

## **Library Program**

### **Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study Lab School**

The JICS students visit the Dr. William Blatz Children's Library on a weekly basis. Stories are shared aloud to help the students develop a joy of reading. Exploring a variety of texts, learning about authors and illustrators, applying critical thinking practices, exploring how to access various resources, and developing digital citizenship skills are incorporated into Library Program.

As in the rest of the school, the Library Program strives to provide security, opportunities for student inquiry, celebrate diversity, and is grounded in a developmental approach. The library is a space where students can learn through voices, stories and topics that will inform their perspectives and understanding of the world. Topics of focus are often connected to the time of year, ensuring that there are shared experiences and information shared about the seasons and within cultural contexts.

JICS is deeply committed to ensuring that each student has the opportunity to see elements of their own intersectional identities represented in the texts. Students often respond to stories read in the library by sharing elements of their own lives, including special foods they eat, languages they speak and other experiences they have. All contributions are celebrated and honoured. The discussions are rich and vary with every group. The library is a space where we often end up grappling with important questions about the world!

The JICS Library is funded primarily through fund-raisers that are held each year, a 'Book Night' just before the holidays, and a 'Read-A-Thon' that runs later in the spring. These funds help us to buy a wide variety of books, many from Independent Bookstores, such as Queen Books, Another Story, and Knowledge Bookstore. We also use these funds to support visits from authors, illustrators, artists and story-tellers. We are so grateful for the support of families and students to grow our collection and to bring all voices into our spaces, whether virtually or in person.

If you have any suggestions for books that your family loves, or that you think should be included in our library, please email Krista at [krista.spence@utoronto.ca](mailto:krista.spence@utoronto.ca)