- the fine arts

Personal and Social Development

In Kindergarten, children are giving a variety of experiences so that they will:

- continue to develop a positive attitude about themselves and others
- be independent and responsible
- take part in physical activities
- solve problems and compete tasks
- become aware of health and safety choices
- make choices and decisions

Language

This is the basis for literacy and the Kindergarten program is rich in language activities. Children are encouraged to talk about their experiences, listen, ask questions, and share ideas. Children learn about reading and writing by watching and listening to adults. The teacher provides the model and the opportunities for children to use what they are learning about reading and writing in the various activities in the classroom.

Mathematics

Children begin to develop an understanding of the skills and concepts of Mathematics through hands-on experiences in all of the four areas of mathematics: number sense and numeration, shape and space (measurement), patterns and relations and statistics and probability.

Spirituality

Students are guided in their moral development and encouraged to foster and develop their own faith journey based on the values and the teaching of Jesus in the Catholic traditions.



Fine Arts

The Arts give children an opportunity to express their ideas and feeling, while learning about some basic art forms. Children cooperate and work with others



Kindergarten FAQ

1. When does the school day begin and end?

8:15 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (until June 2010)

8:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. (starting September 2010)

2. Where do I pick up my child?

In the Assembly area in the lower level of the main building

3. What does my child need to bring to school?

- a regular sized backpack with child's name on it
- non-marking indoor shoes for daily wear
- supplies (see attached supply list)
- proper clothing for the weather (please make child's name on the inside tags of clothing)



Early Reading Success

Early Intervention Makes the Difference

We here at Sacred Heart School have made a priority to give our Kindergarten and Grade One students the building blocks necessary to lay the foundation of reading.

The two strongest predictors of a child's success in learning to read are letter naming and phonemic awareness.

What is phonemic awareness?

It is the ability to hear, identify and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words.

Ex. hat = /h/ /a/ /t/

It is an essential skill to have for phonics instruction to make sense.

Current research suggests that most children who enter school at Kindergarten **do not** come skilled in phonemic awareness. In our Kindergarten and Grade One program we ensure that our students are given instruction in phonemic awareness.

We use a Kindergarten screening to identify any student who we find may have difficulties with phonemic awareness. We start to use early intervention with these students as research shows this is the most important time to give a student support.

All Kindergarten and Grade One students are tested three times a year (fall, winter, spring) using the DIBELS test designed by the University of Oregon.

This test measures:

- Initial sound fluency
- Phoneme segmentation fluency
- Non-word reading fluency
- Oral reading fluency (Grade One only)

We take our results and use the School District #57 norms to evaluate our results with students in our own city. This diagnostic testing has been so helpful to identify all our students pre-reading and reading capabilities.

We use curriculum in our Kindergarten and Grade One classroom to support the skills needed to develop phonemic awareness and reading skills. As our students progress into Grade Two and Three they are supported through a Guided Reading program, where students read in groups according to their reading ability level.

To help your child at home, listed below is a Sound Guide for the letters of the alphabet to help you learn the phonemes. Please practice them on your own first, before proceeding with your child. Each sound needs to be spoken in a clipped form so that a person does not add a vowel sound to the end like 'ba'.

SOUND GUIDE

a as in bag	e as in beg	i as in big
o as in bug	u as in bug	
b as in bat	c as in can	d as in dad
f as in fun	g as in gun	h as in hat
j as in jug	k as in kit	l as in leg
m as in man	n as in note	p as in pan
r as in rat	s as in sun	t as in tan
v as in van	w as in water	x as in ax (ks sound)
y as in yellow	z as in zebra	qu as in queen
ch as in chicken	sh as in shoe	
th as in thin	wh as in whip	

Here are a number of websites to assist you with ideas or games to reinforce pre-reading skills with your child.

www.ed.gov/Family/RWN/Activ97/intro.html

www.starfall.com Great website to demonstrate sounds

www.readingrockets.org

www.internet4classrooms.com/kplus_phonics.htm

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/literacy/

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/brochure/earlyreading/

www.earlyliterature.ecsd.net

www.kinderart.com/littles/litles.html

Above all, please remember to read to your child every day. Reading research has shown that reading just 30 minutes a day to or with a child significantly increases that child's ability. We appreciate the time and effort you make to do these activities with your child. Your child will thank you!!!