

Making a difference for children!



**Kindergarten
Handbook
2020-2021**

École John Wilson Elementary School

4401 -52 Ave, Innisfail, Alberta T4G 1A7
Phone: 403-227-3292 Fax: 403-227-6006

Full Day Kindergarten Program - Monday, Wednesday and some Fridays
Full Day Kindergarten Program - Tuesday, Thursday and some Fridays

Kindergarten Teaching Team

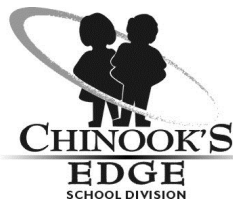
Mrs. Terri Schaitel: tschaitel@cesd73.ca
Mrs. Janelle Carey: jcarey@cesd73.ca

Principal: Angela Warke

Vice Principal: Georgie Perigny

Chinook's Edge School Division

"Where children come first!"



Welcome to École John Wilson Elementary School!



Entering Kindergarten is an exciting time for every child. Moving from the home environment, or half day playschool program, to the school environment is often a big step. Both parents and teachers want this transition to be a smooth one.

Our school community is thrilled to have this opportunity to welcome you and introduce our Kindergarten team and school environment. It is important to us that you feel at ease; and truly at École John Wilson we work hard to create a caring school community. In our school there is learning, excitement, energy, laughter, creativity, big smiles...and the belief that we will truly make a difference in your child's education and life. We believe in our students and know that we can help each of them reach their full potential. We believe in each other, our talents and skills, and pushing ourselves to be the best we can be for your child and your family. We believe that it is also very important for us to be connected to our fabulous community of Innisfail. In all of these ways we can best serve our students.

As our teachers welcome their new students each fall, it is with the guiding sense of helping our students and their families connect and belong to our school community that is our most important first goal! During the first few weeks of Kindergarten children are given time to become acquainted with each other in small staggered entry groups. They become familiar with classroom activities and materials. Our students gain a sense of belonging because they know they are in a safe and caring school, they know the routines and they know the school layout.

École John Wilson is a place where we are committed to the total development of each child; intellectually, socially, emotionally and physically. For us it is important to develop motivated learners who consistently achieve their potential. Our programs recognize the differences of each student and support each individual in achieving their best. We believe that early support and intervention in our Kindergarten programs is a critical building block for student success in all of their following school years. With highly skilled staff, teachers and educational assistants, we help support the successful delivery of our student programs.

For the families of our school community, we ask you to become our partners in providing the best education to meet the needs of your child. First, we ask you to become familiar with who we are. We believe that clear and consistent communication between school and home is critical to fully meeting the needs of your child. Use school visits, phone calls, newsletters, notices and student agendas to keep in touch with the daily school life of your child. Most of all, we want you to contact us, or drop in for a visit, at any time you have a question or concern that we can help with.

Together, we will best meet the intellectual, social, and emotional development of our students at École John Wilson Elementary School.

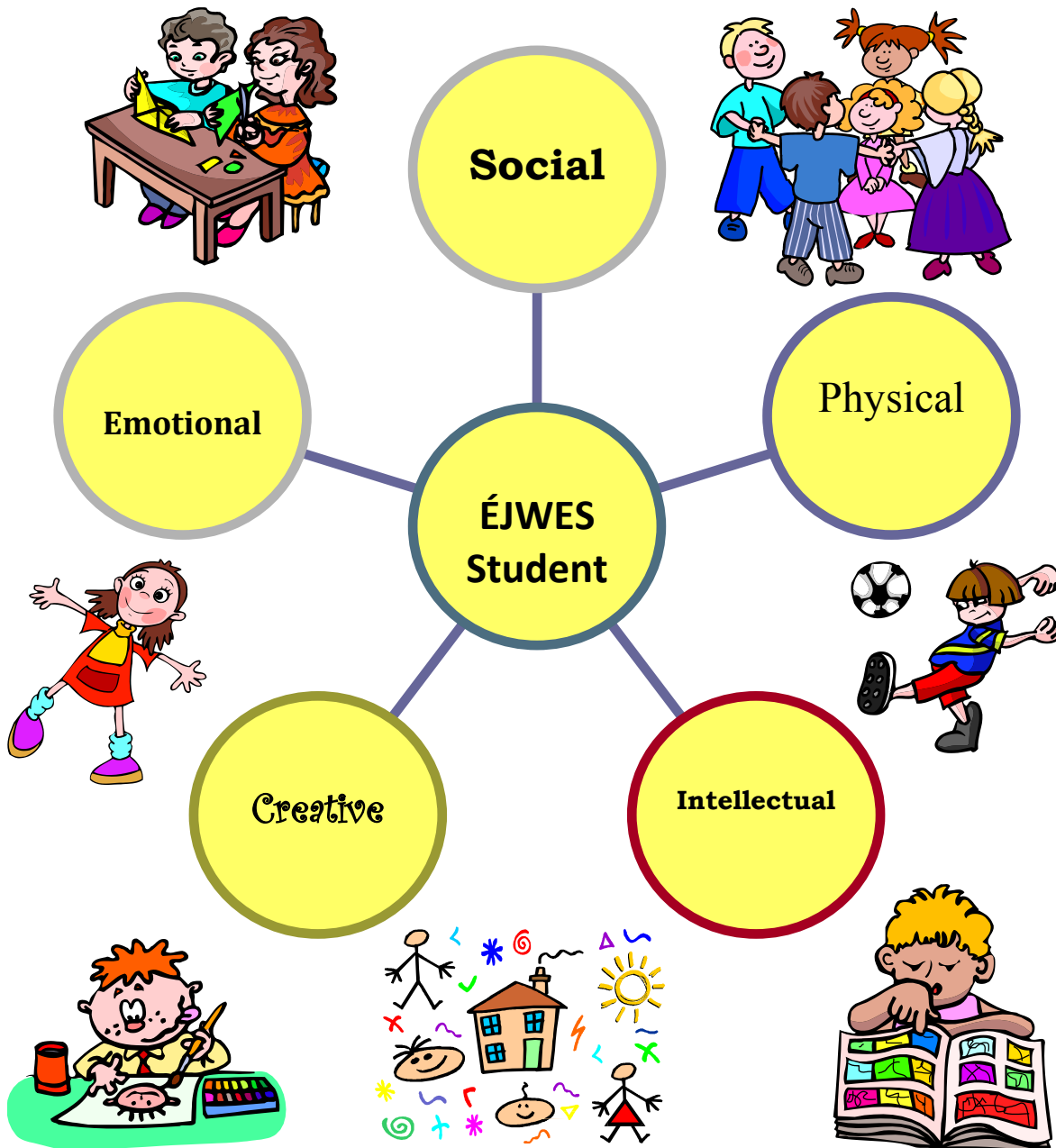


Respectfully,

Angela Warke - Principal
Georgie Perigny— Vice-Principal

ÉJWES Kindergarten Program

Developing the Whole Child



....Developing the Whole Child

We believe at École John Wilson that our Kindergarten children require programming that helps them to develop socially, physically, intellectually, creatively and emotionally. We believe these areas are related to, and dependent on, one another. We believe that between the ages of 3 -6 children have a high capacity to learn and it is a time of rapid intellectual growth and development. At this very important time in a child's life we carefully design a learning environment that provides success for each child.

Our program provides learning experiences that meet the developmental needs of all children. The children move through similar stages, but with their own ways of learning and at their own rate of development.

In a typical ÉJWES Kindergarten day we watch and engage the children in:

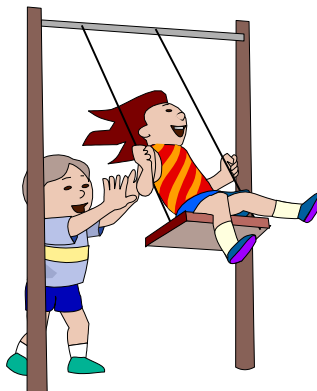
Social Development

- helping them connect to friends
- encourage sharing, cooperation
- encourage playing in small groups
- being fair and solving conflicts



Physical Development

- running, jumping, climbing, balancing
- working with pencils, crayons, scissors, glue
- kicking and catching balls
- coordinating movements



....Developing the Whole Child

Intellectual Development

- planning and thinking ahead
- paying attention for longer periods of time
- asking questions
- staying on topic
- telling stories
- expressing ideas in pictures and writing



Creative Development

- * music, dancing, movement
- * dramatic play
- * role play
- * listening and responding to their ideas and feelings

Emotional Development

- experiencing and expressing their feelings
- developing independence
- allowing for decision-making
- encouraging initiative
- taking on classroom responsibilities
- developing a sense of self



Our Kindergarten Classrooms Fostering Student Learning



Art – taught by an Art specialist, along with classroom-based painting and drawing materials for children to explore and express their feelings

Construction – blocks, manipulative toys for children to design, create and build

Cooking – with snacks and special foods for children to prepare

Dramatic Play – house or store, puppets and dress up clothes

Story Corners and Listening – variety of books and a comfy place to be

Numeracy – manipulative materials and tasks for children to sort and count and measure

Music – ABC Literacy music with specialist

Sand and Water – with cups and spoons and funnels to measure and solve problems

Science and Exploration – materials like rocks, seeds, snow to observe and investigate

Writing – with paper, pencils, markers, crayons,

Technology - Computers, Laptops and SmartBoard – for connections provided by technology, basic computer skills

At École John Wilson we believe in our students. We believe all children will be successful learners. In Kindergarten, children with a variety of needs and skill levels work and learn together. As teachers, we ensure that all children are included in activities that help them build on their own level of learning. Our classroom learning opportunities are designed to bring learning success to each and every child.



Our French Immersion Program

At École John Wilson Elementary we also provide parents with the opportunity to enroll their children in a French **enriched** Kindergarten program. **We will not be offering a full French Immersion Program at the Kindergarten level unless we have a sufficient number of students enrolled for French Kindergarten.**

French Immersion is a highly successful approach to second language learning. The French Immersion program is an effective way for students to become functionally fluent in the French language while following Alberta Education's grade-level curriculum required by all Alberta students.

Students begin their French Immersion experience in Grade 1 and continue through to Grade 12. In the 3rd grade, students begin to include the English language in their programming and at the end of their school learning journey they are fluent in speaking, reading and writing both in French and English.

To further explore the benefits of the French Immersion Program please visit...

http://education.alberta.ca/media/445781/mat_eng.pdf

<http://education.alberta.ca/media/3091402/yesyoucanhelp.pdf>

These are excellent parent resources regarding French Immersion Programming.

If at anytime you have further questions regarding our French Immersion program we are more than happy to sit and visit with you. Just give us a call and we will find a time to visit!

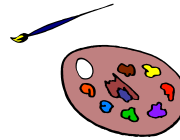
Merci

ÉJWES Specialists

Supporting the Needs of all Our Students

École John Wilson Elementary School has specialists available to extend all students' learning opportunities. All of our specialists are able to help assist a student's individual needs. Well planned programs by specialists offer our Kindergarten children the expertise, the enthusiasm and the passion for subjects and areas that these teachers offer in our school.

- Inclusive Education specialists
- Music Program with specialist
- Art Program with specialist
- French Immersion
- Technology as a learning tool (eg. Chromebooks)
- CESD Speech and Language Supports
- CESD Occupational Therapists
- Family School Wellness
- Librarian
- Connected to community services available for children 3-6



Student Assessment



For the first time in Kindergarten your children will receive a report card. Kindergarten assessment is a natural, ongoing and an important part of our students daily learning. By questioning and talking to our students, listening to the language they use and observing their behaviour, teachers are able to gain information about children's levels of skill and understanding. Our kindergarten program is based on the needs of our children, so our assessment is very important in our planning.

Throughout the year, the teachers will observe and record children's progress in relation to the expectations for the seven learning areas included in the Kindergarten Program Statement. We use notes and checklists to record our observations. The teachers look at the work a student produces but also at the skills and strategies that children use. We observe children many times in different situations to build a complete assessment of their learning.

École John Wilson is extremely proud of the use of portfolios in assessing and reporting student achievements. Student work is selected by the child and the teacher that demonstrates the student's learning progress throughout their year. A portfolio will contain such items as artwork, journals, samples of work, and photographs of learning.

ÉJWES Parents and School Staff Partners for Successful Student Learning

Parents are their children's first teachers and a family's influence on a child creates a lifetime of success.

When children begin Kindergarten, parents and teachers enter into a partnership to support children's learning. For the well-being of our children, parents are encouraged to become involved in the Kindergarten experience and the school community of École John Wilson Elementary School.

Parents can share expertise and skills with the class, help with school functions, assist on field trips, and share ideas and input to our programs.

Areas in which we always appreciate extra help in our classrooms:



'Kindercooking'



Field trips



Special Snack Days



Swimming Days



Assemblies



Classroom volunteering



Alberta Education Curriculum

The Building Blocks of Our Great Program

Our Kindergarten Program Statement outlines what our young students. The curriculum is taught as the foundation for their years of learning success.

The Kindergarten teachers use themed units, in which we teach the following 7 learning areas:

#1 Early Literacy
English and French Languages of Instruction



Jolly Phonics Early Language Program



Singing and then saying the A,B,C's, identifying letters and their sounds

Blending the letter sounds together, decoding and reading small words, writing and scribing with pictures

Emergent readers, Home Reading Program

Carpet Time Shared Listening, reading, viewing, rhyming, puppets, songs and poems

Sharing days with theme to connect to topics

Stories read out loud and students comment, ask questions, join in pattern reading, retell story

Children draw, record and tell about their own ideas and experiences.



...Alberta Education Curriculum

#2 Early Numeracy

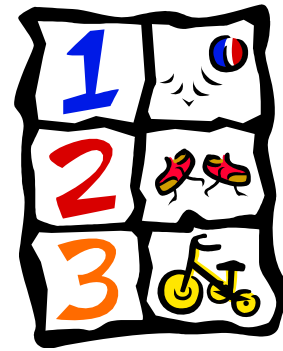


Math for Success – Early Math Program

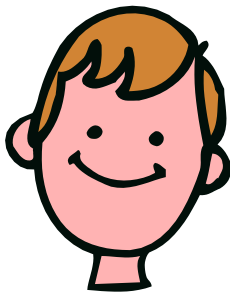
Calendar time – counting orally, patterning, and estimating

Sorting objects, ordering objects, creating designs with blocks

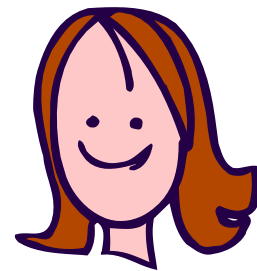
Recognizing shapes and sizes of objects, comparing objects on length, weight or volume



#3 Citizenship and Identity



I Am Unique



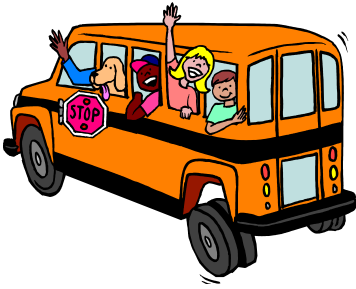
Value unique characteristics, and talents

Explore what makes us unique

Explore how we demonstrate respect for ourselves and others

...Alberta Education Curriculum

#4 Environment and Community Awareness



Explore familiar places and things in the environment and community



Guest speakers and programs with Discovery Wildlife Park

Field trips to hospital, vet, grocery store, Jungle Farm, etc.

Show curiosity and willingness to learn about how to help our environment

#5 Personal and Social Responsibility



Show positive attitudes and behaviours toward learning



Develop positive relationships with others and make new friends

Express feelings in socially acceptable ways

Demonstrate and practice independence

...Alberta Education Curriculum

#6 Physical Skills and Well-Being



Developing Skills



Fine motor skills:
Cutting, tracing,
working with materials

Gross Motor Skills:
bounce and
catch a ball

Develop behaviour
that promotes
healthy lifestyle

#7 Creative Expression



Explore
self-expression with
creative thought and
language



Drama
Role play in kitchen
and house

Play in sandbox and
water tables

Use colour and shapes
to create artistic
wonders!

A Note From Your École John Wilson Elementary School Staff Team...

We welcome you to our school and are ready to provide your child with a wonderful Kindergarten program and fantastic learning opportunities through Grades 1 to 4. We are here for you and your child to support their success in each year at École John Wilson Elementary School. We work hard to provide our students the experiences that cause learning success and much happiness.

Together we will make a difference for your child!

The Kindergarten Team is excited to start your child on their successful learning journey. We look forward to all we can provide in our 2017-2018 school year.



Respectfully,

Mrs. Terri Schaitel & Mrs. Janelle Carey

The Kindergarten Team