



Alternative Programs



Maple Ridge School Science Program

January 10th, 2024

learning | **as unique** | as every student



Calgary Board
of Education

Alternative Programs



Choice | Alternative Programs

- Indigenous Education
- Arts-Centred
- All Boys
- All Girls
- Languages (French, German, Mandarin, Spanish)
- Montessori
- Science
- 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 15, 2024**
 - Closed noon on Tuesday before Teachers' Convention (**February 13, 2024**)
- Lottery drawn on Wednesday before Teachers' Convention (**February 14, 2024**)
- Results of the lottery draw sent within 10 business days of the draw (**February 29, 2024**)
- Parents must accept/decline within 10 business days from the date of the acceptance letter

Alternative Programs



Inform | Lottery Process

- Where a program is oversubscribed the lottery process will be employed
- Registrations are categorized using 3 priorities:
 - Priority 1 - siblings in walk zone
 - Priority 2 - walk zone, no siblings or outside walk zone with sibling
 - Priority 3 – designated attendance area
- Notification of acceptance via letter or email by 10 business days after the lottery ([March 14, 2024](#))

School Engage | Expression of Interest

Alternative Programs



Not a current CBE student: Registration is required.

Go to www.cbe.ab.ca/registration

Register your child through School Engage

Current CBE student: Complete the Expression of Interest Form through School Engage:

- by noon on February 14, 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 an invitation to register.

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
- transportation for grades 6-9 may be offered through congregated yellow bus stops or Calgary Transit (no rebates are provided)
- parents pay an annual fee for CBE yellow bus service or purchase monthly Calgary Transit passes
- 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



Other considerations:

- extra field study fee per student for whole class day trips
- parent commitment to volunteer for field studies (3 times per year per child)
- transportation fee
- lunchroom supervision fee (gr. 1-6)
- student supply fee
- field experience fees

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.

When Can My Child Begin Kindergarten?

Kindergarten Birthdate Calendar | 2024-25 Registration

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

2018	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Students will be 6 in 2024
2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Students will be 5 in 2024
2020	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Students will be 4 in 2024

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.





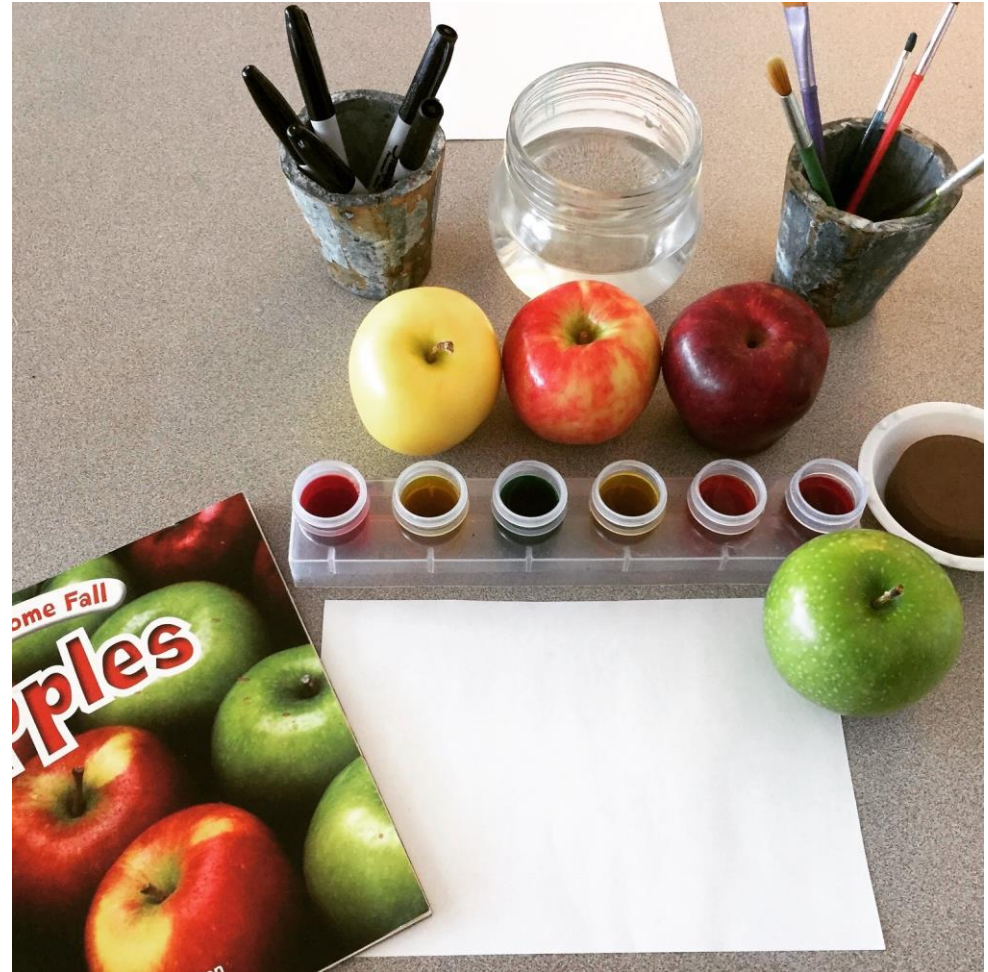
Teacher Presentation

- What makes us unique
- Typical day
- Classroom tour
- Questions



What is Inquiry? Let's start with what it's not...

- It is not a theme
- It is not completely Teacher Driven



Science School Kindergarten Program

"What is Inquiry?"

- Big Question
 - Student Voice
 - Scientific Skills
- Curriculum Integrated
- S.T.E.A.M.



Field Studies



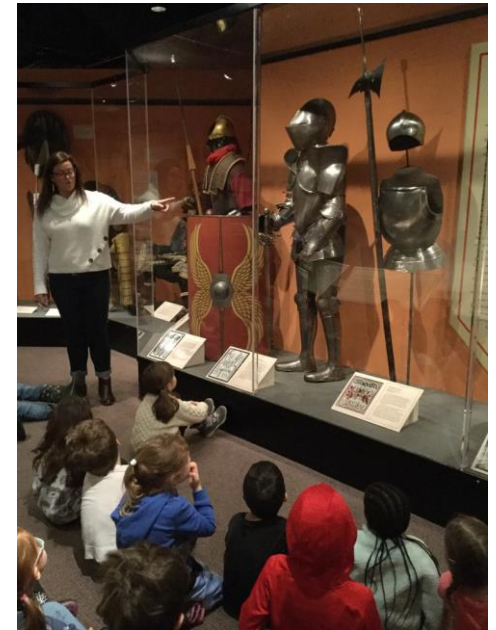
- Connecting to the outdoors and the real world
- Building on their inquiry
- Collecting data to bring back into the classroom
- Accessing experts in field
- Parent Involvement





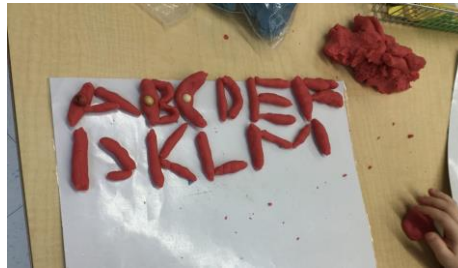
Examples of some places we've been:

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



Exploration Time

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





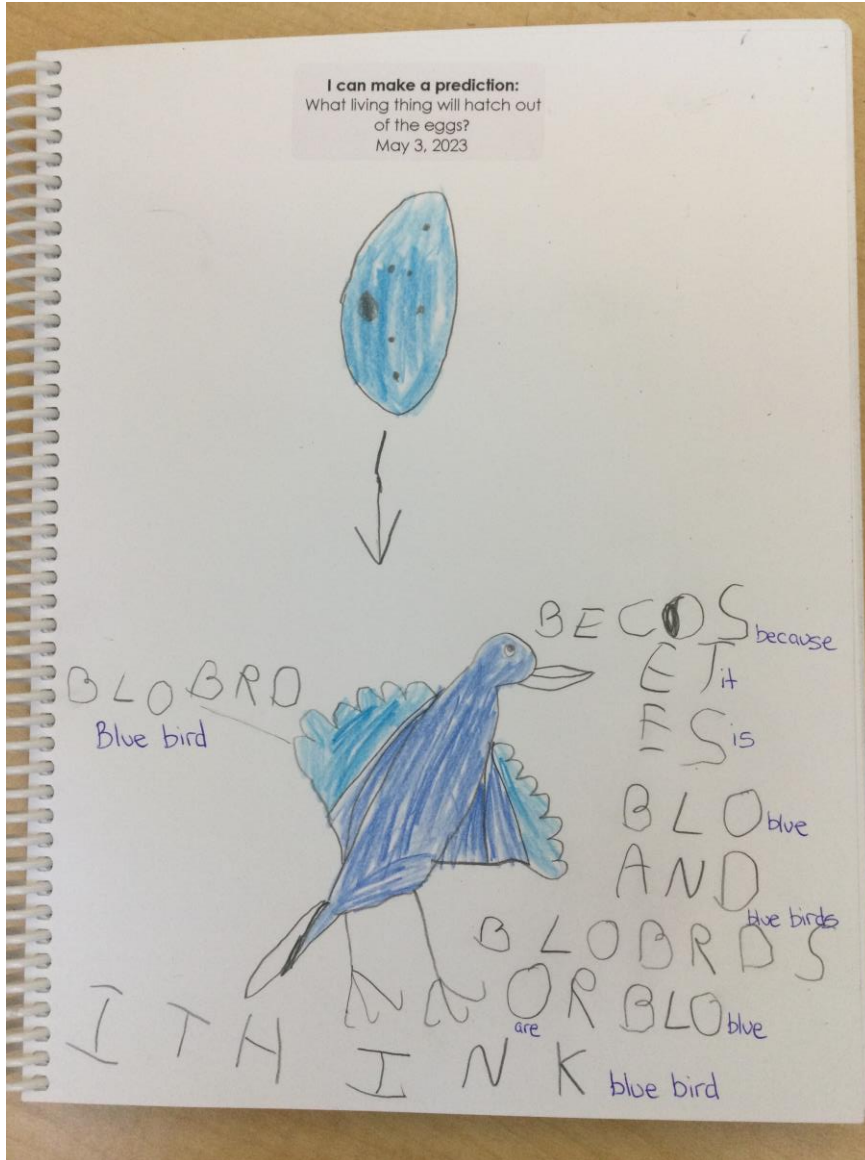
- Time to revisit work (feedback)
- "Grow your brain"

Typical Day



- Large Group Learning
- Snack
- Daily Physical Education
- Guided learning activities
- Music/Singing/Poetry
- ILab
- Exploration

Journaling



- Documenting understanding
- Reflecting on experiences
- Showing theories
- Scientific drawings
- Data collection and recording
- Asking questions
- Experiment with language ²⁴

Kindergarten Classroom Tour





Areas for Exploration, Collaboration & Play





