

KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

JANUARY
2025

Upcoming Events

Spirit Day-

PJ Day January 9th

Telus World of Science field trip

January 16th

Volunteers welcome!

Adoration Mass

January 17th 10:30-11:30

Early Learning + Cogito Open House

January 23th 6-7pm

Fine Motor Skills

For the second portion of the year, we will have a big focus on writing and fine motor skills. To promote excellent fine motor control for writing, please encourage your child to use a mature grasp (pictured on next page) when they are writing/coloring at home. If you find your child is defaulting to a less efficient grasp, using small writing implements (crayons broken in half or smaller) can encourage a better one.

Other strategies to improve fine motor skills for writing (without overdoing printing practice) include writing/drawing on a vertical surface, using a variety of writing implements (q-tip with paint, chalk, scratch paper with toothpicks), play dough, using scissors or even ripping paper!

Kinder Provincial Assessments

Alberta Education has implemented a series of standardized assessments for kindergarten students to measure literacy and numeracy skills. As a result, EICS has opted to pause the January kindergarten report card.

These assessments do not align with AB curricular outcomes, and thus will not impact reporting at the end of the year. Please notify me if you would like to opt your child out of the additional government testing occurring in January.

A simple email will suffice.

Our Learning

Welcome Back!

This month we will continue our journey through letter sounds and working to combine those sounds/letters into words. We will be looking at high frequency words and decoding other CVC words. We have also been learning about reading starting from the top and left and looking at punctuation at the end of a sentence. While reading with your child, model this skill by tracking with your finger.

We are continuing to look at numbers, including representing and subitizing, and beginning to consider composing and decomposing. We will also explore shapes: seeing shapes in our environment and describing them (flat, round, small, short, etc.). Students have been enjoying our daily number talks and playing math games. In religion, we are discussing Epiphany and the wisemen's visit to Mary, Joseph and Jesus, as well as Adoration-introducing students to the Tabernacle and Monstrance.

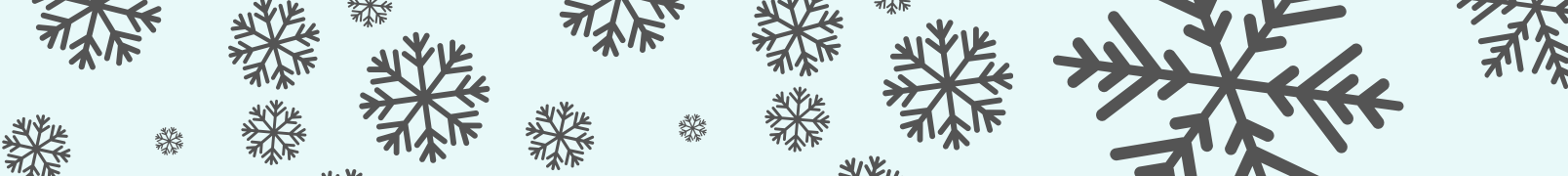
Important

Please note that we are encouraging parents to use the surrounding streets for drop-off and pick-up. You may see signage in the upcoming weeks directing parking, as the parking lot congestion has become a safety issue.

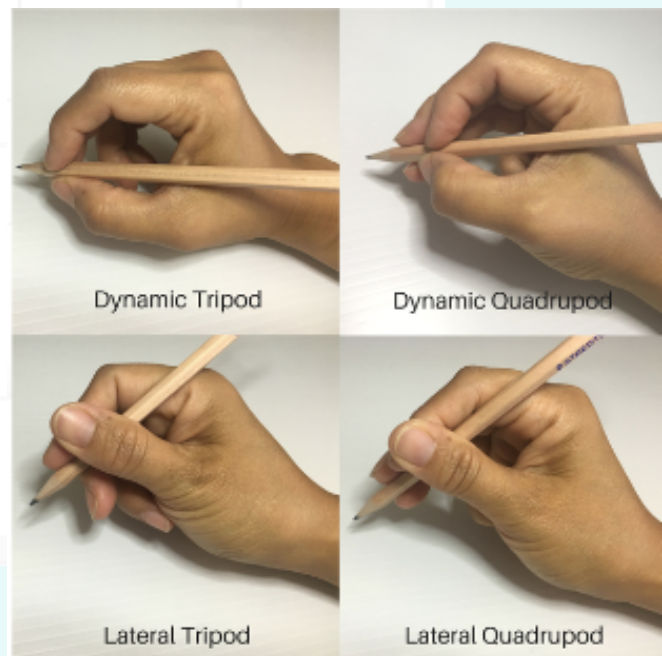
Letter Formation

This chart illustrates proper letter formation. This is important for when students start writing more, faster - having their pencil stroke end as close to the beginning of the next letter as possible allows for faster and more precise writing! Setting students up with excellent habits will make this easier in higher grades! Lowercase letters are on the next page.

						
Slide back • • slide down • across the middle	Down • little curve close • little curve close	Around • leave open	Down • big curve • close	Down • across the top • middle • bottom	Down • across the top • across the middle	Around • open • straight back
						
Down • down • across the middle	Down • across the top • across the bottom	Down • curve back • across the top	Down • • slide back • slide forward	Down • across the bottom	Down • • slide down • slide up • down	Down • • slide down • straight up
						
Around • close	Down • little curve • close	Around • close • slide down	Down • • curve close • slide down	Curve back • curve forward	Down • • across the top	Down • curve up
						
Slide down • slide up	Slide down • up • down • up	Slide down • • slide back	Short slide down • • short slide back • straight down	Across the top • slide back • across the bottom		



Around • close • down	Down • up • curve • close	Around • leave open	Around • close • up • down	Forward • around	Around • down • across	Around • close • dig • curve
Down • up • curve	Down • dot	Down • dig • curve • dot	Down • slide back • slide forward	Down	Down • up • curve • curve	Down • up • curve
Around •	Down • dig • up • curve • close	Around • close • dig • slide up	Down • up • curve	Curve	Down •	Down •
Slide down • up	Slide down • up • down • up	Slide down • slide back	Slide down • slide back • dig	Forward • slide back • forward		



JANUARY

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		1	2	3
Christmas Break				
6	7 Kaylee	8 Early Dismissal	9 Alex	10 MW
13	14 Parker	15	16 Walker	17 TTH Ally
20	21 Ethan	22	23 Blu	24 MW
27	28 Bryson	29 PD day	30 Cooper	31 TTH Iria

Looking Ahead

Teacher's Convention Feb. 8, 9

PD Day Feb 17