

SPECIAL EDUCATION AT JACKMAN ICS • A Team Approach

The Special Education program at Jackman ICS began in 1991. The program's focus is child centered and it is based on a collaborative team approach. The Special Education teachers work closely with the classroom teachers and the principal to design effective individualized programs for students that consider both their strengths and needs. This team approach depends on shared information and collective decision making; it is for this reason that all meetings with the Special Education teacher occur when the classroom teacher is present. Joint meetings with parents/caregivers also provide the school with valuable information about each child.

Type of Support

The areas in which Special Education support is provided to children include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Reading** (Direct Phonics instruction, EMPOWER, sight words, fluency, and reading comprehension),
- **Written out-put and expression** (idea-generation, writing conventions, vocabulary development, organization, editing),
- **Handwriting and fine-motor support** (proper pencil grip support and letter formation, computer skills)
- **Spelling** (study of grapho-phonetic patterns and word families, sight words, direct encoding instruction)
- **Math** (conceptual understanding, computational fluency, and problem solving)

Another important part of the Special Education program at Jackman ICS includes explicit phonetic reading instruction for all Grade 1 students. The Special Education teacher delivers a phonetic reading program to students in small groups according to their current skills and instructional needs. This instruction may also continue beyond Grade 1 to some students who need additional support in reading.

The Special Education team is also involved in field trips, extracurricular activities and teaching health and wellness. This enables us to get to know all of the students at Jackman ICS and to be seen by the students as teachers who work in many capacities with all children.

Referrals

A student may be referred to the special education program by his/her classroom teacher. A referral form detailing the teacher's concerns is filled out and a meeting to discuss the student takes place. The appropriate assessments are then completed to attain more information about the student's strengths, needs, and learning style. Following discussions with the principal, classroom teacher, and parents/caregivers, a child may be withdrawn for extra support. The classroom teacher will contact parents if their child has been recommended for extra support.

Reporting

Detailed records of each student's progress are kept by the Special Education teacher. This information may be shared during Parent Teacher meetings. Special Education reports will accompany a child's regular report card.

Who We Are

Judith Kimel

judith.kimel@utoronto.ca

I am delighted to return to Jackman ICS this year as the Special Education teacher. I have been at Jackman ICS since 2001 and graduated from the Master of Arts in Child Study and Education Program here at Jackman ICS. Before working here, I was working as an Occupational Therapist at both a private school in Montreal and at the TDSB. When observing children, I use both my knowledge as an OT and as a teacher to design a meaningful program for students requiring remediation. I feel very privileged to work with students across all the grades and subject areas.

Nick Song

n.song@utoronto.ca

It is a great honour to be back at the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study for the school year. I am excited to return as a part of the Special Education team. Since graduating from the Master of Arts in Child Study and Education Program at JICS in 2013, I worked in the school as the Librarian/Technology Integrator and have taught in the Toronto District School Board. I truly enjoy working closely with the Special Education team to support the diverse learners in our school.

This year, I will continue to deliver the Empower Reading Program to students from Grade 2-6. Additionally, I am working closely with classroom teachers in integrating new technology experiences to students from JK to Grade 6. I look forward to once again being a part of the JICS community and to provide support for the students, staff and families.

We look forward to an amazing year at Jackman ICS!