

# The Calgary Jewish Academy



## Four Year Old Program

2009-2010

**4 Year Old Program "A" Teacher:** Ms. A. Kaminer

**4 Year Old Program "A" Teaching Assistant:** Mrs. N. Stoyanov

**4 Year Old Program "B" Teacher:** Mrs. K. Schoel

**4 Year Old Program "B" Teaching Assistant:** Ms. C. Wolf

**Special and Gifted Services**

Ms. F. Bowden

**Technology Support**

Mr. Y. Suissa

**Library Support**

Ms. Tammy Belanger

**Remedial English/Hebrew**

**& English as a Second Language**

Ms. T. Freidman

**Guidance Counsellor**

Mrs. S. Gaon-Kazdan

## Welcome to Junior Kindergarten!

Our Junior Kindergarten (4 year old) program provides activities that contribute to the development of healthy children, socially, emotionally, culturally, physically and intellectually. We strive to help each child reach their own potential through teacher-directed activities and free play.

All children develop at their own rate, therefore the Junior Kindergarten program is flexible and varied, allowing for the needs of the individual child. Our goals for each child is to develop positive self-image, gain confidence in their abilities and decision-making, learn to respect the rights and feelings of others, and develop a positive Jewish identity.

## **Units of Study**

- 1. Jewish Holidays**
- 2. All About Me**
- 3. Creative Arts**
- 4. Numbers and Concepts**
- 5. Hibernation and Migration**
- 6. Canada**
- 7. Health and Nutrition**
- 8. Safety**
- 9. Community Helpers**
- 10. Story Stretchers**
- 11. Seasons**
- 12. Transportation**
- 13. Friendship**
- 14. Wild Animals/Rain Forest**
- 15. Mad Science**

## **Daily Routine**

### **Circle time**

This is the time when children and teachers greet each other, share special information, discuss the calendar and weather, assign helpers, and introduce the theme or concepts of the day.

### **Free play**

Free play is a vital component in a child's development. Play gives a child the opportunity to explore the world at their own pace and in their own manner. It allows the child to express their individuality, problem-solve, and develop greater self-confidence. Junior Kindergarten provides numerous play/learning experiences through the use of centers. During free play our child chooses what he or she would like to do in the various centers set up in the room. These centers will change from time to time. New things will be added or occasionally whole centers will be changed in accordance with certain holidays or themes. Centers may include, but are not limited to: arts and crafts; books and tapes; puzzles and games; blocks; science center; Judaic center; house center and a computer centre.

### **Teacher directed activities**

These activities focus on working with children in small groups or one-to-one in order to reinforce concepts and help to develop fine motor skills. This time allows the teacher to build a trusting and respectful relationship with individual children.

### **Large group activities**

Large group activities involve all members of the class interacting at the same time. The children in Junior Kindergarten participate in many large group activities that encourage co-operation, patience and tolerance. Our second circle time is devoted to stories, songs, finger plays, show and tell, creative movement and games.

### **Outdoor play**

We make every effort to play outside each day. Outdoor activities encourage gross motor development and give children the chance to expend energy in a healthy, active manner. Please ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for the weather.

### **Quiet time/dismissal**

This is the time for reviewing important information and singing our good-bye song.

## **Judaic Studies**

### **Hebrew Language**

The children are exposed to their Jewish Culture and Heritage. Hebrew vocabulary will be integrated throughout the year in an informal manner through songs, games, and holiday celebrations,

### **Jewish Holidays**

Jewish holidays are a wonderful and important component of the Junior Kindergarten program. The children learn about traditions, symbols, foods and important Jewish leaders through songs, poems, stories and crafts.

### ***Kabbalat Shabbat***

***Kabbalat Shabbat*** is celebrated every Friday. We choose an Ima (mother) and an Abba (father), say the *Brachot* (prayers), sing songs and eat *challah*, and create Shabbat arts and crafts. We also encourage the children to perform *tzedakah* (good deeds) in the form of a contribution to the Jewish National Fund.

### **Special Activities**

### **Library**

We will have a library period once a week. The children will listen to a story. Each child will be allowed to take a book home for the period of one week. Each book is due back on the following designated library day. Students will be taught that all books have a special place in the library. Proper care in the physical handling of books will be encouraged. Stories will be read, related or combined with other media, with themes correlated with those being used in class whenever possible.

### **Gym**

We will utilize the gym up to twice a week. The unique space and equipment will allow the children to work on developing their gross motor skills and practice their social interactions in a new setting.

### **Field Trips**

Junior Kindergarten students may go on field trips during the year. These trips are correlated with our themes.