



*That all students may know  
Christ and share their faith, living  
it out daily as they become  
successful learners*

## KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM SPANNING JK AND SK AT BURLINGTON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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For the past 40 years Burlington Christian Academy has offered strong academic programs in a loving, nurturing, and Christian environment dedicated to individual learning. We offer a state of the art facility nestled on 7.5 acres in north Burlington. Our facility offers a high school sized gymnasium and have recently added a rubber surface play ground in our fenced in Kindergarten yard. Here is what you can expect in our Kindergarten program.

### **Learning Expectations**

All of our learning experiences are based on the curriculum expectations set out in the Ministry of Education document for Kindergarten and the Edvance Christian Schools document.

#### **Bible**

During the daily Bible story time, the children will learn about God's love for them, His faithfulness, and learn the importance of trusting in God themselves. They are also encouraged to pray aloud for others, and to sing praise songs with actions. There will be a memory verse to learn every week which will be tested every Friday. Daily review with actions assists the children in memorizing the verses. The children will work on a related Bible activity or craft at the end of the week. The Bible curriculum is based on *Purposeful Design by the Association of Christian Schools International*.

## Language

Our language program follows the FOUR BLOCKS approach to language: Shared reading (poems, charts, rhymes), Guided reading (Phonics pages, booklets), Independent reading (own choice of books), and Printing skills (proper formation of letters, words, sentences). These individual components are also incorporated in all the above areas of language study:

Phonemic awareness activities (focus on sound), Phonics (sound/symbol connection, patterns), and Printing. Phonemic Awareness activities help to develop listening skills, rhyming, and an understanding of how sounds are joined together to create words. The children learn the

names and sounds of letters, their partner letters, and the correct formation of letters. The program includes the use of book bags for independent reading as well as 'I Can Read' booklets of our weekly rhymes for the SK students. There are daily opportunities to explore language through a variety of games, listening centres, and computer programs. JK students will focus on one letter per week, and then participate in Jolly Phonics activities. Kindergarten students will be paired up with a student in an older primary grade for a weekly *Reading Buddy* program.

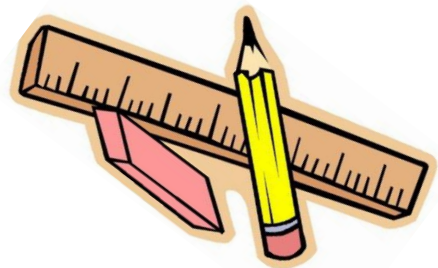


Kindergarten students receive **French** language instruction each week.

## Science and Technology

We have a wonderful Science program. The teaching and concepts learned are reinforced through learning centres where the children will take part in a variety of activities and work in small groups. Students use iPads and chrome books to enhance their learning of various topics. Units taught incorporate other subject areas through the use of learning centres to explore and enhance learning. The following are the topics of study:

- My Body (external parts, internal parts, five senses) JK/SK
- Health, Safety, Nutrition JK/SK
- Weather JK/SK
- My Community & Country JK/SK
- Life Cycles & Habitats (animals, insects/spiders, plants) JK/SK
- Magnets and Space JK only
- Construction SK only



A variety of resources are used, including thematic lesson plan resource books from Scholar's Choice. Lessons are taught from a Biblical perspective as we observe and explore the awesome world God has created.

Parents and community members with skills or expertise in the above mentioned areas are invited to present to the class. We would love to have you!

## Math

The Math program incorporates many games, songs, manipulatives, and activities taught through the Jump Math curriculum designed for JK students and the Nelson Math curriculum designed for SK students. The following are topics covered: Number Sense, Graphing, Probability, Patterning, Measurement and Spatial Sense, Geometry, and Life Connections. The children learn the value of numbers and to problem solve both independently and in group settings.



The curriculum includes many resources including charts, posters, handouts, music, and the use of manipulatives, crafts and games to cover the various units.

## Health and Physical Education

Kindergarten students participate in Physical Education (PE) taught by a PE teacher in our large soccer field (fall and spring) and state of the art gymnasium. The children are expected to wear running shoes to join in the activities (Velcro, if laces are a challenge).

## The Arts



### Visual Arts

Students work throughout the year on fine motor skills of cutting, drawing, colouring, painting and tracing. The children learn to use colour, space, and detail in their pictures. They work with a variety of materials and textures such as craft foam, sewing, construction, weaving and lacing. In JK projects relate to the calendar of events; Easter, Fall, Spring. In SK projects relate to the monthly Science topic.

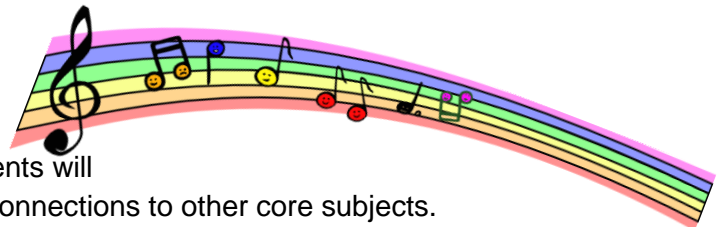
### Drama

There are many opportunities for the use of expression and imagination through drama, dress-up, and creation of students' own stories, play, and music, including a chapel presentation when Kindergarten students perform in front of the student body.

### Music

We use the *MUSICPLAY* program by Denise Gagne to teach the elements of music: beat, rhythm, melody, expression, and listening. Students will develop music theory skills, as well as building connections to other core subjects.

Music is also a great opportunity to learn fun silly songs and practice our worship singing as a group.





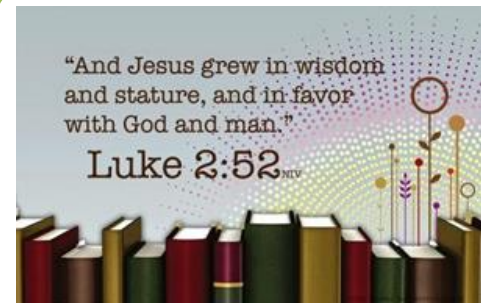
*“Play is a vehicle for learning and lies at the core of innovation and creativity. It provides opportunities for learning in a context in which children are at their most receptive. Play and academic work are not distinct categories for young children, and learning and doing are also inextricably linked for them.” - Full Day Kindergarten Curriculum Document (pg. 13)*



## Classroom Management and Routines

### **Classroom Management – A Restorative Approach to Learning**

At Burlington Christian Academy we promote positive behaviour. Children are motivated by much praise and encouragement. We have a Peace Tree in our SK classroom. The children are encouraged to use ‘Peace Tree’ words and actions (words that build up not tear down). We want to make Jesus proud by the words that come out of our mouth (please, thank you, sorry, you can play with us, etc.), and through the way we treat others and the things in our room. Reinforcement for good choices will be in many forms: verbal praise, applause, stamps, and stickers. If wrong choices persist, the child is asked to go to the Thinking Chair. As the children are told, it is not the chair that needs to do the thinking! When they can tell their teacher why they were asked to go to the Thinking Chair and what they will do to make a better change, they are welcome to leave the thinking chair. Respect and good manners are essential for children to learn. Logical consequences will follow wrong choices. For example, if a student draws on the table they will be given a cloth to wash it off. These values will be reinforced many times through songs, stories, devotions, and drama. The children will learn much about God’s grace and unconditional love.



### **During the Day**

The bell rings every morning at 8:45 a.m. and your child will line up with their classmates and be led inside by a teacher. Upon arrival, the children will hang up their jackets and backpacks after emptying their back pack of notes, return their communication folder to its’ home in their mailbox, retrieve a book from our book baskets or enjoy a centre activity. Students will stand for

O Canada and the Lord's prayer every morning. Following the morning exercises students will tidy up their activity or books and meet at the carpet for daily calendar. A King or Queen is chosen for the day. This title holds special privileges for the day!

## **Personal and Social Development**

We encourage social, personal, and emotional growth and learning through interactions with others every day in both academic and play based learning environments.

### **Show and Share**

Each student will have an opportunity to take part in Show and Share one day each week. The schedule will be posted outside the classroom. Students may bring one or two items. Please coach your child about what they could talk about when they show their items. No violent figures are to be brought in. Toys from home are only permissible for your child's designated Show & Share time.

### **Field Trips**

To extend children's learning about topics studied, the Kindergarten classes may include a trip to one or two of the following places throughout the year: Frootogo (apple orchard), Westfield Heritage Village, Springridge Farm, Battlefield House, Bronte Creek, and Mountsberg. The Kindergarten class will also visit and perform at a Retirement Home as part of a service project in the winter. Visits to the local Public Library, ice skating, and six weeks of Gymnastics at Gym Magic Club in Burlington are also part of our Kindergarten experience.



### **School of the Arts (SOTA) – Private and semi-private music lessons**

Music is essential to the development of a young child's mind in all areas--reading, writing, math, comprehension, extension, imagination, and fine motor skill. . Here at BCA, we offer the opportunity for children to begin private music lessons in a caring, nurturing, and fun environment. The School of the Arts offers private music lessons in voice, piano, violin, guitar, drums, trumpet, clarinet, flute, and saxophone during the school day (one less lesson to drive to after school!). Our teachers are experts in their areas, and all are experienced music educators. Lesson fees can be used towards the Ontario Arts credit. Come explore the world of music with us!

Kindergarten! ... here I come!

