



Alternative
Programs



Maple Ridge School Science Program Kindergarten

January 9th, 2025
learning | **as unique** | as every student



Calgary Board
of Education

Alternative Programs



Choice | Alternative Programs

- Science
- Indigenous Education
- Arts-Centred
- All Boys
- All Girls
- Languages (French, German, Mandarin, Spanish)
- Montessori
- Traditional Learning Centre (TLC)



Alternative Programs



Why Alternative Programs?

- Providing families choices to appeal to the interests and preferences of each student
- Programs focus on a particular language, culture, subject (Arts, Science), or teaching philosophy
- Informed choice is essential – what is THIS particular program about and how does it meet MY child's needs?

Alternative Programs



Inform | Key Messages

- Each program has unique features
- Integrity of the program remains the same across sites
- All sites follow Alberta Programs of Study with ATA certificated teachers
- All schools requiring a lottery follow the CBE lottery process
- Aligned with system timeframe for registration
- There is a designated Alternative Program school for each home address

Alternative Programs



Timeline | Registration/Lottery

- Opens [January 13, 2025](#)
- Closed noon on Tuesday before Teachers' Convention ([February 11, 2025](#))
- Lottery drawn on Wednesday before Teachers' Convention ([February 12, 2025](#))
- Results of the lottery draw sent within 10 business days of the draw ([February 27, 2025](#))
- Parents must accept/decline within 10 business days from the date of the acceptance letter
- If you have applied to more than one program that is in Lottery, please wait until you have heard your Lottery results from all the schools before accepting one

Alternative Programs



How We Prioritize Students For Lottery

There are 3 steps to determine the priority for accepting a student into a lottery school.

Priority 1

- Students residing within the walk zone who have a sibling (brother/sister [half or step, not cousins]) that will be attending the same program in the same school; concurrently (occurring or existing simultaneously).

Priority 2

- Students living outside the walk zone but in the designated area for the school, who will have a sibling in the same school at the same time; or
- Students living within the walk zone who do not have a sibling in the school.

Priority 3

- All other students living in the designated attendance area.

Alternative Programs



School Engage | Expression of Interest



Calgary Board of Education

Expression of Interest - 2024-25

Form Submission: _____

Current CBE (Kindergarten to Grade 8) students may complete this form to register at an alternative program school, for 2024-25, by noon on Feb 13, 2024 for schools in lottery; and until further notice for all other Alternative Programs. All Expression of Interests are based on Priority Lists, as stated in Administrative Regulation 6090 | Child and Student Registration and Admission. Completing an Expression of Interest does not guarantee acceptance into an alternative program. Registration will not occur until a family receives an offer of acceptance and confirmation of acceptance. Acceptance into a Kindergarten program does not guarantee registration in Grade 1. Note: school year 2024-25 starts in August 2024.

Student Information	
Legal Last Name	_____
Legal First Name	_____
Legal Middle Name	_____
Student Primary Address	
This is the address on file; if this is not correct, first you must submit a Demographic Verification form.	
Street	_____
City	_____
Province	_____
Postal Code	_____
Home Community (in Calgary)	
School Information	
Student's current grade	_____
Student's grade in 2024-25	_____
Designated Alternative Program Preference	
An alternative program is a program that emphasizes a particular language, culture or subject-matter; or uses a particular teaching philosophy. All other programs fall under the regular program umbrella. For a full list of alternative programs, visit CBE's Program Options webpage.	
Alternative Program - Preference 1	
Note An Expression of Interest requires at least one alternative program selection. It may have up to three selected alternative program choices. Please note that these selections are not ranked in the order that they are selected. Each will be considered equally.	
Alternative Program (1st Choice)	_____
Designated Alternative Program School (1st Choice)	
Alternative Program Declaration	
I have read and understand the information regarding the alternative program(s) in which I have expressed interest.	☐
I understand that if a lottery process is utilized and the student's name is NOT drawn, the student will be enrolled in the designated regular program school based on the student's address.	☐
I understand that I will receive any notifications / outcomes by email.	☐
I understand that there are additional fees and/or volunteer commitments associated with the alternative program. If I am unable to pay these fees, I will apply for a waiver.	☐
I have read and understood the transportation information and fees.	☐
Siblings	
My child has a sibling(s) who will be in the same school, same program, next school year	☐
My child / student is a twin (or other multiple)	☐
Declaration	
I, the undersigned,	_____

Please ensure you fill out ALL sections of School Engage when registering, uploading all pertinent documents helps streamline the registration process.

Alternative Programs



Inform | Transportation

- K-5 yellow bus transportation provided following CBE congregated stop guidelines for alternative programs
- parents pay an annual fee for CBE yellow bus service
 - 2024-2025 Fee
 - \$130 (Kindergarten) - One way
- Congregated stops are reviewed annually and informed by pre-registration for transportation, online through **MyCBE/PowerSchool**
- Congregated stops may not be within walking distance and alternate arrangements may be required to access the congregated stop

Science Program



Elements of the Science Program

- An emphasis on the development of scientific literacy
- A focus on critical thinking through science and technology perspectives across subject areas using Alberta Education curriculum
- Extensive field studies to enhance classroom inquiry
 - (approximately 10 – 20 per year)
 - across all seasons

Science Program



Differences and similarities with community school programs:

Differences:

- Students learn through the “lens of science”
- Focus on inquiry-based learning
- Mandatory field studies
- Blended CTF program
- Focus on journaling

Similarities:

- *Alberta Curriculum*
- Daily Physical Education
- Character
- Citizenship
- Personal Development

Science Program



The Science Program classroom:

- Engages students through the practice of scientific inquiry and experiential learning
- Engages with experts in the field of science and technology
- Explores opportunities to participate in science across all areas of the curriculum
- Instills a collaborative approach to seeking solutions to complex problems

Science Program



A Science Program student...

- Has a love of science and curiosity about how the world works
- Has a willingness to take risks in learning and is comfortable with ambiguity
- Exemplifies a resiliency for learning in outdoor environments in all weather conditions



Science Program



Science Program

Is the Science Program the Right Choice for My Child?



A successful student demonstrates:

- a love of science and curiosity about how the world works
- willingness to take risks in learning and is comfortable with ambiguity
- a resiliency for learning in outdoor environments in all weather conditions
- a willingness to conform to uniform regulations when/where expected



Characteristics of a Science Program

- Fosters critical thinking through science and technology perspectives
- Emphasizes the development of scientific literacy
- Engages students through the practice of scientific inquiry
- Investigating problems, formulating hypotheses, testing, and reporting their observations and findings
- Instills a collaborative approach to seeking solutions to complex problems
- Engages with experts in the field of science and technology
- Explores opportunities to participate in science across all areas of curriculum
- Instructional focus on inquiry, experiential learning and integrated project work using the Alberta Education curriculum
- Monthly or bi-weekly field studies per year for each student, parents are required to volunteer for a minimum of 3 field studies per registered student
- Fees will be assessed for each student per year to cover the cost of field studies

Science Program



Other considerations:

- Extra field study fee per student for whole class day trips (\$100)
- Parent commitment to volunteer for field studies
 - (3 times per year per child)
- Transportation Fee
 - 2024-2025: \$130 (One Way)
- Student Supply Fee
 - 2024-2025: \$20

When Can My Child Begin Kindergarten?

Locate the child's birthdate in the chart below, then check the colour description below.

2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Students will be 6 in 2025
2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Students will be 5 in 2025
2021	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Students will be 4 in 2025

Blue Months - Child must be registered in Grade One.

Yellow Months - Child is eligible to start Kindergarten in 2025-26 **OR** 2026-27

Green Months - Child should be registered in Kindergarten

Red Months - Cannot register as this child is too young (born after December 31, 2020 cutoff).

Children must be at least five years old as of December 31 to start kindergarten in the fall of that calendar year. This means that a four-year old child may start kindergarten if they will turn five on or before December 31 of that calendar year.



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Science Program



School-specific information

- Music Specialist
- Educational assistants provide support for students who require additional support. The number of education assistants varies each year.
- Administrative team believes in working closely with students and families to support the social, emotional and academic growth of each child.



MAPLE RIDGE SCHOOL COUNCIL & PARENT ASSOCIATION

We are parent/guardian volunteers who work with Maple Ridge School to fundraise for the activities and resources our kids love!

- Residency programs like inline skating, lacrosse, art and photography classes
- Events like Science Olympics, Winter Solstice, Kindergarten orientation
- Buying resources like the 3D printer, coding kits, and a variety of music and library resources

**All are welcome!
Scan this QR code
to connect with us.**



mapleridgecouncil@gmail.com

Kindergarten at a Science School

Big Question:

How can we **observe**
with **curiosity** to
explore and understand
connections in our
world?

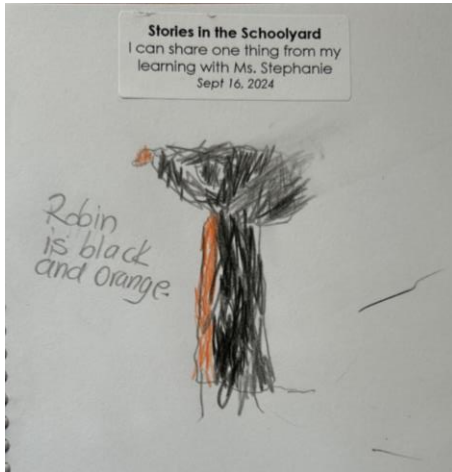


Thimbleberry Learning- Stories in the Schoolyard



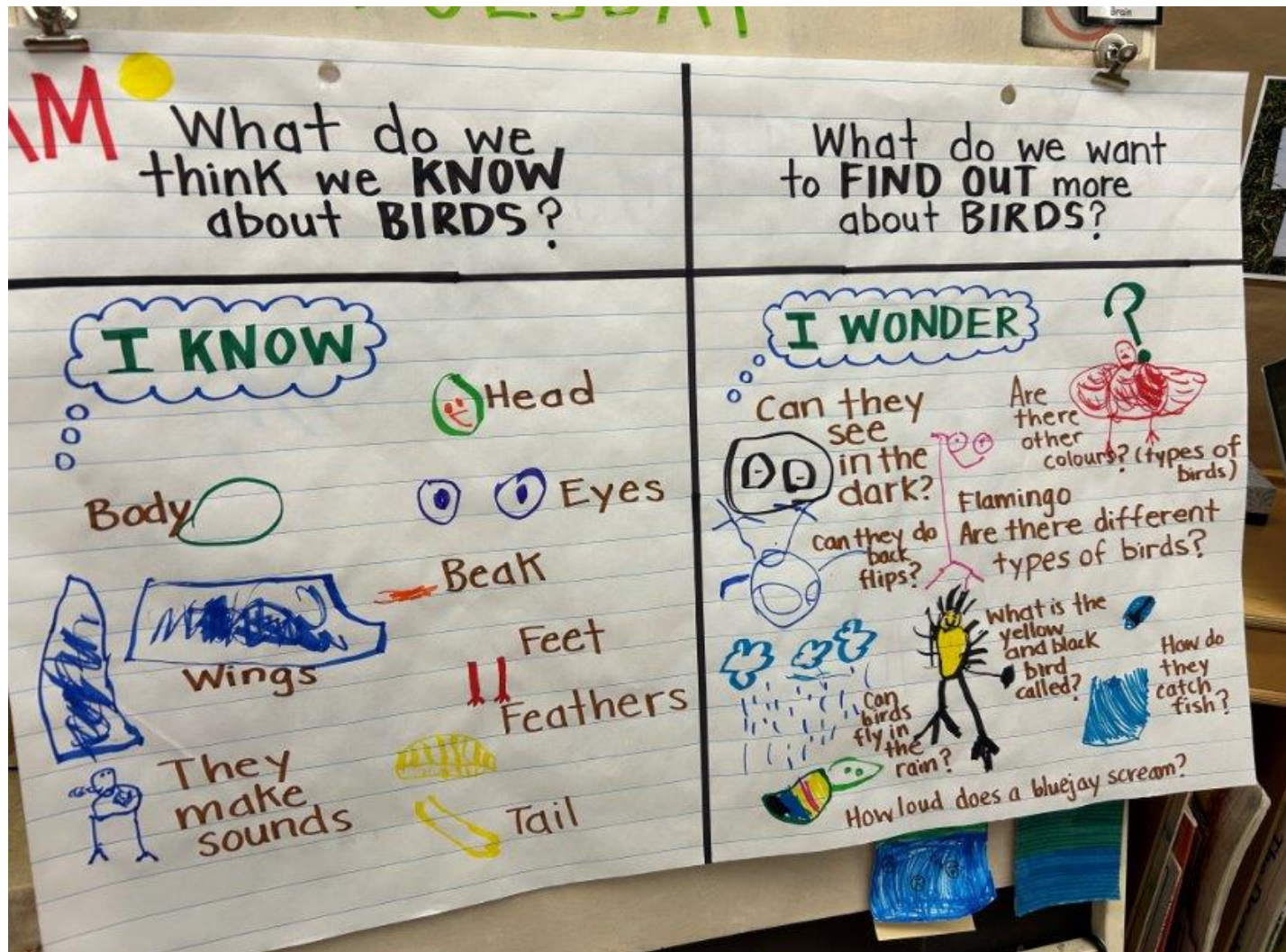
What does Inquiry look like in Kindergarten?

- Listening to Student Voice



What does Inquiry look like in Kindergarten?

- Teaching Scientific Skills

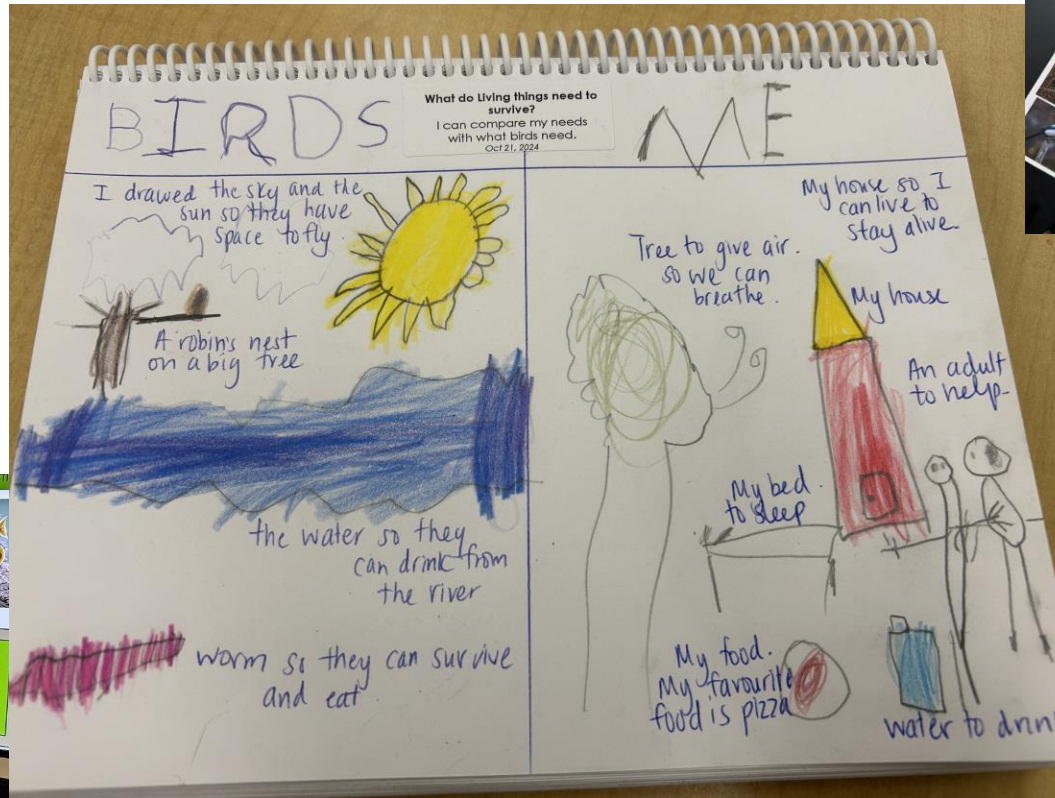
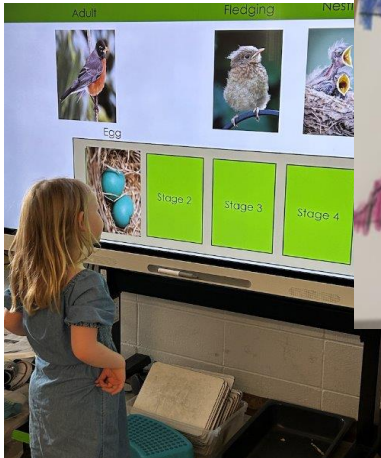


What does Inquiry look like in Kindergarten?

- Integrating Curriculum



Green Calgary -
Introduction to Birds



Field Studies



- Connecting to the outdoors and the real world
- Building on their inquiry
- Collecting data to bring back into the classroom
- Accessing experts in field



Examples of off-site field experiences:

- Community Walks & Garden
- Fish Creek Park, Carburn Park, Weaslehead
- Safeway
- Inglewood Bird Sanctuary
- Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area
- Willow Park Golf Course
- Calgary Zoo
- Telus Spark
- Glenbow Museum
- Heritage Park
- Bow Habitat



Typical Day

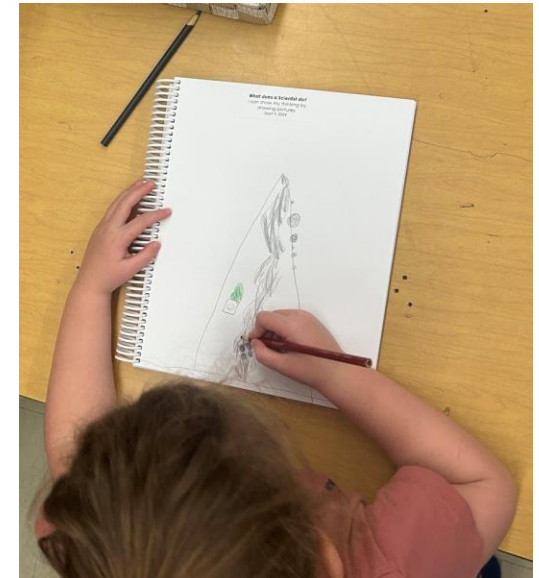
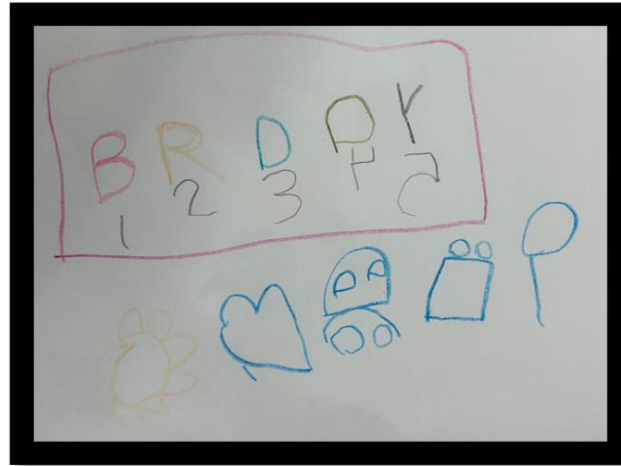
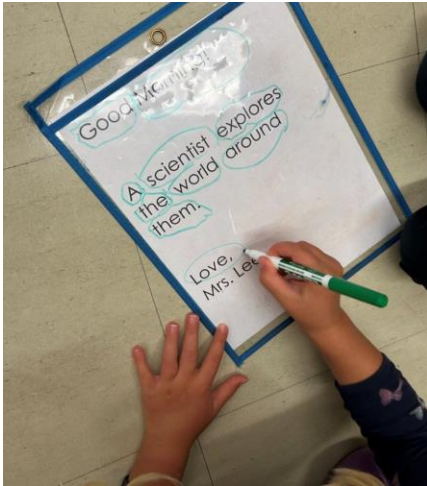


- Group Learning
- Early Literacy and Numeracy
- Snack
- Daily Physical Education
- Guided learning activities
- Music/Singing/Poetry
- ILab
- Exploration

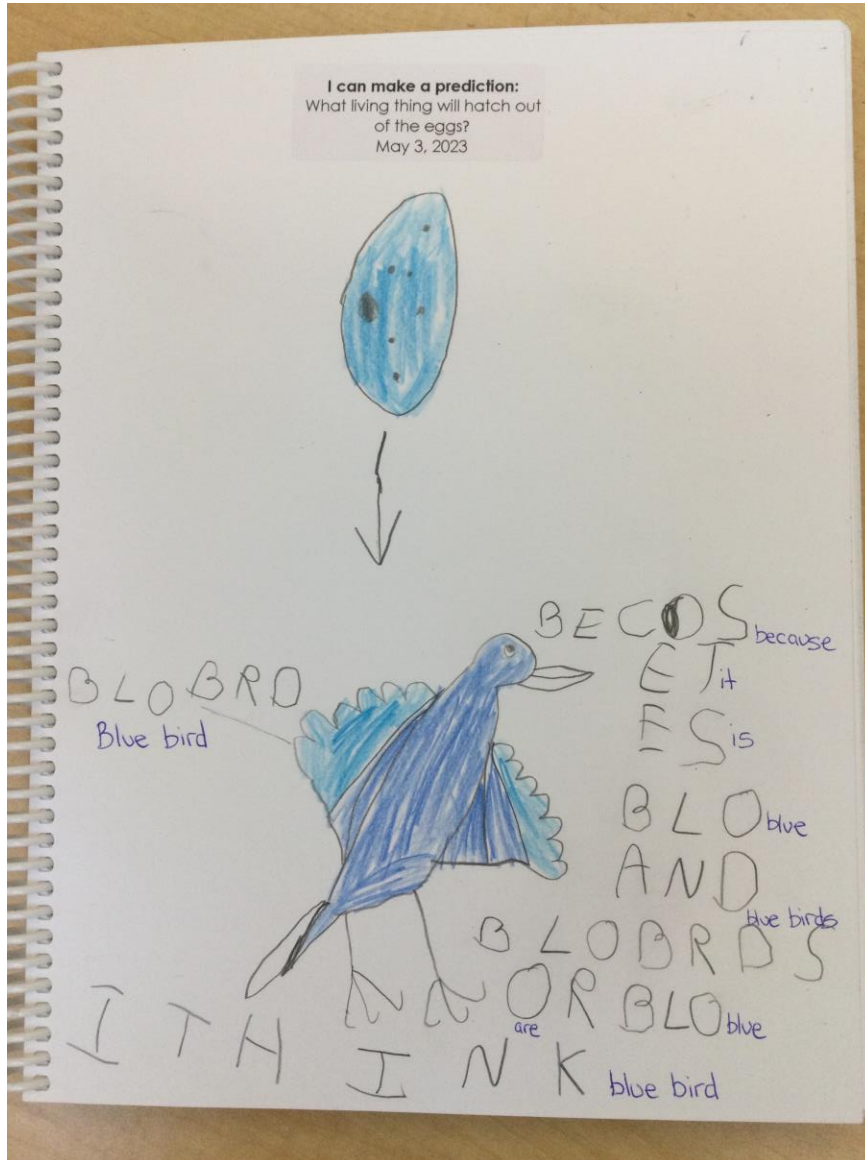
Early Numeracy Skills in Kindergarten



Early Literacy Skills in Kindergarten



Journaling



- Documenting understanding
- Reflecting on experiences
- Showing theories
- Scientific drawings
- Data collection and recording
- Asking questions
- Experiment with language ²⁷

Exploration Time

- Daily, purposeful play
- Possibilities for extensions
- Time to discover





- Time to revisit work (feedback)
- "Grow your brain"

Self-Guided Open House

January 30th

(4:30pm – 5:30pm)



learning | as unique | as every student



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Questions





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