

Curriculum Night



DRAMA

“Drama gives children the opportunity to view life from the inside of a story.”

- Louise Thistle author of *Dramatizing Myths*

The Jackman ICS Drama Program is designed to stimulate the imagination of students while encouraging the growth of artistic and collaborative skills. Students learn to accept the viewpoints and contributions of classmates as they collaborate on stories that become the basis for Drama works. Conflict is developed, the thoughts and feelings of characters are explored, and language skills are enhanced at every stage in this process. Drama challenges students to effectively communicate their ideas, and later, to communicate the ideas of fictional characters.

NURSERY

The Nursery Program consists of many imagined trips to places that provide the children with interesting shapes, sounds, and geographical features. Through dance and creative movement, the children explore each location, and interpret what they see. Storytelling is a strong component of the Program, and children are often asked to combine music and pantomime to convey the ideas and feelings of an imagined character. Spontaneity and humour ensure that this introduction to collaborative theatre is a joyous one!

JK

The JK Drama Program encourages children to explore the objects, creatures, and landscapes, of imagined worlds and the real one. Make-believe trips, folk tales, and feelings, inspire the children to create tableaux, mythical creatures, machines, magical objects, and many spontaneous dances. Themes like Birds, Bugs, and Creatures of the Ocean, challenge the JKs to reflect on and interpret the wonders of the natural world.

SK

SK Drama emphasizes the elements of Physical Theatre: pantomime, gesture, creative movement, and dance. The concept of “feelings” is integral to the Program, and children learn to combine them with the physical characteristics of imagined characters. Later, feelings are expressed verbally through spontaneous monologues, gibberish, and sound sequences. SK students work together to create machines, abstract shapes, tableaux, and many strikingly imaginative creatures.

GRADE 1

The Grade 1 students continue to explore physical theatre, but there is now a greater emphasis on vocal work and collaboration. In small groups, children learn to exchange and accept story ideas that are performed as a series of tableaux with accompanying monologues. The Grade 1s are challenged to create their own characters and to present the feelings and ideas of those characters through group monologues, dialogue, and pantomime.

GRADE 2

In small groups, the Grade 2s learn to collaborate on stories presented as a series of tableaux, and later, as a sketch with dialogue. Monologues give students an opportunity to explore narrative and perspective as they give voice to the characters they have crafted. Role playing is integral to the Program, and film and literary genres, works of art, props, and costume pieces, inspire some powerful and unforgettable characters.

GRADE 3

The Grade 3 students collaborate on stories that become the basis for tableaux, sketches, advertisements, silent film pantomimes, and monologues. These stories inspire many imaginative characters with well-defined feelings and unique perspectives. Drama works are enhanced by the addition of costumes, props and music, and students regularly take turns as performers and audience members.

GRADE 4

In Grade 4, students refine their understanding of characterization and narrative by creating Drama works that provide character histories. Treasured objects, costume pieces, memories, and secrets, are revealed through monologues that help each performer establish motives, gestures, and values. We are introduced to protagonists at different points in their lives, and we see how they interact with each other.

GRADE 5

The Grade 5s are learning to organize their collaborative storylines into dramatic works that emphasize plot, narrative, characters, and conflict. Genres, tropes, and stock characters are explored as students experiment with the most and least effective ways to tell a story. Monologues give students an opportunity to share their character's perspectives and to provide a contrast with other characters. The question of "who is telling the story?" invites discussion about representation in film and theatre.

GRADE 6

The Grade 6 Drama Program emphasizes the structure of dramatic works. The role of conflict is explored again and again as students experiment with mood and tension. Whether students are focusing on an allegorical story or a cozy mystery, the challenge is to present well organized, engaging pieces, with clearly defined characters and dialogue that moves the plot forward. The Grade 6 Drama year culminates in the Graduation Play which provides students with an opportunity to display the artistic and collaborative skills acquired over the years.

