

Primary Division

The Primary Division at Mississauga Private School offers a well rounded educational experience in a friendly and supportive environment. Our program is designed to build self esteem and foster a love of learning in our students. Teachers focus on the needs of students as individuals, enabling them to develop skills at their own pace, while providing a stimulating program that meets or exceeds the expectations of the Ontario Curriculum at each grade level. Students who have mastered skills are provided with enrichment opportunities in all areas of the curriculum. Our program includes the following:

- a well-developed curriculum, that incorporates all the strands of the Ontario Curriculum for each subject area,
- a skills-based approach to learning that stresses the fundamentals,
- current textbooks and programs, all of which are included on the Trillium List,
- a wide variety of supplementary resources to enhance and enrich all subject areas,
- an emphasis on critical thinking and problem solving skills,
- a fostering of the development of independent work habits and study skills,
- a wide variety of extra- curricular activities to enhance our strong academic program,
- a personal commitment to the learning needs of all of our students.

LANGUAGE

The Primary language program gives all students the opportunity to develop their skills within the four curriculum strands: Oral Communication, Reading, Writing and Media Literacy. The development of effective speaking and listening skills is integrated in all areas of the curriculum. A wide variety of approaches is employed to help all students build their reading and writing skills at their individual levels, and to relate to a variety of media texts. The Language program offers the following:

- a solid reading program that incorporates a variety of leveled readers and books so that students can develop their decoding and comprehension skills at their own levels,
- many opportunities for oral reading, listening, and speaking in whole class, small group and one on one situations,
- the teaching of spelling, phonics and penmanship as formal programs,
- The Canadian Spelling Program is followed at a year above grade level for most students,
- formal lessons focusing on the steps of the writing process that include planning, drafting, revising, editing, publishing and reflecting,
- many opportunities for students to express themselves creatively through a wide variety of writing tasks that include journal entries, retellings, narratives, descriptions and poetry,
- formal grammar lessons based on grade appropriate expectations are taught and reinforced in all the students' written activities.

MATHEMATICS

The goal of the Primary Mathematics program is the development of effective problem solving and analytical thinking skills to help build a deep understanding of all concepts covered. Students are taught to think logically and apply concepts through a wide variety of lessons that stress the language of math and number skills across the five curriculum strands: Number Sense and Numeration, Measurement, Geometry and Spatial Sense, Patterning and Algebra and Data Management and Probability. An emphasis is also placed on the learning of basic facts and computational skills. The Mathematics program offers:

- regular speed drills to reinforce the retention of basic facts at each grade level,
- the teaching of computation/ operational skills at a year above grade level for most students,
- the application of a problem solving approach towards the teaching of new concepts introduced in all strands,

the use of concrete manipulatives to assist students in developing a deep understanding of all concepts, the teaching of the Four Step Problem Solving Model: Understand the Problem, Make a Plan, Carry out the Plan and Look Back at the Solution.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

The Primary Science program emphasizes a hands-on approach to the exploration and understanding of science concepts. Students are introduced to concepts through discovery learning, lecture, experiments and discussion. Students work with various themes that cover the four strands of the Science and Technology curriculum. The following topics are covered:

Grade One	Grade Two	Grade Three
Characteristics and Needs of Living Things	Growth and Changes in Animals	Growth and Changes in Plants
Materials, Objects and Everyday Structures	Properties of Liquids and Solids	Forces Causing Movement
Energy in Our Lives	Movement	Strong and Stable Structures
Daily and Seasonal Cycles	Air and Water in the Environment	Soils in the Environment

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Primary Division Social Studies program focuses on developing students' knowledge, skills and attitudes through active inquiry, problem solving and decision making. Throughout all activities students are encouraged to explore, investigate, and ask questions in order to heighten their own curiosity about and understanding of the world around them. Students work with various themes that cover the strands of the Social Studies curriculum. The following topics are covered:

Grade One	Grade Two	Grade Three
Relationships, Rules and Responsibilities	Traditions and Celebrations	Early Settlement in Upper Canada
The Local Community	Features of Communities Around the World	Urban and Rural Communities

COMPUTER STUDIES

Primary students at MPS are provided with a solid foundation in Computer education. The program is designed to familiarize students with the various components and functions of the computer, as well as build keyboarding skills while developing letter and word recognition. The students are also introduced to a variety of math, spelling and grammar software, as well as word processing basics.

MUSIC

The aim of the Primary Music program is to develop a love for music, and to steadily widen the perception and sensitivity to music. The students will study singing, playing recorder and moving to music, learning treble and bass clefs, duration, and reading simple melodies. They will engage in activities that will teach them fast and slow tempos, loudness and softness. They will listen to and study some works of great composers, and will learn to identify the main instruments of the orchestra. At the end of the third grade, the student will be able to sing familiar tunes in pitch, be acquainted with the letter names of the Treble and Bass staff, be familiar with rhythm patterns and be able to play simple songs on the recorder.

FRENCH

Students in the Primary Division receive instruction in French as a Second Language three times per week. The development of strong oral comprehension and communication skills is the goal of the French program in the Primary Division. Through a variety of weekly themes, students are introduced to a combination of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. This vocabulary forms the basis for simple questions generated by the teacher, to which students learn to respond in complete sentence answers. In addition, oral reading and basic gram-

mar activities are important parts of the program. Songs, games, and puzzles are used on a regular basis to generate enthusiasm and to reinforce vocabulary.

VISUAL ARTS

In the Visual Arts program, students are provided with the opportunity to express themselves creatively through a wide variety of media including water colour, pastel, crayon, collage, and three-dimensional constructions. The Visual Arts program offers the following:

- activities which focus on the elements of design, shape, and colour,
- opportunities for personal expression and the development of original ideas,
- a thematic approach that coordinates visual art with other units of study.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

The aim of the Primary Physical Education program is to promote physical activity, teamwork, sportsmanship and cooperation. Students learn age appropriate skills which contribute to the development of actual playing skills in sports such as soccer, football, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey and softball. Games the students enjoy such as dodge ball, scooter ball, and the use of materials such as hula hoops, skipping ropes, and parachutes promote a high level of participation. Physical Education classes are structured to include warm-up and stretching activities, drills and/or games and cool down activities. Weekly swimming classes are scheduled during the first term as an addition to the regular program.

The Health program focuses on grade appropriate lessons based on the expectations of the Curriculum strands which include:

- Healthy Eating
- Growth and Development
- Personal Safety and Injury Prevention
- Substance Use/ Abuse