

# Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Curriculum Night 2021



## DRAMA

*“Drama gives children the opportunity to view life from the inside of a story. “*

*- Louise Thistle author of *Dramatizing Myths**

The Jackman ICS Drama Program is designed to stimulate the imagination of students, while encouraging the growth of artistic and collaborative skills. Students are challenged to accept the viewpoints and contributions of classmates as they collaborate on stories that become the basis for Drama works. Conflict is developed, the thoughts and feelings of characters are explored, and language skills are enhanced at every stage in this process. Drama challenges students to effectively communicate their ideas, and later, to communicate the ideas of fictional characters.

### **NURSERY**

The Nursery Program consists of many imagined trips to places that provide the children with interesting shapes, sounds, and geographical features. Through dance and creative movement, the children explore each location, and interpret what they see. Storytelling is a strong component of the Program, and children are often asked to combine music and pantomime to convey the ideas and feelings of an imagined character. Spontaneity and humour ensure that this introduction to collaborative theatre is a joyous one!

### **JK**

The JK Drama Program encourages children to explore the objects, creatures, and landscapes, of imagined worlds and the real one. Make-believe trips, folk tales, and feelings, inspire the children to create tableaux, mythical creatures, machines, magical objects, and many spontaneous dances. Themes like Birds, Bugs, and Creatures of the Ocean, challenge the JKs to reflect on and interpret the wonders of the natural world.

### **SK**

SK Drama emphasizes the elements of Physical Theatre: pantomime, gesture, creative movement, and dance. The concept of “feelings” is integral to the Program, and children learn to combine them with the physical characteristics of imagined characters. Later, feelings are expressed verbally through spontaneous monologues, gibberish, and sound sequences. SK students work together to create machines, abstract shapes, tableaux, and many strikingly imaginative creatures.

## **GRADE 1**

In Grade 1 the emphasis is on collaboration and vocal work. Students learn to exchange and accept ideas, and to perform in small groups. The Grade 1s are challenged to present a character's perspective through group monologues, dialogue, and storytelling. Group tasks are balanced with partnering and individual work, so that children who are ready to perform by themselves are given an opportunity to do so.

## **GRADE 2**

In small groups, the Grade 2s learn to collaborate on stories presented as a series of tableaux, and later, as a sketch with dialogue. Monologues give students an opportunity to explore narrative and perspective as they give voice to the characters they have crafted. Role playing is integral to the Program, and film and literary genres, works of art, props, and costume pieces, inspire some powerful and unforgettable characters.

## **GRADE 3**

The Grade 3 students collaborate on stories that become the basis for tableaux, sketches, advertisements, silent film pantomimes, and monologues. These stories inspire many imaginative characters with well-defined feelings and unique perspectives. Drama works are enhanced by the addition of costumes, props and music, and students regularly take turns as performers and audience members.

## **GRADE 4**

In Grade 4, students refine their understanding of characterization and narrative by creating Drama works that provide character histories. Treasured objects, costume pieces, memories, and secrets, are revealed through monologues that help each performer establish motives, gestures, and values. We are introduced to protagonists at different points in their lives, and we see how they interact with each other.

## **GRADE 5**

The focus of the Grade 5 Program changes from characterization to dramatic structure. Students begin to examine the elements and conventions of dramatic works as they create sketches based on literary genres, and historical events. The role of conflict is integral to the creation of grade 5 Drama works, and it is explored again and again. Whether students are focusing on allegorical stories or cozy mysteries, the challenge is to present well organized, engaging pieces, with well-defined characters and dialogue that moves the plot forward.

## **GRADE 6**

The Grade 6 Drama Program emphasizes the collaborative exploration of dramatic elements, techniques, and conventions. Students examine the role of perspective, experience, and power in conflict development, as well as how climax, mood, and tension influence dramatic works. The Grade 6 Drama year culminates with the Graduation Play, which provides students with an opportunity to display the artistic and collaborative skills acquired over the years.