

Junior and Senior Kindergarten Handbook

2011-2012



London Christian
Elementary School

Built in faith...overflowing with thankfulness...

London Christian Elementary School
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Welcome to LCES!

On behalf of the Board and Staff of London Christian Elementary School we welcome you and thank you for your interest in LCES. We sincerely hope this handbook will help inform you and answer any questions you may have about the Junior and Senior Kindergarten programs, as well as the Optional Education Days.

This Kindergarten handbook is designed to help you get acquainted with the outlook, curriculum and procedures of the Kindergarten programs. At LCES we strive to create a positive Christian learning environment in which your child can grow and learn.

Please call me if you have any questions about the information contained in the handbook. We look forward to the privilege of teaching your child.

In His service,

Mary Haven, Principal

INTRODUCTION TO KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten is the gateway through which a child enters elementary school. At London Christian Elementary School, the junior and senior kindergarten programs provide a Christ-centered, warm, and loving environment in which a child can grow and develop. It is an environment where each child will feel safe and secure and is encouraged to develop as a whole being. A goal is to make each child aware of God's love and to explore with wonder the intricacies of God's world. As well as intellectual goals, each child's emotional, physical and spiritual growth is addressed. As children in kindergarten learn more about themselves and God's world, they are also challenged to live as God's child in His service.

Junior and senior kindergarten at LCES is based on activity learning, and keeps in mind the developmental characteristics of the three, four, and five-year-old child. The environment provided is stimulating and rich with ideas and activities. Kindergarten at LCES uses a thematic approach to learning where the themes are integrated as much as possible to all areas of the curriculum.

...Children learn through playing, watching, listening, acting, cooking, reading, or pretend reading, writing or pretend writing. School is a place where they can explore their environment, ask questions, and answer questions. It is a place where the teacher is like a parent: reading to the children and talking about the stories they read, writing for the children and allowing them to write for different purposes, taking time to explore the community on field trips, and talking about those experiences together. It is a place where children clean up after themselves, learn more about themselves, learn more about familiar and unfamiliar topics (usually called themes). Most importantly, it is a place where children discover that learning provides both enjoyment and information...

adapted from Reading and Writing for Kindergarten by Dorothy P. Hall and Patricia M. Cunningham

BIBLE

God chose to give His word in the form of a story, and the heart of the Bible is the story of God and His people. When children in kindergarten are introduced to God's wonderful story, they begin to understand who they are and what their lives are all about. The role of the teacher is not only to teach the story, but also to open the richness of the Bible to students and make a difference in their hearts. The task of the teacher is to nurture a faith through example, discipline, classroom atmosphere and classroom worship so that each student feels a part of God's people as they experience the love of God and the Christian community. (adapted from Christian Schools International).

JK Bible Curriculum Overview:

Faith development begins with a relationship between the student and God. Throughout the lessons students learn and understand how God cares for them. The JK curriculum presents students with an overview of the entire Bible. The Old Testament stories are often presented through biblical characters. The selected stories show how God displayed His love and care for each of these people. The New Testament lessons focus on Jesus' care for particular people and parables that illustrate how Christians are to care for others.

SK Bible Curriculum Overview:

The kindergarten *Walking with God and His People* curriculum gives an overview of both the Old and New Testaments. Throughout the year, students learn how God showed His love for His people. Students learn through the examples of biblical characters how God showed His love for His people and how His people showed their love and gratitude in return. Throughout the lessons, kindergarten students are challenged to find ways they can show their love for God.

Prayer, singing praise and worshipful songs, and memory work spoken in a whole group, are also focuses in Bible in kindergarten.

In addition, the junior and senior kindergarten classes join the whole school as we gather each Monday for Chapel. During this time, we worship together, listen to a Bible lesson and celebrate student birthdays and accomplishments.

LANGUAGE

Children in kindergarten are read to and are exposed to a wide range of literature. They select books to read on their own, as well as to share with their peers and with their teacher. Journals provide a place for four-year-olds to practice writing their name, write or 'kid' write, and draw pictures. The children learn about alphabet letters and their sounds by focusing on a different alphabet letter each week and by doing various activities such as alphabet games, songs, rhymes, finger plays, and art work. Those who are able begin to read and write words. Systematic, multilevel instruction is provided as reading and writing is taught at the kindergarten level. Themes of the month are incorporated and integrated.

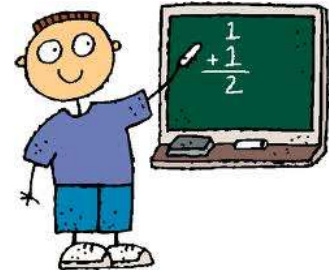
Big books are read as a whole group, and chart stories are written about class field trips or other community or school experiences. At other times the books of a specific author might be the focus. Songs and rhymes are sung and there are many opportunities to speak/share with the class about an item brought from home or about an exciting experience. Listening to poetry, listening to stories read by the teacher, as well as listening to books on CD are also part of the whole language experience.

MATH

As children participate in concrete, hands-on activities, they are encouraged to explore patterns and relationships in God's world. Experiences are organized to encourage children to think, seek, and discover the intricacies of God's complex creation. They look for patterns and relationships and begin to form generalizations, eventually relating objects and images of their own experiences to mathematical symbols and relationships.

Some of the main mathematical focuses each month at the kindergarten level are counting and comparing, describing and sorting objects, classifying, exploring patterns, comparing and measuring, and estimating. Recognition of numbers and beginning practice with printing numbers is also a focus. Basic geometric shapes and solids are explored. During the initial months of kindergarten, much time is spent with free exploration of mathematical materials such as pattern blocks, unifix cubes, tiles, wooden cubes, toothpicks, geoboards, and treasure boxes.

Many of the activities incorporate the theme of the month as well as the number and colour being explored each month.



Skills which are continued throughout the year:

Language Skills:

Letter sounds/ printing
Beginning story writing
Rhyming words
Beginning sight words

Math Skills:

Number recognition/ printing
Sequencing
Patterning
Sorting and graphing
Beginning addition subtraction

Observational Skills:

Sizes
Colours
Likeness and differences
Opposites
Shapes

Social Skills Development:

Cooperation
Courtesy
Following Routines
Responsibility

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is an opportunity for children in kindergarten to explore the fundamental and unique ways God made our bodies able to move and to perform many physical tasks. They express thankfulness to God for physical abilities to move in different ways, and for the blessing of healthy bodies. They learn to care for their bodies in healthy ways, such as practicing safety in the playground, at school and at home.

Children in kindergarten regard themselves positively as children of God and choose to grow in Him, and as they develop the physical talents God has given them. Children in junior and senior kindergarten will continue to develop abilities in locomotion, stability, and manipulation. Basic movements, body awareness, personal space awareness, cooperative games and activities, and free movement within personal capabilities are some of the things explored at the kindergarten level.

ART AND MUSIC

Art activities are integrated into many areas of the kindergarten curriculum and are related to the themes being taught. Children experiment with cutting and pasting, painting, rubbings, printmaking, and watercolour washes.

Music is also integrated into the curriculum in various ways:

- Singing new and familiar songs
- Singing Bible songs
- Experimenting with rhythm instruments
- Listening to music
- Exploring basic elements of music such as tempo, beat, expression, and rhythm

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

- *Play promotes empathy, rapport, and compassion...*
- *Play is one of the most powerful ways we learn and retain what we learn...*
- *Play allows children to discover and define themselves...*
- *Play is a socially acceptable way of releasing negative feelings and frustrations...*
- *Play provides an avenue of expression where words would be inadequate...*
- *Play encourages spontaneity, which can later lead to creativity...*
- *Play is the source of inventions and aesthetic creations...*
- *Play allows children to try various forms of social interaction...*
- *Play is a way of giving joy to oneself and others!*
 - *(The Joyful Child by Peggy Jenkins)*

LEARNING CENTERS

Learning Centres time is an important time of the day in kindergarten where children are provided with time to learn about God's world as they explore their environment, ask questions, and answer questions. This is a time to explore new play options, interact with peers, express themselves creatively, and learn to make independent choices. At times these activities are teacher directed, and at other times the children make decisions about which theme-related learning station to explore.

- **Blocks-** various sizes and shapes of wooden, plastic or cardboard building blocks
- **House-** dramatic play centre designed to compliment the themes of each month eg. kitchen, hospital, animal shelter, grocery store
- **Sand-** sand table with various toys such as cars and trucks, shovels and pails, strainers, molds etc.
- **Painting-** an easel with a variety of colours of paint with different sizes, shapes and textures of paper and brushes
- **Listening-** cassette player and head phones with a variety of books and tapes having to do with the themes of the month
- **Water-** self-contained water table with containers for scooping, pouring, stirring, straining, floating and sinking etc.
- **Puzzles-** jigsaw, floor, and board puzzles having to do with the themes
- **Puppets-** puppet theatre with assortment of hand and finger puppets
- **Science-** table with balance scale, magnets, magnifying glasses, nature objects such as nuts, fall leaves, seashells, nests, bugs
- **Play dough-** coloured play dough in a variety of colours with a variety of tools, such as cookie cutters, rolling pins, plastic knives etc.
- **Games-** alphabet and math group games or activities such as alphabet bingo, board games, math games
- **Floor Toys-** a variety of Fisher Price, Lego, Playmobil, and Little Tikes
- **Book Nook-** a wide variety of classroom and public library books which are changed monthly to correspond with the themes
- **Math-** manipulatives, such as unifix cubes, pattern blocks, wooden blocks, tiles, toothpicks and geoboards etc.
- **Computers-** participating in educational games and activities while becoming more familiar with technology



(OACS)- Ontario Alliance of Christian Schools
(CSI)- Christian Schools International
The Bible units are from Walking with God and His People(CSI)

KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

Program Structure

The school day runs from 8:40 until 3:20.

JK days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

SK days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Both programs are full-day programs.

Optional Education Days

There are some families who would like to have full time education for their JK and SK children. In response to this, the new *Optional Education Days* are being offered at LCES. JK has been increased to 3 days per week, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays, parents can send their children to school for optional education. Curriculum learned in JK and SK will be reviewed and re-enforced and the daily schedule will be similar to that in JK and in SK.

Balanced Day

At LCES, we have a balanced school day. Our day is split up into three 110 minute teaching segments. We have two “nutrition breaks”; one is at 10:30-10:40, the other at 12:55-1:05. Students spend this time eating in their classrooms, then enjoy 25 minutes outside with teacher supervision (10:40-11:05, 1:05-1:30).

Staggered Entry

Rather than begin the school year as one large group, children are divided into smaller groups. This allows the children to learn school routines and to get to know their classmates in a smaller group, as well as giving the teacher a better opportunity to get to know the children. After two weeks, the groups come together as a full class.

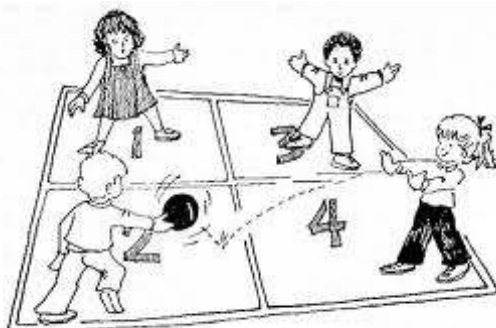
Reporting School Progress

There are three reporting sessions in the school year. There is a short written report in November about your child’s beginning weeks of school. All parents are asked to attend an interview with the teacher at this time. In March and at the end of the school year, students receive a formal report card. Parent-Teacher interviews are also available in March. As always, you are encouraged to discuss your child’s progress and participation at school with the teacher at any time throughout the year.

More Information

More information about school policies and procedures is found in our “Family Handbook”. All parents receive a copy during the first month of school.

Information about school events and classroom activities is sent home every Monday in our “Weekly News”. As well, the teacher sends home a monthly letter and calendar.



Month	JK Theme	SK Theme	Colour/ Number House Centre Field Trips
September	<p><i>God Made Me Special!</i> (staggered entry) "God gives us families" *routines and getting organized *Ladybugs *<u>Creation and the Fall</u></p>	<p><i>Nursery Rhymes</i> (staggered entry) *review routines *orientation *school rules *Nursery Rhymes (OACS) *<u>God Shows His Love through Creation</u> *<u>Our Need for God's Love (Fall-Babel)</u></p>	<p>-red -focus on numbers #1 (JK), #11 (SK) <i>Kitchen theme</i> -no field trips</p>
October	<p>*fall changes in my neighbourhood *fall leaves/nuts *pumpkins *<i>Thanksgiving</i> *Grandparents *Spiders *<u>Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph</u></p>	<p><i>Awesome Autumn</i> (OACS) *autumn changes *animals prepare for winter *apples <i>Thanksgiving (OACS)</i> *Grandparents * <u>Abraham, Isaac and Jacob</u> *<u>Joseph</u></p>	<p>-orange -#2 (JK), #12 (SK) <i>JK—Hospital theme</i> <i>SK—Kitchen theme</i> JK-O'Shea's Farm SK-apple orchard Fall leaf walk - SK</p>
November	<p><i>Animals Prepare for Winter</i> *migration and hibernation of animals *Goldilocks and the Three Bears *<u>Moses, Samuel and David</u></p>	<p><i>My Feelings</i> (OACS) *happy, sad... *God cares for animals as they prepare for winter *brown bears *<u>God's Love saves Israel (Moses and Exodus)</u></p>	<p>-brown -#3 (JK), 13 (SK) <i>JK—Restaurant theme</i> <i>SK—Hospital theme</i> JK-Local Library SK-ambulance station</p>
December	<p><i>Celebrate Christmas</i> *Christmas celebrations *The Gingerbread Man *<u>The story of Jesus' birth</u></p>	<p><i>Christmas</i> (OACS) *symbols and traditions of Christmas *the bakery at Christmas *<u>Birth of Jesus</u></p>	<p>-green -#4 (JK), 14 (SK) <i>Bakery theme</i> JK- mail a Christmas letter</p>
January	<p><i>Thank You God, for Weather</i> *explore a variety of weather with focus on winter weather *fun with snow/ ice *The Mitten *<u>Elijah, Elisha, King Josiah, Jonah, Daniel, Esther</u></p>	<p><i>Winter Wonders</i> (OACS) *winter activities *winter birds *ice experiments *<u>Joshua, Gideon, Samson and Ruth</u></p>	<p>-white -#5 (JK), #15 (SK) <i>JK—Construction Site</i> <i>SK—Restaurant theme</i> JK- Tobogganing SK- winter walk Skate at Arena</p>

Month	JK Theme	SK Theme	Colour/ Number House Centre Field Trips
February	<p><i>Getting Along With Others:</i> (CSI) *manners, listening, sharing, cooperating *Valentine's Day (friendship) <u>*Jesus' Ministry</u></p>	<p><i>Friendship</i> *Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day (OACS) *Friendship *Postal workers <u>* Samuel, Saul, David and Solomon</u></p>	<p>-pink -#6 (JK), #16 (SK)</p> <p><i>JK—Bakeshop</i> <i>SK—Post Office</i></p> <p>JK- Grocery Store/Bakery SK- mail a letter *School skating</p>
March	<p><i>Taking Care of My Body:</i> (CSI) exercise, sleep, food for growth, personal grooming, and care of teeth <u>*Good Friday and Easter</u></p>	<p><i>Celebrating God's Gift of Food</i> (OACS) *nutrition and food groups *prepare special foods <u>*Elijah, Elisha, Hezekiah and Jonah</u></p>	<p>-purple -#7 (JK), #17 (SK)</p> <p><i>JK—Pet Store</i> <i>SK—Grocery Store</i></p> <p>JK- Pet Store SK- Covent Garden Market</p>
April	<p><i>Spring</i> *butterflies, bugs, baby animals <u>*Stories about Jesus</u></p>	<p><i>Spring Splendour</i> (OACS) *spring *Pond Life *pets <u>*Easter and Ascension</u> <u>*Daniel, Esther and Ezra</u></p>	<p>-yellow -#8 (JK), #18 (SK)</p> <p><i>JK—Grocery Store</i> <i>SK -Animal Shelter</i></p> <p>JK- pet store SK- spring walk</p>
May	<p><i>Safety in God's World</i> *street, bus, stranger, fire, and poison safety (CSI) *Moms are Special <u>*Jesus Tells Stories: The Parables</u></p>	<p><i>Transportation/ Safety</i> (OACS) *land, air, water *pedestrian, car, bus, bike safety *5 Senses (CSI) <i>Mother's Day</i> (OACS) <u>*Jesus' Ministry and Miracles</u></p>	<p>-black -#9 (JK), #19 (SK)</p> <p><i>JK—Camping</i> <i>SK—Construction theme</i></p> <p>JK- Visit from Firefighters SK- visit train, bus, or airport</p>
June	<p><i>Life in the Ocean</i> *oceans vs lakes *animals and fish that live in the ocean *Dads are special *Fairytale and folktales *Stone Soup <u>*Jesus Teaches his Children How to Live</u></p>	<p><i>Fun at the Farm</i> *different kinds of farms, farm animals, crops *strawberry fun *Father's Day (OACS) <u>*Jesus' Parables</u> <u>*God's Love for His Church</u></p>	<p>-blue -#10 (JK), #20 (SK)</p> <p><i>JK- Fairy Tales</i> <i>SK- Camping theme</i></p> <p>JK- Storybook Gardens SK- Circle R Ranch</p>

