

Edelweiss Preparatory School

Parent Handbook
2020/2021





We are glad you have chosen Edelweiss Preparatory School. We understand the importance of your decision to entrust us with the care and education of your child. In any group care setting, good policies are an important part of maintaining proper health and safety. Many of our policies are the result of our effort to ensure strict compliance with provincial licensing and health regulations. This Parent Handbook outlines some basic policies that help us to better care for your child. Please read and be familiar with these policies and do not hesitate to ask us for clarification. It is understood by enrolling your child at Edelweiss that you agree to abide by our policies and procedures. We are a fully licensed preschool and you are required by Alberta Children's Services to read and sign that you have read this Handbook and agree to adhere to the policies.

We are delighted to have your child in our school and we look forward to working with you to make sure your child starts school on a positive note. Encourage your child to ask questions about school. Informed children are confident children. Talk positively about school. The way your child perceives your feelings about his/her school and teachers will have a direct effect on how she/he feels as well. We GREATLY appreciate your support and anticipate a fun and successful school year!

OUR CURRICULUM:

Edelweiss uses developmentally appropriate curriculum for our students. We incorporate Jolly Phonics, Learning Without Tears and Brain Gym into our curriculum. Using this framework, our teachers are able to teach in the ways that best match the way in which we know young children develop and learn.

Children learn best by doing and our curriculum uses a developmental "hands on" approach built around weekly or monthly themes. During each week we will address all areas of development: social, emotional, physical (large & small motor), cognitive and language development. There is a balance between teacher-directed and child-initiated activities. Our classrooms are set up in a learning centre configuration, which allows each child to choose his/her activities in the different classroom areas. The activities in each learning centre are planned to facilitate discovery

learning. Our daily schedule includes large group, small group and individual activities as well as learning centre times. The children are guided and encouraged to learn new self-help skills, think for themselves, make choices, experiment, explore, make mistakes and have a lot of fun in the process!



POLICIES & PROCEDURES

The following are school policies and information that is important to read and refer to during the school year. Thank-you for taking the time to make your family familiar with the school operations.

HEALTH REGULATIONS:

Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, with a history of international travel in the last 14 days, or with close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days must remain at home.

Before leaving home, the parent or guardian conducting drop off is expected to screen each child attending school for symptoms using the Alberta Health Daily Checklist <https://open.alberta.ca/dataset/56c020ed-1782-4c6c-bfdd-5af36754471f/resource/6607784e-b42e-46c2-ba76-031c3b0217c5/download/covid-19-relaunch-daily-checklist.pdf>

Parents are required to take their child's temperature prior to leaving their home and if a fever is present, stay home.

Normal Temperatures are:

Ear: 35.8 - 38 C or 96.4 - 100.4 F

Forehead: 36.6 C or 97.9 - 100.4 F

Underarm: 36.5 - 37.5 C or 97.7 - 99.5 F

Mouth: 35.5 - 37.5 C or 95.9 - 99.5 F

A child that has a cough, fever, shortness of breath, runny nose or sore throat that is not related to a pre-existing health condition OR who test positive for COVID-19 is legally required to isolate for 10 days from the start of their symptoms, or until symptoms resolve, whichever takes longer.

If a child has a fever, cough, runny nose, shortness of breath or sore throat and is not tested for COVID-19, the child must be isolated for 10 days from the symptom onset, or until symptoms resolve, whichever is longer. It is strongly recommended that the parent seek testing for a child with COVID-19.

If the child tested negative and has no known exposure to the virus, they must stay home until their symptoms resolve. If the child tested negative and has had an exposure to the virus, they are legally required to quarantine for 14 days from the exposure date.

Prior to Covid-19 and regarding other illnesses, **Amendments to the *Child Care Licensing Regulation* were implemented related to the identification, response and management of children who are ill. Under this amendment an ill child will be defined as a child who:**

- is vomiting, has a fever, diarrhea or a new unexplained rash or cough;
- requires greater attention than can be provided without compromising the care of other children in the program; or
- displays any other illness or symptom the staff member knows or believes may indicate that a child poses a health risk to other children or staff.

If your child is ill please keep them at home until they are no longer symptomatic for 24 hours. We will send all children who are symptomatic home.

A child can return to the program if the child's parent provides a written notice from a physician indicating that the child does not pose a health risk or if the license holder (Edelweiss) is satisfied that a child no longer poses a health risk to other children or staff. If your child has a communicable disease, you must observe quarantine regulations, as set by Alberta Health: 24 hours since the last symptom. The following are signs that indicate a communicable disease: earache, vomiting, fever, cough, unusual drowsiness, loss of appetite, sore throat, red or runny eyes, headache, irritability, a rash, runny nose of yellow or green, and diarrhea. If a child displays any of these symptoms, we will call you to come and pick them up. We have a forehead thermometer and check children's temperatures daily.

If a child in our care displays symptoms of, or we have been made aware of, head lice, chicken pox, impetigo and pink eye, we will notify parents. ***All matters will be handled in confidence*****If your child is going to be absent, please email or leave a message at the school (403)282-4220 stating the symptoms/illness your child has and when the symptoms started. Please remember to specify which class time your child attends.**

NEW DROP OFF AND PICK UP POLICY:

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation, our protocols have changed for this year.

DROP OFF: Due to Covid-19, we will be screening children at the door. We will start 5 mins prior to class time starting. Parents need to have the screening paper completed, including a temperature check at home prior to coming to school. We will also recheck your child's temperature upon arrival and before admittance. When you arrive with your child, please line up outside at a physical distance of 2 meters and we will admit children into the school once the screening is complete. Please come with your screening form ready. We will have copies available on the website and emailed as well. We are required to keep hard copies of for four weeks for tracing purposes.

Once the child has passed the screening, the teacher will welcome your child and help them as needed to take off their coat, put on shoes and put their back pack/tote bag and snack bag into their cubby. Once the class of 12 children is ready, they will go with their teacher to the washrooms to wash their hands prior to going to the classroom. We will not be admitting parents into the school at this time. We will advise once this can change. We will send pictures during the first week so you can see how things are set up. It is an Alberta Health requirement that you fill out the screening form prior to coming to class each day for your child. A staff will be screening at the door, taking temperatures and screening forms and your child(ren) will need to use hand sanitizer prior to entry. **Your child can only attend if there are no symptoms present in your family.**

PICK UP: The teachers will assist their students to get ready for pick up and will dismiss them to parents at the school door. We ask that parents be on time for pickup time and to line up socially distanced 2 meters apart outside. Please be on time to pick up your child at the time of class ending. What seems like just a few minutes to you seems like a very long time to young children, especially when they see all the other children leaving with their parents. Please notify the office and your child's teacher if anyone other than the authorized parent or caregiver may be picking up your child. The person picking up must be listed on your registration form in writing. Anyone picking up your child may be asked for picture ID, so please make sure that individual has picture ID available when picking up. Children who are not picked up must wait in the coatroom until the parent or caregiver arrives. Children do not leave the school without a parent or caregiver over the age of 18.

SNACKS:

Parents provide a snack and one drink for their child. You will also need to put a clean mask in a baggie in the snack bag for your child to wear after snack is over. According to licensing regulations you need to send in 2 food groupings. For example, if you are sending fruit juice then you need to send in crackers which would be from another food group. Edelweiss strives to maintain a healthy environment for all the children.

Therefore, non-nutritious snacks such as candy, cakes, puddings and cookies are not allowed. Foods such as grapes or cherry tomatoes need to be cut in quarters. **Please do not pack any chap stick, cough drops, medication or hand sanitizer in the snack container.** Children who need assistance opening containers/wrappers put up their hand and then the teacher will assist them. Upon finishing, children return their snack/juice containers to the snack bag. So far this year we do not have any students with nut allergies. All children use the washroom and wash hands before their snack time and then once their snack bags are open on the table, they will have hand sanitizer administered and again after snack time they receive teacher administered hand sanitizer prior to playing or doing their activities. Starting on the first full day of school, your child will need to bring a snack and a drink in a reusable drink container that fits into the snack bag we provide you with. All drink and snack containers need to be clearly labeled with your child's name on it. Use the Mabel's Labels we provide you with. You can order more labels including allergy alert labels from www.edelweiss.mabel.ca Children will place snack bags in their cubbies until snack time. We will not accept the tetra juice boxes at school as most children do not usually drink the entire box, and it is too time consuming to empty all the juice boxes out prior to recycling. Please use a drink container that is child friendly and reusable.

SCHOOL RULES:

It is a good idea to talk to the children about why certain rules are put into place (to keep us safe, to help others, etc.) so that they understand why rules need to be obeyed. Rules that parents can help enforce are:

- being respectful to teachers, friends, another family & school property
- following the teacher's direction
- no running in the school halls or coatroom
- waiting **quietly** in the coatroom
- going to the washroom before class
- no chewing gum or eating food in the coatroom at school

ACTIVITIES & DISMISSAL:

By enrolling your child at Edelweiss Preparatory School, you as a parent or guardian give permission for your child to be involved in the activities and events at Edelweiss Preparatory School. Edelweiss is a private school whose goal is to provide a positive, enriching educational environment. Although rare, a situation

may arise in which it becomes evident that the needs of a child cannot be met effectively by our school. A decision to dismiss a child will only happen after we feel every option has been explored. Every measure will be taken to meet the needs of the child in question, and our Directors will assess each dismissal not only with regard to the individual child's need, but also the needs of all the children served. The parent will be a central figure in the discussions regarding this issue, but the decision to dismiss a child must be left to the discretion of the Directors.

In the case of a child being dismissed from the program, the parent is responsible for the fee for the month in which the child is dismissed however the withdrawal policy is not in place.

PARKING LOT SAFETY:

Please drive slowly and cautiously in our parking lot and the laneway (which is posted at 15km) for the safety of the children and their parents. It is recommended that you hold your child's hand or carry younger ones as you walk to and from your car. Please be mindful to not block other cars, or the garbage/recycling bins, the laneway entrance or the driveways in the laneway. Do not leave children unattended in the car.

CHILD GUIDANCE POLICY:

At Edelweiss Preparatory School we view Child Guidance as a positive approach to supporting growth and development in children.

Self-esteem is an important part of who we are as individuals. For positive self-esteem, children need to be comfortable with who they are, to feel empowered, and develop a healthy sense of self: a sense that they are worthy of being.

We aim to provide an environment that each child feels supported and safe. It is in this environment where we guide children's behavior using positive reinforcement and positive communication techniques. We are aware that children are unique individuals who react to feelings and stressors in different ways. It is our job to recognize this and encourage exploration of feelings; ways to problem solve and to continue to develop a healthy sense of self. When a child feels supported, safe and has developed a sense of self, they are more apt to try new things and feel comfortable exploring new ideas and places.

If we have any concerns regarding your child's development or behaviour we will certainly notify you so we can explore strategies and be consistent between preschool and home.

Prevention of Problems

Unpredictability can cause stress which may manifest itself as anger or frustration. We aim to provide a program that is consistent and allows for children to know what to expect next. We have a predictable routine and we let children know ahead of time what to expect.

Communicating with Children

We value spending time and having real conversations with children. Talking with the child, rather than at, allows for opportunity to get to know them.

We state our expectations in specific ways and use positive statements to support them. Rather than saying the negative "stop running", we state the positive "use your walking feet".

We use active listening. Active listening is when we listen and respond to both what is being said and how. We need to be in tune with children and grasp their feelings and intent. This is a useful technique for helping children to learn to problem solve. "It sure sounds like you are feeling frustrated. I wonder how we can work this out?" would be appropriate to say.

We also use I-messages. I-message is another communication technique. It allows caregivers to state their feelings without placing blame. An effective I-message would be "I'm scared when I can't see you"

Positive Reinforcement for Children

Our aim is to foster a sense of success in children. Children need to be encouraged for their efforts, rather than the product. Little Sally has been building in the block centre for a long time. Too often we hear the words "good girl" or "good job". These words do not recognize the effort Sally has put forth. Our focus is on positive reinforcement: "Wow Sally, you have been building a long time. Can you tell me what you have been busy building?" With this statement, Sally feels her efforts have been acknowledged, which is important in building self-esteem.

Recognizing Children's Feelings

We recognize children experience an array of emotions; anger, happiness, sadness, frustration, fear and excitement, all of which are a part of who children are. Our goal is for children to learn to recognize their emotions, understand they are

healthy feelings, and learn constructive ways to handle them. We validate their feelings by saying "I can see you are feeling angry" (or whichever emotion they display). With positive communication techniques we have the opportunity to model and teach problem solving skills.

ALLERGIES & MEDICAL:

Allergies can be very severe. If a child has a serious allergy, we require an EPIPEN to be kept on site at all times in the safe keeping of the teachers. There is to be no EpiPens, inhalers or medication left in backpacks in the coatroom cubbies. This is a provincial licensing regulation. We will have you sign a medical form allowing Edelweiss staff to administer your child's EpiPen and/or inhaler or antihistamine. In case of a medical emergency we will contact 911 and then the parents. Parents shall be responsible for any cost incurred.

Parent Communication

REPORTING SESSIONS:

Parent Conferences take place late Nov and early March. In JrK you will be given a report card with comments during the last week of February to indicate areas of growth and improvement for your child. For the Kindergarten program you will be given a Report card at the End of Nov, beginning of March and end of June. For all Preschool, JrK /K classes, a final report card will be sent home at the end of June. Parents are encouraged to attend virtual Parent/Teacher conferences.

Appointments for virtual or telephone interviews are 10 minutes and parents can choose a time that is convenient for them. Classes are cancelled on parent/teacher interview days in order that we can make time to talk with each family.

MEETING WITH TEACHERS

Feel free to email or call the school office if you need to discuss anything with your child's teachers and they will get back to you when they are available.

ONGOING COMMUNICATION: In addition to the parent/teacher conferences, parents are encouraged to talk with their teachers if a concern or question arises. Teachers are busy prior to classes and directly after classes but you can ask them to contact you when they have time. You can also email epschool@telus.net .

SPECIAL HELPER:

The Jr K and Kindergarten Special Helper is indicated on the monthly calendar. He/she will do Weather/Calendar and be the first to start the lineup for transitions, ring the chimes/rain stick for tidy-up time and other special jobs to help the teachers in the class.

BIRTHDAYS:

Birthdays are special days for young children. Please make sure to check on your child's class calendar for the date when your child's birthday will be celebrated at school. If you need to change the date that the birthday is being held on, please talk to your teachers. Edelweiss gives your child a birthday gift of a book and a birthday crown and we all sing "Happy Birthday" to your child on their special day. Please note that children with August birthdays will be celebrated in September and children with July birthdays will be celebrated in June so that each child will have a "birthday" at school. **We do not accept birthday snacks for the class on your child's birthday.**

ACCIDENTS & INCIDENTS:

Even in the highest quality schools, accidents can and do happen as children explore the world around them. Whether in our care or yours, scratches, skinned knees, bumps and bruises are a natural part of growing up. Many precautions are taken to ensure a safe environment. If an incident of injury occurs, first aid is administered and a report is filled out and a copy is given to you. When you pick up your child or sooner, we will let you know about any incidents/accidents that your child may have had during the class. Please understand that in a group care setting, we do witness most incidents, but occasionally there may be an incident which we do not see. Our teachers simply cannot be expected to see everything. There are limits to what is seen in a group care setting. If we deem, the incident/accident to be of a more urgent concern to you, we will contact you by phone at the first possible opportunity. If we cannot reach you right away, we will contact the person you designated as your Emergency Contact person. It is your responsibility to keep all emergency phone numbers up-to-date. If we deem it necessary to contact 9.1.1 you will be responsible for any medical or transportation fees incurred as a result of the incident/accident. We do not carry health insurance for the students at the school. We carry liability insurance.

EMERGENCY PLAN:

Because we strive to maintain a safe environment for your child, we make every attempt to be prepared to handle emergency situations. All Edelweiss staff are certified in First Aid and CPR. It is required that we have a designated meeting place in the event we need to evacuate the building. In case of such an emergency, the teachers and children will gather at the Cambrian Heights Elementary School across the field at 640 Northmount Drive N.W. (403) 777-6150. Parents will be contacted. It is important that parents keep their contact information up to date and accurate with the office.

MANDATED REPORTING INFORMATION:

Teachers and Directors are required by law to report evidence of child neglect or abuse. Those who fail to report according to provincial regulations can be held accountable under the law. No one, including school management and/or a child's parents can interfere with this reporting requirement.

FIRE DRILLS:

Monthly fire drills are required to provide safety and protection for children and staff. The drills enable students to practice how to recognize and respond to signals, listen to and follow specific directions and walk quietly outside the school building for a brief period of time, weather permitting. If weather is not permitting, then the children walk to the door inside and we explain that it is too cold but if it was not a practice time then we would go outside. The Calgary Fire Department makes annual inspections as part of the provincial licensing regulations we adhere to.

UNIFORMS & CLOTHING

Please label all clothing with the Mabel's labels we provide you with. Edelweiss is not responsible for lost articles. Children are to wear uniforms purchased **ONLY** from Top Marks (www.topmarks.ca using the School Code: EDE01) at all times unless it is a special day marked on the calendar such as "Green Day" for St. Patrick's. On those days students can wear clothing of that colour as indicated on the calendar. **All children must wear non-marking, non-slippery shoes.** Indoor shoes can be left in your child's cubby if you prefer but please make sure they are clearly marked with your child's name on them. We have spare clothing for children who have an accident at school. If this happens to your child, please wash and return all items borrowed promptly to the school so they are available for other children as needed.

VOLUNTEERING and FIELD TRIPS:

Alberta Health has mandated no volunteers in schools and no field trips due to the ongoing Covid-19 situation.

ENROLLMENT & FEES:

All enrollment forms must be completed and up to date before your child may attend our school. Please inform us of any changes in addresses, work/home/cell phone numbers, places of employment or individuals authorized to pick up your child. Fees are withdrawn on the first banking day of each month from September through June. An NSF charge of \$25 is charged on all returned items from the bank. Please notify us of any changes in banking one week prior to the next withdrawal.

WITHDRAWAL:

This year, due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 we have lessened the cancellation period to a 30-day policy to cancel your child's registration (from the first of the month). Tuition fees will be charged in lieu of notice.

VIRTUE DAYS

Teachers implement a lesson to reinforce the virtue of the month for all Jr K/ Kindergarten classes. Virtues covered are: Sharing, Thankfulness, Giving and Generosity; Truthfulness/Honesty; Respect, Patience, Responsibility, Fairness, Kindness & Caring. Preschool children are taught the virtues on an ongoing basis.

AUTHOR DAYS

Every month the children learn about a children's author and we introduce the children to the author's literary works in addition to all our theme related books.

HOLIDAYS:

For the most part, Edelweiss Preparatory School follows the School Board holidays. All parents are given a list of holidays at the beginning of the school year and are reminded in monthly newsletters. It is also posted on the school website under Calendar.

SCHOOL PHOTOS



We will have one outdoor photo session in the fall and one in the spring. In the fall the students will be in their uniforms for individual and class photos and in the Spring the Jr K children will be in cap and gowns for graduation. Photos are taken by Frank Wong of Kid's Photo School Photography. These are optional for parents to purchase.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENT

Edelweiss is committed to having eco-healthy practices as a commitment to improving the environmental and developmental health of the children at Edelweiss. As part of this commitment we have become the first school in Alberta to receive certification as an ECO Healthy Child Care facility through the Oregon Environmental Council who is certifying centres worldwide. It's well documented that many illnesses (e.g., asthma, birth defects, learning disabilities, neurological problems and some childhood cancers) are linked to pollution and products we use every day. Children are particularly at risk because their bodies and organs are still developing and they have natural habits such as hand to mouth behaviour and crawling on the floor that increases their exposure to toxins. Many environmentally-related illnesses have grown at alarming rates in recent years and are of unique concern because they are preventable. By becoming Eco-certified, Edelweiss is helping to provide an environmentally healthy setting for your child to learn and grow in. Also, in recognition of the need to provide a healthy learning environment at Edelweiss, we have two "state-of-the-art" air purification systems in the classrooms. The units are the only F.D.A. recognized Class II Medical Device air purifiers on the market today. They constantly purify the air, going beyond HEPA standards (.3 microns) to capture 99.97% of airborne particles .1 microns and larger.

ENVIRONMENTAL THEMES:

Edelweiss has a monthly theme to teach children about our environment. Our Jr K environmental themes are as follows:

What is our environment; Introduction to Recycling at School; Transportation Choices; Saving Power; Reusing; Reducing; Water Conservation; Recycling; Respect for Nature; Composting

Recycling Program



We pay for a recycling bin in our parking lot. We teach children to put recyclable products into their respective containers in the classrooms. We also have compost containers for compostable items from children's snacks. There is also an "Edelweiss Green Corner" in the hallway for parents and others to use.

Spanish Program



The children in our school have a wonderful opportunity to learn Spanish as a second language. The JrK/K Spanish Program at Edelweiss is designed to be a fun learning experience for our students. The Preschool children will be taught some basic Spanish in the Spring such as colours and numbers to give them a start for the following year.

SPANISH LESSONS:

The JrK/K children are taught Spanish weekly. The children receive a 15-minute lesson every week. Teaching methods utilize songs, storytelling, pictures and hands-on activities/games to expose the children to the target language in a natural way. Through songs, games, finger plays, movement and literature the students are motivated and introduced to the Spanish language. The Spanish program focuses on subjects the children are familiar with: greeting, colors, numbers, body parts, animals, and theme related vocabulary, etc.

Music and Creative Movement Program



If your child loves to sing and move the Edelweiss Music Program will meet that need.

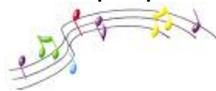
MUSIC LESSONS: The students receive a Music lesson once a week. This lesson is usually based on the theme covered but also includes body awareness songs, practice on various rhythm instruments, movement activities, finger plays and an introduction to classical music.

INSTRUMENTS:

The children are introduced to a variety of rhythm instruments during the Music lessons. Lessons contain an instrument portion where the children are encouraged to play along with a song that is being sung, or to recorded music.

CREATIVE MOVEMENT:

The children are encouraged to move to and feel the music using their bodies, scarves, rhythmic ribbons and various props.



Gym Program/Physical Education



Edelweiss has a large, bright area and a wide variety of gym equipment that the children are introduced to. The Physical Education program is non-competitive in focus. The approach is child-centered with movement in the core. Children are encouraged to challenge themselves and progress at their own rate. This year children will have daily gym time outside as much as possible with weather permitting.

GYM LESSONS:

The children receive a gym lesson every day. The program is uniquely adapted to the needs and interests of the children at this age. During gym time, children start with warm up exercises, and then proceed to games and/or skill-based activities using equipment followed by cool down exercises. Through a series of cooperative games, students develop a sense of body awareness, good body aesthetics and body mechanics, sportsmanship, teamwork, cooperation and an appreciation of and respect for the rights of others. Weather permitting, we will be going outside for gym time so parents need to send outerwear and footwear to suit the weather of the day.

GYM EQUIPMENT:

The equipment is used separately by each cohort (class) and sterilized afterwards. The varied equipment encourages the development of a variety of skills.



Art Program

The Art Program is a well-rounded program, which provides for a variety of experiences with a multitude of media. Our goal is to develop an appreciation of art, while encouraging children to express their creativity and individuality. Children use: paper, fabric, glue, wool, paint, pasta, glitter, wooden shapes, stamps, stencils, rubbing plates, foil, feathers, foam shapes and many other materials to create theme-based crafts and free art activities.

Children are encouraged to create pictures/paintings related to the theme or to paint freely. The teacher then asks the child about their picture and records a caption of what the child has said about his/her creation. Each child has their own art supplies and they are not used by any other child.

The children also complete a number of gift items and seasonal art activities such as Christmas gifts, Mother's Day gifts, Father's Day gifts, etc. for parents.

Science Program



The Science Program at Edelweiss is one of the "favorites" amongst the children.

SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS:

As students are introduced to Science, they will use all of their senses to begin learning how to observe and describe what they sense or see. Mr. Walter, also known as "CAPTAIN SCIENCE" does weekly Science Experiments with the children. They will learn through a variety of hands-on experiences and will be involved whenever possible to add ingredients, mix solutions, etc. They will develop the skills of asking questions, gathering information and communicating findings. For every Science Experiment there is an email that describes "Today in Science we did..." to encourage children to discuss the experiment with their parents and try it at home if they wish.



SCIENCE CENTRES:

Edelweiss has a large array of Science manipulatives and displays for the children. These items are set out for children to experiment with freely during center time and are usually related to the theme. By providing materials for them to explore and manipulate, the children can experiment and discover with gentle guidance from their teachers.

CRITTERS AT SCHOOL:

We have a classroom pet, Hazel the Hedgehog who is on sabbatical during Covid-19. Throughout the year the children will experience various "live guests" coming to Science time. They will include caterpillars transforming to butterflies, earthworms, lady bugs and maybe some more surprises. There is also a small claw toed frog that resides in the school office on the desk of Captain Science. His name is Tilton the Frog.



Math Program

The Math Program at Edelweiss introduces many basic concepts to the children and allows them to discover math concepts during center time. Our math program uses hands on activities to reinforce basic math skills. We integrate Math into our calendar, literature and art activities and we also try to incorporate math skills into other areas of our curriculum. We play weekly games in groups, and the main goal of the program is to allow the children to have fun while learning. The Throughout the year, the children practice printing numerals. The activity involves identifying the number, recognizing the concept of the number in quantity and practicing to print the numeral.



MATH CENTRES

With a large variety of math manipulatives, the Math Centre is changed on a weekly basis. Here the children are encouraged to learn and discover with hands on activities.

CALENDAR MATH

The monthly calendar is introduced to the JrK/K students. The children are exposed to a number of mathematical concepts during this time. We emphasize patterning, number recognition, number writing, problem solving and place value.



LITERACY PROGRAM

WORK BOOKS:

The JrK/Kindergarten children complete an award-winning curriculum called Learning Without Tears (www.lwtears.com) throughout the year to develop their printing skills and letter and number awareness. LWT uses fun, entertaining and educationally sound instructional methods to teach handwriting to all students. Children complete a page for each letter and number in their LWT book while the LWT activities are introduced. The books are kept at school and parents can see the child's progress at our reporting sessions. The Preschool children do a different ABC/123 printing and art activity throughout the year and will be introduced fully to LWT in their Jr Kindergarten year.

JOLLY PHONICS:

The Preschool and Jr K children learn phonemic awareness through the use of the Jolly Phonics program (www.jollylearning.co.uk) where children learn an action associated with each sound. It is a fun and action-oriented way to learn.

JR. KINDERGARTEN JOURNALS:

The children in the Jr K/K work on completing a journal entry based on the Learning Without Tears "Mat Man" character. Children bring the beloved Mat Man character to life with the Mat and Wood Pieces. This interactive activity helps

young learners develop body awareness, drawing skills, socialization, and number awareness. We recognize that children are all at varying levels with fine motor/drawing skills and we encourage each child's best effort.

JR. KINDERGARTEN HOME READING:

JrK children begin their Home Reading Program in March 2021 whereas the 5 Day Kindergarten program children begin their Home Reading program in January 2021. Children are encouraged to read with parents at home and to return the book when they are ready. There is no competition encouraged with returning books. Children should feel relaxed and "read" at their pace. Parents are given a handout to help teach reading strategies with their child.

DAILY STORY TIME:

Story time occurs at closing circle and gives the children the opportunity to develop listening skills and it promotes strategies to predict events, characters actions and conclusions. Teachers use a variety of storytelling techniques such as flannel board stories, draw and tell stories, cut and tell stories and puppets.

Fine Motor Skills



DEVELOPING FINE MOTOR SKILLS:

Fine motor skills can be defined as small muscle movements: those that occur in the finger, in coordination with the eyes. Fine motor skills will develop with time and practice.

FINE MOTOR ACTIVITIES:

Activities that involve the use of manipulatives will support young children's fine motor development and will help to build the strength and dexterity necessary to hold a pencil appropriately. These are offered through the year such as:

- modeling clay, plasticine, play dough
- drawing in sensory salt trays
- lacing and beading activities
- playing with finger puppets and doing finger plays

- scissor activities
- tracing activities
- tearing and crumpling activities



Theme Work

Edelweiss changes its themes school-wide several times a month. This keeps the children interested & makes learning fun. Themes are listed on the monthly calendars. Classroom materials, books and centres are changed to reflect the themes. The children complete art activities, hear stories, sing songs, explore at centres etc. based on the following themes to reinforce their learning.

SEPTEMBER

All About Me
My Senses

OCTOBER

Fall
Thanksgiving
Safety

Halloween

NOVEMBER

My World
Transportation
Outer Space

DECEMBER

Fairy Tales
Christmas

JANUARY

Winter
Penguin Day
Arctic Animals

FEBRUARY

Jungle /Forest Animals
Valentine's Day

MARCH

Dinosaurs
St. Patrick's Day

APRIL

Under the Sea
Spring
Earth Day

MAY

Mother's Day
Bugs, Birds and
Butterflies
Teddy Bear Picnics

JUNE

Father's Day
The Farm

SCHOOL CONTACT/SOCIAL MEDIA INFORMATION:

Phone: (403)282-4220
 Fax: (403)282-3991
 Email: epschool@telus.net
 Website: www.epschool.ca
 Instagram: Edelweiss_Prep_School
 Facebook: www.facebook.com/epschool
 Twitter: @EdelweissPrepa1

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS PAGE TO STATE THAT YOU HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND WILL ADHERE TO THE POLICIES OF THE EDELWEISS PARENT HANDBOOK.

EDELWEISS PREPARATORY SCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK POLICY

I, _____ have read, understand and will adhere
Print Parent First and Last Name

to the policies in the 2020/2021 Edelweiss Preparatory School Parent Handbook.

I understand that this an Alberta Children's Services Licensing requirement and I will return this form to the school office for their files.

Parent Signature: _____

Parent's Printed Name: _____

Date: _____

You can email this form to the school at epschool@telus.net

Thank-you!!!