PS1,PS2,Kindergarten, and Grade One Curriculum Overview

2011-2012

PS/K/1 Team Philosophy Statement: Preschool through First Grade represents a wide developmental range. These are critical years in which each student learns to function as a positive, respectful group member and begins to master a variety of skills that form a foundation for a lifetime of learning. We strive to guide students through this exciting period of growth by providing engaging learning experiences, individualized attention and encouragement. Our goal is for each student to leave first grade with a healthy self-concept and a deep love of learning and school.

	PS1 Experience	PS2 Experience
Inter-Disciplinary Units of Study	Monarch butterflies, We are all alike, We are all different, Garden, Colors, Winter, Inuit, Ocean, Dinosaurs.	Shapes, Colors, Sunflowers, Bears, Nursery Rhymes, East Africa, Water, Frogs, Bees, Feelings, Health/Hospital.
Critical Skills Developed Across the Curriculum	Appreciating books, Developing self-confidence, Following directions, Being a positive, respectful group member, Seeing patterns, Making observations, Listening, and Developing self-help skills.	Intrapersonal communication; interpersonal communication; taking turns; cooperation; conflict resolution; critical thinking; self-help skills; fine motor skills.

Subject Area Highlights

Language Arts	**Overarching Question:** *How can we share our ideas and feelings effectively?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Class discussion, Class books, Shared reading, Individual or partner reading, and Acting out stories as a group. **Key Skills Taught:** Learning to wait our turn, raise our hands and speak clearly and on topic, Becoming comfortable sharing ideas with adults and peers in large groups and one-on-one, Learning to express overwhelming feelings calmly, Using words which are clear and understandable, Practicing pre-writing and pre-reading skills, Feeling empowered as authors, Celebrating letters, and Celebrating our skills by writing and reading together.	**Overarching Question:** *How can we express our ideas?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Group time; shared reading; independent book time; class books; Writing Center **Key Skills Taught:** Listening; speaking; story telling, expressing ideas; conventions of print; alphabet knowledge; printing; cutting; representational drawing.
Library	**Overarching Question:** *How does the library help us to learn?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Read aloud time, Concepts of author, title and illustrator, Winter, Ocean, and Dinosaurs. **Key Skills Taught:** Developing personal responsibility, Listening, Discovering an early appreciation for books, Finding and caring for books, and Practicing social interactions.	**Overarching Question:** *How does the library enrich our lives?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Read aloud time, Concepts of fiction and nonfiction, Biography, Africa study, Fall, Winter, and Spring. **Key Skills Taught:** Practicing personal responsibility, Listening, Developing a love of books, and Finding and caring for books.

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	PS1 Experience	PS2 Experience
Mathematics	**Overarching Question:** *How do we as mathematicians experience the world around us?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Estimation, Patterns, Number recognition, Shapes, Manipulatives, Graphing, Measuring, Counting. **Key Skills Taught:** Noticing patterns and shapes, Using blocks to experiment with number, shape, weight and balance, Beginning to recognize number symbols, Practicing counting, Sorting, and Sequencing.	**Overarching Question:** *How do we as mathematicians experience the world around us?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Numbers; shapes; spatial relations; mathematical reasoning; mathematical vocabulary. **Key Skills Taught:** Counting; quantifying; sorting; pattern recognition and production; measuring; graphing; estimation; problem solving.
Music & Movement	**Overarching Questions:** *What does it mean to work in a group? How can I enjoy music and movement fully?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Colors, Animals, Seasons, Celebrations, Community-building songs, Instruments, Drumming, Creative movement, and Folk songs from around the world. **Key Skills Taught:** Following directions and focusing on new learning, Reproducing rhythm patterns, Combining singing and movement, and Being a respectful and kind group member.	**Overarching Questions:** *How can I be a cooperative group member? How can I build on my musical experiences to increase my enjoyment of music and movement?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Colors, Animals, Seasons, Celebrations, Community-building songs, Drumming, and Folk songs from around the world. **Key Skills Taught:** Following directions and focusing on new learning, Using and appreciating instruments, Making connections with past learning, and Being a respectful and kind group member.
Physical Education	**Overarching Question:** *How can we control and move our bodies and manipulate equipment and have fun?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Self space, General space, Body parts, Creative movement, Rhythm, Locomotor movement, Jumping and landing, Rolling, Balance, Relationship of body to equipment, Games, and Bike Riding. **Key Skills Taught:** Traveling safely, Learning class routines and cooperation, Galloping, Sliding, Leaping, Balancing on equipment, Climbing, Moving to music, Moving expressively, Throwing, and Catching and striking a ball with an implement.	**Overarching Question:** *How can we effectively control and move our bodies and manipulate equipment?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Community building games, Relationship of body parts to space, Directions, Levels, Locomotor and non-locomotor movement concepts, Games, Colors, Shapes, Numbers, Animals, Tumbling. **Key Skills Taught:** Following directions, Being a kind and respectful group member, Galloping, Sliding, Jogging, Running, Jumping, Hopping and landing, Balancing, Rolling, Climbing, Transferring weight, Tossing and catching, Striking, and Dribbling.
Science	**Overarching Question:** *What exciting things exist in the world around us?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Science tools, The natural world, Sense experiments, Webbing, Plant, animal, and insect experiments, Ocean, Winter, and Dinosaurs. **Key Skills Taught:** Making observations and describing those observations, Using magnifying glasses and scales, Gaining an appreciation for the natural world, Recognizing similarities and differences, and Learning about the "ask, guess, test, tell" method of scientific inquiry.	**Overarching Question:** *How do we as scientists experience the world around us?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Plants; seasonal and life cycles (sunflowers, frogs, bees); sand; water, East African habitat and animals; health, human, bodies, and the hospital. Scientific process; use of scientific equipment; collaboration; cooperation.

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	PS1 Experience	PS2 Experience
Social Development	**Overarching Question:** *How can I learn and get along with my classmates?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Class routines to establish community, Independent work and play time, Social learning, Conflict resolution, and Class constitution. **Key Skills Taught:** Feeling a connection to the class community, Feeling safe, accepted, and appreciated at school, Beginning to take responsibility for learning, Taking responsibility for appropriate behavior, Managing social relations with cooperation, self-advocacy, and empathy, Appreciating peers and treating them respectfully, and Working productively and supportively with partners or in groups.	**Overarching Question:** *How can I learn and get along with my classmates?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Class routines; choicetime; whole group/small group times; role play; recess. **Key Skills Taught:** Intrapersonal and interpersonal communication; conflict resolution; cooperation; self-advocacy.
Social Studies	**Overarching Questions:** *How can we celebrate our similarities and our differences? How can we become experts on the habitat and the culture of its people? How can we celebrate our class, our school and our campus?* **Sampling of Topics of Study** School, Friends, Family, Holidays, Inuit culture, Animals and their environment, and Environmental awareness. **Key Skills Taught:** Becoming aware of others, Learning to be a positive group member, Understanding people who live differently than we do, Finding ways to reach out to those in our community and in the larger world, Communicating with simple sign language, and Recognizing similarities and differences.	**Overarching Question:** *How can we work together and develop as a community? How do we nurture self-confidence and respect for others?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Families; similarities and differences, sign language; feelings; East Africa: people and animals, geography; social responsibility; third grade buddies. **Key Skills Taught:** Intrapersonal communication; interpersonal communication; critical thinking**.**
Technology	**Overarching Question:** *How do I become comfortable with computers?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Colors, Shapes, Letters, and Numbers. **Key Skills Taught:** Developing patience, Respecting the equipment, Recognizing shapes, letters, numbers and colors, and Becoming comfortable with the mouse, the keyboard, and printing.	**Overarching Question:** *How do I become comfortable with computers?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Colors, Shapes, Letters, Numbers and Patterns. **Key Skills Taught:** Problem solving, Recognizing patterns and differences, Opening and closing software programs, Printing, and Using the keyboard for names and inventive spelling.
Visual Art	**Overarching Question:** *What do we need to learn to use the art studio and materials in a safe manner?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Painting, Mixing colors, Gluing, Texture, Sculpture, Collage, Printing **Key Skills Taught:** Introduction and exploration of materials- paint, glue, clay, paper, scissors. Recognizing and using shapes and forms. Using materials safely and moving safely in the studio, Following directions, and creating multistep projects.	**Overarching Question:** *How can we investigate and learn the differences and similarities between various materials and processes?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Murals, Sculpture, Gluing, Collage, Printing, and Painting. **Key Skills Taught:** Using and understanding what materials can do, Learning painting procedures, Recognizing and using shapes, forms, and colors, Printing on fabric, Exploring connecting materials, tape, staplers and glue. Following directions, creating multistep projects.

PS1,PS2,Kindergarten, and Grade One Curriculum Overview

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	Kindergarten Experience	Grade One Experience
Inter-Disciplinary Units of Study	Friendship, Families, Night Magic, Farms Around the World, The Rainforest, and Classroom themes reflecting interests of students.	Butterflies, China/Tibet, Greyhounds, Friendship and Family, Native Americans.
Critical Skills Developed Across the Curriculum	Reading, Writing, Developing personal responsibility, Developing a love of books, Participating in class discussions and morning meetings, Following directions, Problem solving, Negotiating differences, Making friends, Taking risks, and Building self-confidence.	Reading, Writing, Contributing to class activities and discussions, Measuring, Solving problems, Following directions, Making connections, Working with school materials, Asking questions, Developing a love of books, Making friends, and Taking risks.
Subject Area Highlights		
Language Arts	**Overarching Question:** *How do I learn to read, write and communicate?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Speaking and listening in a group, Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Songs, Read alouds, Shared reading and writing, Environmental print, Upper and lower case letter recognition and formation, Sound/symbol relationships, and Reading strategies of syntax, semantic, and graphophonic. **Key Skills Taught:** Phonemic awareness, Letter skills, Concepts about print, Listening skills, Beginning punctuation, Recognizing and writing high-frequency words, Recognizing common word families, Comprehending meaning of text, Book handling, Writing for communication, and Participating in discussions.	**Overarching Questions:** *How can I use what I know about reading to become a better reader? How can I find enjoyment and information in reading?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Creative writing, Daily reading groups, Word patterns, Author studies, Poetry, Handwriting, The Editing process, Spelling, Contractions, Compound words, and Journals. **Key Skills Taught:** Mastering consonant sounds, Differentiating short vowels, Appreciating word patterns, Building a sight word vocabulary, Anticipating story events, Forming lower case letters, Using punctuation and capitalization, Writing responses to literature, Participating in discussions, Following written and verbal instructions, Story mapping, Letter writing, and Conventional spelling.
Library	**Overarching Question:** *How does the library enrich our lives?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Read alouds, Finding books and materials, Concept of author, title and illustrator, and Sharing of favorite pages. **Key Skills Taught:** Developing personal responsibility, Locating books and materials, Listening, and Early appreciation for books and reading.	**Overarching Question:** *How does the library enrich our lives?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Finding and selecting books and other materials, Read alouds, Holidays, Truth, and Social action. **Key Skills Taught:** Locating books by the Dewey Decimal System, Sharing, Listening, and Selecting appropriate books for 1st graders.

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	Kindergarten Experience	Grade One Experience
Mathematics	**Overarching Question:** *How can I use math to understand the world around me?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Estimation, Patterns, Symmetry, Graphing, Counting, Grouping, Number formation, Logic, Odds/Evens, Problem solving, Number operations, and Introduction to place value. **Key Skills Taught:** Sorting, Classifying, Comparing, Counting, Forming numbers, Recognizing and continuing patterns, Interpreting graphs and Venn diagrams, Weighing objects, Introduction to monetary values, Geometric shapes, Problem solving, and Participating in discussions.	**Overarching Question:** *Where do we find and use mathematical concepts?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Patterns, Measurement, Time, Money sense, Classification, Attributes, Geometry, Symmetry, Counting, Creating and reading graphs, Data collection and interpretation, Word problems, Place value, Probability and statistics, Number sense and operations, Estimation, Logic, Problem solving, Fractions, Spatial sense, and Algebra. **Key Skills Taught:** Estimating, predicting, and measuring time and weight, Recording and interpreting data, Counting by rote, Reading and writing numbers, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and division, Introducing fractions, Place value, Money - recording, counting, and making change, Identifying solid shapes, Using a straight-edge to make line segments, Constructing and identifying polygons, Sorting groups by attributes, and Developing and communicating problem solving strategies.
Music	**Overarching Question:** *How do we, as musicians, make music together as a group?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Musical pitch patterns, Rhythmic values and patterns, Songs, Musical games, folk dances, Keyboards, Listening to music. **Key Skills Taught:** Active participation, Reading simple patterns, Transferring patterns to instruments, Call-response singing, Orff instruments and keyboard playing.	**Overarching Question:** *How do we, as musicians, make music together, taking responsibility for leading a smaller group?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Musicianship, Elementary improvisation, Rudimental part-singing, playing Orff-instruments, Rhythmic & Melodic patterns, Listening to musical fairy tales, Songs about slavery, Songs from China, folk dances. **Key Skills Taught:** Singing in a group, Singing individually, Improvising, Working with a partner, Showing respect, and Taking responsibility.
Physical Education	**Overarching Question:** *How do I control movement through space?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Community building games, Movement concepts, Rhythm and Dance, Tumbling, Skill themes, and Rain-forest. **Key Skills Taught:** Following directions, Being a kind and respectful group member, Galloping, Sliding, Jogging, Running, Jumping, Hopping and Landing, Leaping, Balancing, Rolling, Climbing, Transferring Weight, Tossing & Catching, Striking, and Dribbling.	**Overarching Question:** *How can I combine movements and skills?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Traveling themes, Chase, flee and dodge themes, Kicking and punting, Rhythms and dance, Gymnastics, Fitness and wellness, Soccer, Basketball, and Volleyball skills. **Key Skills Taught:** Dribbling in soccer and basketball, Balancing, Rolling, Volleying, Jumping, Catching and throwing, and Striking with bats and hockey sticks.
Science	**Overarching Question:** *How do we, as scientists, learn about our world?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Five senses, Light, Sound, Weather, Levers, Worms, Insects, Soil, and Habitats. **Key Skills Taught:** Using science tools and data sheets, Testing ideas, Sharing results, Caring for live animals, and Classifying.	**Overarching Question:** *How do we, as scientists, learn about our world?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Digestion, Backyard Leaves, The Case of the Overflowing Flask, Wheels and Axles, Friction, Sinking and Floating, Density, Plants and Seeds, Flowers, and Ponds. **Key Skills Taught:** Using the scientific method (ask, guess, test, tell), Learning about taxonomy, Developing observation skills, Making predictions, Running experiments, Graphing measurements, Collecting and organizing data, and Participating in class discussions.

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	Kindergarten Experience	Grade One Experience
Social Development	**Overarching Question:** *How can I learn and get along with my classmates?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Class routines to establish community, Independent work and play time, Social learning, Conflict resolution, and Class constitution. **Key Skills Taught:** Feeling a connection to the class community, Feeling safe, accepted, and appreciated at school, Taking responsibility for learning, Taking responsibility for appropriate behavior, Managing social relations with cooperation, self-advocacy, and empathy, Appreciating peers and treating them respectfully, and Working productively and supportively with partners or in groups. Reaching out to others (at Nashoba Brooks School and beyond)	**Overarching Question:** *How can I learn and get along with my classmates?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Class routines to establish community, Independent work and play time, Social learning, Conflict resolution, and Class constitution, Service learning, Exposure to language, music, traditions, and aspects of different cultures. **Key Skills Taught:** Feeling a connection to the class community, Feeling safe, accepted, and appreciated at school, Beginning to take responsibility for learning, Taking responsibility for appropriate behavior, Managing social relations with cooperation, self-advocacy, and empathy, Appreciating peers and treating them respectfully, Working productively and supportively with partners or in groups, Developing respect for diversity, and Celebrating differences.
Social Studies	**Overarching Question:** *How can I learn about, respect and understand the experiences of others in the class, school and other places?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Family Traditions, Night, Ocean communities, Tropical forest, Farms Around the World, Seasonal activities. **Key Skills Taught:** Understanding and appreciating differences/diversity, Understanding and respecting the natural world, and Understanding that they can make a difference.	**Overarching Question:** *How do we work together? How does our school motto apply each day? How do we apply these concepts at home, at school, and in the broader world?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Community, Stereotypes, Geography, Cultures around the world, China, Native Americans, Greyhounds, Family Structure, Butterflies, Astronomy, and Outreach. **Key Skills Taught:** Cooperating as a group member, Interviewing, Writing, Collaborating, Reading nonfiction, Reporting, Creating maps with legends, and Appreciating diverse cultures and lifestyles.
Technology	**Overarching Question:** *How can we help children feel comfortable using a computer?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Basic computer information, Computer programs, Printing, The Digital camera, and Saving work. **Key Skills Taught:** Controlling the mouse, Loading and opening CD-ROMs, Recognizing letters and keys on the keyboard, Opening and quitting programs, Clicking and dragging, Problem solving, and Taking risks.	**Overarching Question:** *How can technology support and enhance student learning?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Geography, Math, Patterns, Puzzles, Language Arts, Insects, Astronomy, and Maps **Key Skills Taught:** Word processing, Using graphic tools, Introduction to keyboarding skills, Drawing with a computer, Mapping skills, Problem solving, Logo programming, Phonics, Reading and listening to stories on CD-ROMS.
Visual Art	**Overarching Questions:** *How do materials and methods shape the artistic process? How do we make our own aesthetic choices?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Self-concept, Color, Shape, Texture, Form, Collage, Murals, Painting, Drawing, Sculpture, Clay, and Sketchbooks. **Key Skills Taught:** Mixing and handling paints, Working with scissors, glue, tape, and staplers, Mixing media, Developing a sense of time in working on longer projects, Developing well-balanced structures, Shaping and handling clay, Developing fine motor and listening skills, Learning to use the choice area, Learning appropriate studio behavior, and Working collaboratively with peers, and Looking at art.	**Overarching Questions:** *How can we add depth to our work? How can we learn from one another in the art studio?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Self-concept and community building, Mark-making, Pattern, Color, Composition, Drawing, Printing, Craypas, Tempera and watercolor paint, Sculpture, Clay, and Sketchbooks. **Key Skills Taught:** Making aesthetic choices, Developing designs and adding detail to compositions, Sharing ideas and learning from one another, Working independently, Color mixing and theory, Drawing techniques, Identifying lines and shapes, Building strong and balanced structures, Using unexpected materials, Handling and shaping clay, Developing listening skills, Learning appropriate studio behavior, and Looking at art.

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PS/K/1 Team Philosophy Statement: Preschool through First Grade represents a wide developmental range. These are critical years in which each student learns to function as a positive, respectful group member and begins to master a variety of skills that form a foundation for a lifetime of learning. We strive to guide students through this exciting period of growth by providing engaging learning experiences, individualized attention and encouragement. Our goal is for each student to leave first grade with a healthy self-concept and a deep love of learning and school.

	PS1 Experience	PS2 Experience
Inter-Disciplinary Units of Study	Monarch butterflies, Garden, We are all Alike, We are all Different, Winter, Inuit, Ocean, Dinosaurs.	Names, Colors, Nursery Rhymes, Shapes, East Africa, Feelings, Hospital.
Critical Skills Developed Across the Curriculum	Appreciating books, Developing self-confidence, Listening and Following directions, Being a positive and respectful group member, Seeing patterns, Making observations, Foster a respect for nature, Develop self-help skills, and develop an appreciation for others.	Listening, Practicing personal responsibility, Contributing to class discussions and projects, Taking on leadership roles, Developing a love for books, and Appreciating other cultures.

Subject Area Highlights

Language Arts	**Overarching Question:** *How can we share our ideas and feelings effectively?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Class discussions, Class books, "Child of the Week" books, Shared reading, Individual or partner reading, and Acting out stories as a group. **Key Skills Taught:** Learning to wait our turn, raise our hands and speak clearly and on topic, Becoming comfortable sharing ideas with adults and peers in large groups and one-on-one, Learning to express overwhelming feelings calmly, using words which are clear and understandable, Practicing pre-writing and pre-reading skills, Feeling empowered as authors, Celebrating letters, and Celebrating our skills by writing and reading together.	**Overarching Question:** *How can we express our ideas?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Community building, Names, Friends, Nursery Rhymes, East Africa, People and Animals, Seasonal changes, Gardening, and Hospitals. **Key Skills Taught:** Learning to consider the feelings of others, Writing letters in first name, Beginning to coordinate finer muscles for writing and printing, Listening, Story telling, Looking up information in books, Writing letters and cards, Dramatizing stories and poems, Developing initial reading skills, Contributing to class conversations, and Expressing needs and ideas clearly to others.
Library	**Overarching Question:** *How does the library enrich our lives?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Concepts of author, title and illustrator, Stories of Butterflies, Garden, We Are All Alike, We Are All Different, Winter, Ocean, and Dinosaurs. **Key Skills Taught:** Developing personal responsibility, Practicing social interaction, Listening, Discovering an early appreciation for books, Finding and caring for books, and Learning to find information	**Overarching Question:** *How can stories help us understand the world?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Read aloud time, Concepts of fiction and nonfiction, Tadpoles, Bears, Africa study, Fall, Winter, and Spring, friends & inclusivity, feelings. **Key Skills Taught:** Practicing personal responsibility, Listening, Developing a love of books, and Finding and caring for books. Beginning of visual literacy-what can we learn from a picture

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	PS1 Experience	PS2 Experience
Mathematics	**Overarching Question:** *How do we as mathematicians experience the world around us?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Estimation, Patterns, Number recognition, Shapes, Manipulatives, Graphing, Measuring, Counting. **Key Skills Taught:** Noticing patterns and shapes, Using blocks to experiment with number, shape, weight and balance, Beginning to recognize number symbols, Practicing counting, Sorting, and Sequencing, Measuring using non-standard units	**Overarching Question:** *How do we as mathematicians experience the world around us?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Numbers, Shapes, Colors, Estimation, Graphing, Sorting, Patterns, Counting, Measuring, Massing, and Spatial relationships. **Key Skills Taught:** Recognizing basic shapes, Making comparisons and noting differences, Solving concrete problems in groups, Making patterns, Measuring, Using manipulatives, and Counting.
Music & Movement	**Overarching Questions:** *What does it mean to work in a group? How can I enjoy music and movement fully?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Colors, Animals, Seasons, Celebrations, Community-building songs, Instruments, Drumming, Creative movement, and Folk songs from around the world. **Key Skills Taught:** Following directions and focusing on new learning, Reproducing rhythm patterns, Combining singing and movement, and Being a respectful and kind group member.	**Overarching Questions:** *How can I be a cooperative group member? How can I build on my musical experiences to increase my enjoyment of music and movement?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Colors, Animals, Seasons, Celebrations, Community-building songs, Drumming, and Folk songs from around the world. **Key Skills Taught:** Following directions and focusing on new learning, Using and appreciating instruments, Making connections with past learning, and Being a respectful and kind group member.
Physical Education	**Overarching Question:** *How can we control and move our bodies and manipulate equipment?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Self space, General space, Body parts, Creative movement, Rhythm, Locomotor movement, Jumping and landing, Rolling, Balance, Relationship of body to equipment, Games, and Bike Riding. **Key Skills Taught:** Traveling safely, Learning class routines and cooperation, Galloping, Sliding, Leaping, Balancing on equipment, Climbing, Moving to music, Moving expressively, Throwing, and Catching and striking a ball with an implement.	**Overarching Question:** *How can we control and move our bodies and manipulate equipment?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Community building games, Relationship of body parts to space, Directions, Levels, Locomotor and non-locomotor movement concepts, Games, Colors, Shapes, Numbers, Animals, Tumbling. **Key Skills Taught:** Following directions, Being a kind and respectful group member, Galloping, Sliding, Jogging, Running, Jumping, Hopping and landing, Balancing, Rolling, Climbing, Transferring weight, Tossing and catching, Striking, and Dribbling.
Science	**Overarching Question:** *What exciting things exist in the world around us?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Science tools, The natural world,The life cycle of a Monarch butterfly, Planting and growing seeds and bulbs, Water and ice experiments, learn about ocean habitats, Dinosaurs **Key Skills Taught:** Making observations and describing those observations, Using magnifying glasses and scales, Gaining an appreciation for the natural world, Recognizing similarities and differences, and Learning about the "ask, guess, test, tell" method of scientific inquiry.	**Overarching Question:** *How do we as scientists experience the world around us?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Plants, Seasonal and life cycles, Sand, Water, East African habitat and animals, Our bodies, health and senses. **Key Skills Taught:** Making observations, Using safety glasses, magnifying glasses, and balance scales, Making predictions and comparisons, Recognizing similarities and differences, Cooperating, and Expressing ideas.

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	PS1 Experience	PS2 Experience
Social Development	**Overarching Question:** *How can I learn and get along with my classmates?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Class routines to establish community, Independent and group work and play time, Circle time, Snack time, Conflict resolution. **Key Skills Taught:** Feeling a connection to the class community, Feeling safe, accepted, and appreciated at school, Beginning to take responsibility for learning, Taking responsibility for appropriate behavior, Managing social relations with cooperation, self-advocacy, and empathy, Appreciating peers and treating them respectfully, and working productively and supportively with partners or in groups.	**Overarching Question:** *How can I learn and get along with my classmates?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Class routines to establish community, group work and play time, Social learning, and Conflict resolution,. **Key Skills Taught:** Connecting to the class community, Taking responsibility for appropriate behavior, Managing social relations with cooperation, self-advocacy, and empathy, Appreciating peers and treating them respectfully, and Working productively and supportively with partners or in groups.
Social Studies	**Overarching Questions:** *How can we celebrate our similarities and our differences ? How can we celebrate our class, our school and our campus?* **Sampling of Topics of Study** School, Friends, Family,We Are All Alike, We Are All Different, Inuit culture, Animals and their environment, and Environmental awareness. **Key Skills Taught:** Becoming aware of others, Learning to be a positive group member, Understanding people who live differently than we do, Finding ways to reach out to those in our community and in the larger world, Communicating with simple sign language, and Recognizing similarities and differences.	**Overarching Question:** *How can we be good friends to one another? How do people do things differently? How can I take care of my body?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Differences, Sign language, Friends, Feelings, Features, East Africa: people and animals, The Globe, Hospitals and Wellness. **Key Skills Taught:** Playing cooperatively, Communicating with simple sign language, Recognizing similarities and differences, Appreciating African culture and animals, Practicing healthy living habits, Demonstrating manners, and showing empathy for others.
Technology	**Overarching Question:** *How do I become comfortable with computers?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Colors, Shapes, Letters, and Numbers. **Key Skills Taught:** Developing patience, Respecting the equipment, Recognizing shapes, letters, numbers and colors, and Becoming comfortable with the mouse, the keyboard, and printing.	**Overarching Question:** *How do I become comfortable with computers?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Colors, Shapes, Letters, Numbers and Patterns. **Key Skills Taught:** Problem solving, Recognizing patterns and differences, Opening and closing software programs, Printing, and Using the keyboard for names and inventive spelling.
Visual Art	**Overarching Question:** *What do we need to learn to use the art studio and materials in a safe manner?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Painting, Mixing colors, Gluing, Texture, Sculpture, Collage, and Paper Mache. **Key Skills Taught:** Using the materials, Learning painting procedures, Recognizing and using shapes, Sculpting with clay, Moving safely in the studio, Following directions, and Creating multistep projects.	**Overarching Question:** *How can we investigate and learn the differences and similarities between various materials and processes?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Murals, Sculpture, Gluing, Collage, Printing, and Painting. **Key Skills Taught:** Using and understanding what materials can do, Learning painting procedures, Recognizing and using colors, Printing on fabric, Exploring connecting materials, tape, staplers and glue, and Following directions.

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	Kindergarten Experience	Grade One Experience
Inter-Disciplinary Units of Study	Friendship, Families, Night Magic, Farms Around the World, The Rainforest, and Classroom themes reflecting interests of students.	Butterflies, China/Tibet, Greyhounds, Friendship and Family, Native Americans.
Critical Skills Developed Across the Curriculum	Reading, Writing, Developing personal responsibility, Developing a love of books, Participating in class discussions and morning meetings, Following directions, Problem solving, Negotiating differences, Making friends, Taking risks, and Building self-confidence.	Reading, Writing, Contributing to class activities and discussions, Measuring, Solving problems, Following directions, Making connections, Working with school materials, Asking questions, Developing a love of books, Making friends, and Taking risks.
Subject Area Highlights		
Language Arts	**Overarching Question:** *How do I learn to read, write and communicate?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Speaking and listening in a group, Fiction, Nonfiction, Poetry, Songs, Read alouds, Shared reading and writing, Environmental print, Upper and lower case letter recognition and formation, Sound/symbol relationships, and Reading strategies of syntax, semantic, and graphophonic. **Key Skills Taught:** Phonemic awareness, Letter skills, Concepts about print, Listening skills, Beginning punctuation, Recognizing and writing high-frequency words, Recognizing common word families, Comprehending meaning of text, Book handling, Writing for communication, and Participating in discussions.	**Overarching Questions:** *How can I use what I know about reading to become a better reader? How can I find enjoyment and information in reading?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Creative writing, Daily reading groups, Word patterns, Author studies, Poetry, Handwriting, The Editing process, Spelling, Contractions, Compound words, and Journals. **Key Skills Taught:** Mastering consonant sounds, Differentiating short vowels, Appreciating word patterns, Building a sight word vocabulary, Anticipating story events, Forming lower case letters, Using punctuation and capitalization, Writing responses to literature, Participating in discussions, Following written and verbal instructions, Story mapping, Letter writing, and Conventional spelling.
Library	**Overarching Question:** *How do we use the library to pursue our interests?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Read alouds, Finding books and materials through weekly book hunts, Concept of author, title and illustration styles esp. collage, runaway gingerbread stories around the world, farms **Key Skills Taught:** Developing personal responsibility, Locating books and materials, Listening, and Early appreciation for books and reading.	**Overarching Question:** *How does the library help us learn and enrich our lives?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Finding and selecting books and other materials, Read alouds, diverse cultural elements in fairy tale variations of Little Red Hens & Stone Soups, author study Jan Brett **Key Skills Taught:** Locating call numbers on a spine, understanding alphabetical arrangement of call numbers Sharing, Listening, and Selecting appropriate books for 1st graders.

PS1,PS2,Kindergarten, and Grade One Curriculum Overview

2011-2012

	Kindergarten Experience	Grade One Experience
Mathematics	**Overarching Question:** *How can I use math to understand the world around me?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Estimation, Patterns, Symmetry, Graphing, Counting, Grouping, Number formation, Logic, Odds/Evens, Problem solving, Number operations, and Introduction to place value. **Key Skills Taught:** Sorting, Classifying, Comparing, Counting, Forming numbers, Recognizing and continuing patterns, Interpreting graphs and Venn diagrams, Weighing objects, Introduction to monetary values, Geometric shapes, Problem solving, and Participating in discussions.	**Overarching Question:** *Where do we find and use mathematical concepts?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Patterns, Measurement, Time, Money sense, Classification, Attributes, Geometry, Symmetry, Counting, Creating and reading graphs, Data collection and interpretation, Word problems, Place value, Probability and statistics, Number sense and operations, Estimation, Logic, Problem solving, Fractions, Spatial sense, and Algebra. **Key Skills Taught:** Estimating, predicting, and measuring time and weight, Recording and interpreting data, Counting by rote, Reading and writing numbers, Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and division, Introducing fractions, Place value, Money - recording, counting, and making change, Identifying solid shapes, Using a straight-edge to make line segments, Constructing and identifying polygons, Sorting groups by attributes, and Developing and communicating problem solving strategies.
Music	**Overarching Question:** *How do we, as musicians, make music together?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Musical pitch patterns, Rhythmic values and patterns, Songs, Musical games, Keyboards, Listening to music, and Consonance and dissonance. **Key Skills Taught:** Reading simple patterns, Transferring patterns to instruments, Call-response singing, Orff instruments and keyboard playing, and Active playing participation.	**Overarching Question:** *How do we, as musicians, make music together?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Musicianship, Improvisation, Rhythm, Composers, Songs about slavery, Songs about China, Drumming, Part-singing, and Time signature. **Key Skills Taught:** Singing in a group, Singing individually, Improvising, Working with a partner, Showing respect, and Taking responsibility.
Physical Education	**Overarching Question:** *How do I control movement through space?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Community building games, Movement concepts, Rhythm and Dance, Tumbling, Skill themes, Rain-forest, and Constellations. **Key Skills Taught:** Following directions, Being a kind and respectful group member, Galloping, Sliding, Jogging, Running, Jumping, Hopping and Landing, Leaping, Balancing, Rolling, Climbing, Transferring Weight, Tossing & Catching, Striking, and Dribbling.	**Overarching Question:** *How can I combine movements and skills?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Traveling themes, Chase, flee and dodge themes, Kicking and punting, Rhythms and dance, Gymnastics, Fitness and wellness, Soccer, Basketball, and Volleyball skills. **Key Skills Taught:** Dribbling in soccer and basketball, Balancing, Rolling, Volleying, Jumping, Catching and throwing, and Striking with bats and hockey sticks.
Science	**Overarching Question:** *How do we, as scientists, learn about our world?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Five senses, Light, Sound, Weather, Levers, Worms, Insects, Soil, Recycling, and Habitats. **Key Skills Taught:** Using science tools and data sheets, Testing ideas, Sharing results, Measuring, Caring for live animals, and Classifying.	**Overarching Question:** *How do we, as scientists, learn about our world?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Digestion, Backyard Leaves, The Case of the Overflowing Flask, Wheels and Axles, Friction, Sinking and Floating, Density, Plants and Seeds, Flowers, and Ponds. **Key Skills Taught:** Using the scientific method (ask, guess, test, tell), Learning about taxonomy, Developing observation skills, Making predictions, Running experiments, Graphing measurements, Collecting and organizing data, and Participating in class discussions.

PS1,PS2,Kindergarten, and Grade One Curriculum Overview

2011-2012

	Kindergarten Experience	Grade One Experience
Social Development	**Overarching Question:** *How can I learn and get along with my classmates?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Class routines to establish community, Independent work and play time, Social learning, Conflict resolution, and Class constitution. **Key Skills Taught:** Feeling a connection to the class community, Feeling safe, accepted, and appreciated at school, Taking responsibility for learning, Taking responsibility for appropriate behavior, Managing social relations with cooperation, self-advocacy, and empathy, Appreciating peers and treating them respectfully, and Working productively and supportively with partners or in groups.	**Overarching Question:** *How can I learn and get along with my classmates?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Class routines to establish community, Independent work and play time, Social learning, Conflict resolution, and Class constitution, Service learning, Exposure to language, music, traditions, and aspects of different cultures. **Key Skills Taught:** Feeling a connection to the class community, Feeling safe, accepted, and appreciated at school, Beginning to take responsibility for learning, Taking responsibility for appropriate behavior, Managing social relations with cooperation, self-advocacy, and empathy, Appreciating peers and treating them respectfully, Working productively and supportively with partners or in groups, Developing respect for diversity, and Celebrating differences.
Social Studies	**Overarching Question:** *How can I learn about, respect and understand the experiences of others in the class, school and other places?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Character Education, Family Traditions, Diversity, Ocean communities, Tropical forest, Peru, Ecuador, The Galapagos, Farms Around the World, Mexico, and Service learning. **Key Skills Taught:** Understanding and appreciating differences/diversity, Understanding and respecting the natural world, and Understanding that they can make a difference.	**Overarching Question:** *How do we work together? How does our school motto apply each day? How do we apply these concepts at home, at school, and in the broader world?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Community, Stereotypes, Geography, Cultures around the world, China, Native Americans, Greyhounds, Family Structure, Butterflies, Astronomy, and Outreach. **Key Skills Taught:** Cooperating as a group member, Interviewing, Writing, Collaborating, Reading nonfiction, Reporting, Creating maps with legends, and Appreciating diverse cultures and lifestyles.
Technology	**Overarching Question:** *How can we help children feel comfortable using a computer?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Basic computer information, Computer programs, Printing, The Digital camera, and Saving work. **Key Skills Taught:** Controlling the mouse, Loading and opening CD-ROMs, Recognizing letters and keys on the keyboard, Opening and quitting programs, Clicking and dragging, Problem solving, and Taking risks.	**Overarching Question:** *How can technology support and enhance student learning?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Continents, Math, Patterns, Puzzles, Language arts, Insects, Astronomy, and Maps **Key Skills Taught:** Word processing, Using graphic tools, Introduction to keyboarding skills, Drawing with a computer, Problem solving, Phonics, reading and listening to stories on CD Roms.
Visual Art	**Overarching Questions:** *How do materials and methods shape the artistic process? How do we make our own aesthetic choices?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Self-concept, Color, Shape, Texture, Form, Collage, Murals, Painting, Drawing, Sculpture, Clay, and Sketchbooks. **Key Skills Taught:** Mixing and handling paints, Working with scissors, glue, tape, and staplers, Mixing media, Developing a sense of time in working on longer projects, Developing well-balanced structures, Shaping and handling clay, Developing fine motor and listening skills, Learning to use the choice area, Learning appropriate studio behavior, and Working collaboratively with peers, and Looking at art.	**Overarching Questions:** *How can we add depth to our work? How can we learn from one another in the art studio?* **Sampling of Topics of Study:** Self-concept and community building, Mark-making, Pattern, Color, Composition, Drawing, Printing, Craypas, Tempera and watercolor paint, Sculpture, Clay, and Sketchbooks. **Key Skills Taught:** Making aesthetic choices, Developing designs and adding detail to compositions, Sharing ideas and learning from one another, Working independently, Color mixing and theory, Drawing techniques, Identifying lines and shapes, Building strong and balanced structures, Using unexpected materials, Handling and shaping clay, Developing listening skills, Learning appropriate studio behavior, and Looking at art.