

A G L I M P S E I N T O

Grade Three

Class of 2021



Teacher: Shanti Harris

Fall Intern: Sama Dudin

Winter Intern: Adrienne Rinne

First Year MA Candidate: Cassie Lowy

Contact info:

shanti.harris@utoronto.ca

416-934-4517

In grade three, the children will continue to develop their ability to be critical thinkers, independent problem solvers and empathetic citizens. As they become increasingly independent, the grade threes will take on more leadership roles in both the school and the surrounding community. They have already shown terrific leadership in the JICS community by helping to organize the Terry Fox Run!

We are working on being

Mindful

Paying attention to our thoughts, feelings, behaviour and bodies.

Empathetic

Understanding and sharing the feelings of other children and adults.

Problem solvers

Gaining the confidence and social skills to solve problems



Literacy

Our literacy program will build on the grade threes' love of reading and develop their skills as readers, storytellers and writers in authentic and meaningful ways.

Reading

Our program includes a variety of reading experiences including:

- Independent Reading
- Shared Reading: choral, poetry, readers theatre
- Reader's Workshop
- Reading with our Grade 2 Special Friends
- Inquiry research
- Guided Reading
- Reading Responses

During independent reading times, individual children have reading conferences with a teacher. These conferences are opportunities for a child to talk about the books he/she is reading, gain fluency by reading aloud and receive support in further developing a particular reading skill/characteristic of a reader (e.g. how to figure out what a tricky word means).

During Reader's Workshop, a diversity of books will be used to introduce children to and model specific comprehension strategies (e.g. making connections, visualizing, inferring, asking questions, determining important ideas, synthesizing). Read Alouds are used to explore characteristics of texts and themes related to the children's interests and topics of study.

Oral Language

We develop our skills as listeners and speakers through Drama, Reader's Theatre, poetry readings and storytelling. We plan to share some of our stories with you at a classroom breakfast later in the year!

Writing

In Writer's Workshop, children will learn about and try out a variety of writing forms (e.g. personal narratives, procedures, reports, letters, fairy tales/fables). They will have writing opportunities that are relevant and authentic (e.g. writing a review for a new math game and posting it online, writing a letter to their favourite author).

When writing, children are encouraged to use the word wall. They will be building personal spelling dictionaries to spell words. A variety of spelling patterns and rules are explored in literacy centres and through games (e.g. 'Making Words' and 'Secret Agents').

The children are introduced to the editing and revision process in writing and will publish several writing pieces this year. We will adding to classroom library from the some of pieces we write and publish together!

We will continue to practice our cursive writing this year using the "Handwriting Without Tears" Program.



Mathematics

Math instruction in our classroom focuses on developing children's understanding of complex, mathematical concepts, solidifying their knowledge of number sense and numeration and building confidence to share and refine their mathematical thinking.

In mathematics we are exploring math concepts through:

- hands-on experiences and inquiry
- math talks/sharing circles
- real world connections
- direct instruction/lessons
- seat work
- problem solving
- community walks and discussions of math all around us
- games that teach or reinforce concepts

Problem-based approaches are emphasized in order to help students apply their knowledge in authentic ways.

Children will be encouraged to share their mathematical thinking with partners and small and whole group settings.

Math will typically be taught in half groups. This allows us to better tailor instruction to the particular needs of a child or small group of children and provide each child with the tasks and support he/she needs to extend and deepen his/her understanding of mathematical concepts.

Child will have access to a range of math manipulatives (e.g. base ten blocks, geometric pattern blocks) and taught how and encouraged to use them to explore math concepts.



Math Topics Covered

- Number Sense and Numeration
- Measurement
- Geometry and Spatial Sense
- Patterning and Algebra
- Data Management

Inquiry

Focus

The children will learn about Social Studies and Science topics through an inquiry process. This process is initiated by the children's own questions and ideas. As the children have experiences related to a specific topic their ideas and questions will evolve.



Activities

The children will have opportunities to explore their ideas and questions through:

- Reading books related to a particular topic or area of study
- Knowledge Building Circle – students will share their own thinking and build on the ideas of others. They will collaboratively develop and refine their theories and questions.
- Field trips and guest speakers
- Hands on experiences such as experiments to test theories and answer questions
- Online research
- Recording observations and thinking in their lab book
- Knowledge Forum – an online forum that allows children to share their own ideas and build on the ideas of others

A Few More Notes

Social Emotional Curriculum and Community Building

Children will be supported in gaining confidence, independence, social skills and problem solving abilities through modeling, drama/role play, read alouds, collaborative challenges and leadership opportunities in the classroom. Activities focused on specific skills and abilities (e.g. calming yourself down when upset, communicating your feelings and needs, perspective taking/developing empathy, conflict resolution strategies) will be used throughout the school year. Weekly community meetings will offer children space to collaboratively problem solve in a supported setting.

Birthdays

Each child's birthday will be celebrated with a handmade card signed by all other children in the class. Please do not send treats or loot bags on your child's birthday.

Special Friends

This year, we will meet with grade twos each week to do a variety of special activities that support the emotional and social growth of the children. During this time, the grade three children are encouraged to demonstrate leadership and responsibility when working with their younger friend.

Terry Fox and Earth Week

The grade three class helps to organize these two school wide events each year at JICS. The children learn about social responsibility and develop their leadership, public speaking and advocacy skills.

Homework

Starting in mid-October, reading folders will go home on Monday. We ask that your child reads for 20 or more minutes each night and records the book and pages he/she reads. The folder is due each Friday. From time to time, there may be other activities or games sent home.

Schedule

The children have French every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday with Christel. Music with Russell is on Mondays. On Tuesdays and Thursdays we have gym with Mike. Drama with Sarah is on Tuesdays and Art with Tara is on Thursdays. Library with Krista is on Fridays.

Support

Judith and Nick will provide language and math support each week.

Tawingo Trip

From January 10th to 12th, we will spend two nights at Tawingo, with the grade 4 class. The children will be engaged in a range of outdoor learning activities and build both a sense of community and independence.

Communication

We can connect before and after school for brief conversations and check-ins. If we need to talk more, appointments can be made. If you need to get in touch with me during the day, please call the school office at 416-934-4517 and Nancy will get in touch with me immediately. You can email me at shanti.harris@utoronto.ca. I will usually reply within 24 hours during the week.