



## 1st Grade Curriculum

# Forming a cohort. Fairy tales, folktales and myths from around the world.

The first grade is an exciting time at our school, as children transition from the familiarity of kindergarten into a more formal learning environment. While this can bring on first grade jitters, your first grade child has a sense of wonder and imagination perfectly suited to this new challenge. And our curriculum is thoughtfully designed to reward this curiosity, laying the foundation for lifetime learning.

### Writing

Writing is taught by introducing the alphabet through pictures, stories and phonetics. Students learn the proper way to hold and use a variety of writing instruments. Children produce vibrant, full-page lesson books, filled with letters, words, and pictures.

### Recitation

Children work to remember and recite (in unison) 20–30 minute poems and stories. They retain stories and texts by repeating and reflecting on their themes, situations and outcomes—the true beginning of reading comprehension.

### Reading Basics

Literacy is built through listening, vocabulary development, poetry, and stories. Teachers are schooled in storytelling specifically for this age, and share traditional fairy tales and folk tales from around the world, including: Russian, African, Japanese & Grimm's stories.

### Mathematics

All four basic math operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) are introduced simultaneously through characterizations that demonstrate their essential quality; i.e. Dexter Divide, who always shares. Number patterns, Roman numerals and place value.



### **Sciences**

Stories that personify nature and relate its processes and qualities in experiential terms are most meaningful to the first grader. These provide a basis for scientific curiosity in the upper grades. Nature activities and field trips support the nature study.

### **Recess**

Students have multiple recesses and daily field trips to local parks to energize their bodies and activate their minds in social play, group dynamics, and exploration of the physical environment.

### **French**

Students experience the language through games, song, stories, role plays, hands on activities and dances. French provides cultural exposure relevant to Canada and develops memory, language and vocabulary skills.

### **Art**

Students practice beeswax modeling, “form drawing,” wet-on-wet watercolor painting and traditional drawing.

### **Handwork**

Knitting for coordination, focus and understanding patterns.

### **Music**

Daily singing and pentatonic flute playing with music specialist and class teacher.

### **Movement and Games**

Both programs include gross motor exercises and activities that will meet the foundational needs of these younger learners and support their spatial sense, sense of balance, and movement skills. These activities will directly benefit the younger student's ability to settle into seated work, to concentrate, and to prepare for the fine motor activities of other lessons.

### **SCOPE**

See separate brochure.

### **Field Trips & Community Events**

The class field trip usually brings students for a day to local nature centers, zoos or museums with a regional, natural and environmental theme involving animals. Plays and festivals include: The Rose Ceremony, Michaelmas, Lantern Walk, class play, winter parent festival and Mayfair.



## 2nd Grade Curriculum

# Social Development: Legends, Heroes and Fables.

Your second grade child possesses the innocence of early childhood and a growing interest in testing boundaries. Our curriculum is specifically designed to strengthen your child's social development and teach new skills. A signature of the second grade is the study of fables, which portray the highs and lows of human potential and the relationship between choices and consequences. As your child builds confidence in academic skills, these morals act as a subtle guide for social development.

### Writing

Writing through dictation, rhyming word families, sight words, and simple sentence construction. Children continue to produce vibrant, full-page lesson books, filled with words, short sentences and pictures. Composition can take place as a class or in small groups.

### Reading

Practice spelling, phonics, punctuation, reading, sentence structure, capitalization, distinguishing upper and lower case letters, poetry, and rhyming. Literacy is built through listening, vocabulary development, poetry, and stories.

### Recitation

The vocabulary of poems and stories that the children commit to memory increases in complexity and length. Often the children work together to present their first class play, spoken in unison.

### Mathematics

Continuation with the four arithmetic processes includes a strong focus on the memorization of times tables. Place value is introduced and practiced in multi-digit problems employing carrying and borrowing.

### Sciences

Teachers use nature stories to personify natural and elemental principles. Class field trips to local gardens and nature centers bring the environmental sciences and zoology alive for the students.

### Movement & Games

Both programs include gross motor exercises and activities that will meet the foundational needs of these younger learners and support their spatial sense, sense of balance, and movement skills. These activities will directly benefit the younger student's ability to settle into seated work, to concentrate, and to prepare for the fine motor activities of other lessons.



### **Recess**

Students have multiple recesses and daily field trips to local parks to energize their bodies and activate their minds in social play, group dynamics, and exploration of the physical environment.

### **French**

French provides cultural exposure, develops memory, language, translative thinking and vocabulary skills. It is taught three times a week using songs, rhymes, puppet shows and games.

### **Art**

Daily practice with drawing (form drawings) and weekly wet on wet watercolor paintings are created for developmental (rather than artistic) capacities.

### **Handwork**

Knitting and Purling for coordination, focus and understanding patterns.

### **Music**

Daily singing and pentatonic flute playing with music specialist.

### **SCOPE**

See separate brochure.

### **Field Trips & Community Events**

Second graders participate in the Michaelmas, Lantern Walk, Winter Light Festival, class play, student assemblies and Parent Festivals. Grade 2 is matched with a buddy in the grade 7 class. Field Trips are related to nature and animals and can include a trip to a pumpkin farm, apple orchard, sugar maple farm and Evergreen Brickworks.



## 3rd Grade Curriculum

# Identity Formation. Hebrew stories.

Your third grader is becoming more independent and curious about the world and their role in it. At the same time, this growing sense of self may be accompanied by a feeling of separation and perhaps even loneliness. Our third grade curriculum helps your child navigate this pivotal developmental year of identity formation. We study creation stories that mirror an awakening to the human condition. We introduce a wide range of solutions to human problems- farming, gardening, cooking, measuring, money, telling time, building shelters and knitting all help your child discover a new sense of self-reliance.

### Writing

- Learning cursive handwriting
- Dictation practice
- Writing a simple story independently
- Beginning library use and research protocol
- Weekly spelling quizzes and vocabulary development
- Develop understanding of basic sentence structure
- Journaling

### Reading

- Hebrew, farming, and historical fables
- Independent reading and daily reading in groups or with partners
- Introduction to the basic parts of speech; noun, verb, adjective and adverb
- Reviewing stories to develop comprehension and sequencing

### Science & Mathematics

- Farming and gardening: growing and cultivating; food rhythms in the cycle of a year
- Introduction to measurements: calculating distance, capacity, weight & time
- Memorization of the multiplication tables
- Daily practice with the four basic operations and multiplication tables
- Introduction of multi-digit multiplication
- Introduction of long division
- Money (run a bake sale)



## Geography & History

- Hebrew language, culture, rituals & history
- Shelters: climate and location of ancient and modern building techniques
- Grains: importance in global nourishment and world cultures

## Art

- Block book motifs from stories and nature
- Beeswax and clay modeling

## French

- Words and usages are playfully absorbed into memory through songs, games and puppetry. They also serve as an anchor for grammatical structure to be lifted to consciousness later.

## Handwork

- Three-dimensional project is knitted such as a pouch, hat or hand puppet

## Music

- Music literacy through story
- Singing in unison; begin singing in rounds
- Pentatonic flute & diatonic recorder

## Gym & Circus Arts

- Folk dances, balance games, gymnastics, jump roping, hula hoops, clapping and chase games
- Circus Arts include juggling, unicycling, stilts, silks, and a variety of floor exercises

## Scope

See separate brochure.

## Recess

- Students have multiple recesses and daily field trips to local parks to energize their bodies and activate their minds in social play, group dynamics, and exploration of the physical environment

## Field Trips & Community Events

- Biodynamic Farm Trip: 3-day field trip to care for the land and animals
- 3rd grade play: Hebrew story, recited in chorus with costumes, props
- Michaelmas play, Lantern walk, class play, Winter Light festival, parent festivals and Mayfair



## 4th Grade Curriculum

# Emotional self-awareness. Norse mythology and local history.

For your fourth-grader, the year ahead promises a new level of emotional self-awareness. Your child will become more independent, recognizing the separation between themselves and the surrounding world. You may notice a corresponding evolution in your child's thought process as reasoning becomes more objective. Our fourth-grade curriculum is designed to support this new level of maturity.

For example, we study Norse myths, as they are particularly strong at imparting the gifts, and the risks, of free will. And we combine history with geography, to give your child a sense of the interrelated nature of space, time, culture, and the individual.

### Language Arts

- Grammar, punctuation, the nine parts of speech, the four sentence structures and composition, independent reading, discussion, speech and drama

### Literature

- Norse myths and Native American tales

### Science and Mathematics

- Human/animal environments & behaviors
- Fractions: equivalent, expanding, reducing, greatest common factors and least common multiples
- Measurement, the four basic operations, long division and multi-digit multiplication

### Geography & History

- Drawing maps, the four directions
- Geographic placement through movement
- History of Toronto

### Art

- Celtic knot illustrations
- Modeling animals & local land forms
- Painting story motifs using warm/cool colors
- More advanced drawing techniques

### French

- Introduction to writing, reading and vocabulary. Starting in Grade 4, the children begin the fine task of recording all that has been learned so far by heart.



## Handwork

- Cross stitch: sequences, patterns, symmetry and direction

## Music

- Modern musical notation and reading sheet music
- Recorder
- Singing and playing rounds and part music
- Beginning ensemble

## Gym & Circus Arts

- Advanced physical games and movement skills
- Introduce organized physical games with rules and strategy
- Circus Arts activities include juggling, unicycling, stilts, silks, and a variety of floor exercises

## Recess

- Students have multiple recesses and daily field trips to local parks to energize their bodies and activate their minds in social play, group dynamics, and exploration of the physical environment

## Scope

See separate brochure.

## Field Trips & Community Events

- Saint Marie Among the Huron's: snow shoeing, woodworking and more
- Local field trips: explore the city's rich history
- Pioneer Village: Dressed in full costume, students spend several days at Pioneer Village
- 4th grade play: A Norse myth recited by the whole class in costumes/props, introduction of individual speaking parts
- Grade 4 performs the maypole dance at the Mayfair
- Michaelmas, Parent Festivals, Winter Light Festival



## 5th Grade Curriculum

# Social and Emotional Development. Ancient civilizations.

Your fifth grade child has arrived at the mid-point between childhood and adolescence, a transition involving both social and emotional development. It's a time of harmony and balance as the children are comfortable with themselves and how they relate to the world. This represents a wonderful opportunity for learning.

Our curriculum introduces more formal studies in areas such as history, geometry, botany and geography. We also bring the students on a journey across time and space, to ancient civilizations that many include China, Persia, India, Egypt and Greece. The fifth grade is notable for its Pentathlon event, where fifth graders from multiple Waldorf schools meet to show their best in a contest inspired by the Ancient Greeks.

### Science & Mathematics

- Botany
- Decimals, fractions
- Freehand geometry

### Language Arts

- Composition, outlines, study of plots and characters, grammar, speech and drama

### Literature

- Mythology of ancient cultures

### Geography & History

- Ancient civilizations—India, Persia, Mesopotamia, Egypt, China and Greece
- North American geography
- Native American cultures

### Art

- Painting and drawing
- Sculptural modeling

### Handwork

- Four-needle knitting, sock making or slippers