**October 2014**

**Newsletter**



Welcome to kindergarten!

Important Info

**Information and Points to Remember**

Principal: Matthew McCutcheon

Vice-Principal: Christina Brulotte/Jennifer Stegeman

Office Manager: Debbie Taylor

Office Assistant: Christine Keyes

Kindergarten Teacher: Natalie Winter

ECE Teacher: Lahkwinder Saini

School Phone Number: 905-843-3281

School Fax Number: 905–843–3285

**School Begins at 8:25 am and**

**dismissal is at 2:50 pm**

**Attendance**

We have a Safe Arrival Program at our school. Please inform the school by calling before the school day begins, if you know your child will be absent.

**Entry**

As students arrive at school they may wait in the Kindergarten Area after 8:15 am when supervision starts. When the bell rings, the children will line up one behind the other and enter the school when we meet them at the door. Parents are asked to say their good-byes outside the fence since the students need to develop independence early in the school year.

**Late Arrival**

If your child is late, please take him/her to the office.

**Pick-Ups / Dismissal**

All students will be dismissed from the Kindergarten Area. It is important that your child knows who will be picking him/her up at dismissal. **Please inform us if your child will be picked up by someone new.**

**Change of Information**

Please notify us and the office of any change of information pertaining to your child as this is a safety issue (baby-siting arrangements, new phone numbers, person picking up your child).

Kindergarten news!

Dear Kindergarten Families,

The school year has begun with the many sounds of excitement and enthusiasm as the children have been exploring their surroundings, making new discoveries, developing new friendships and learning names. Please continue to work with your child on printing and identifying their name at home. We have also been learning about classroom rules and routines. Students are reminded to keep personal toys from home at home where they will be safe.



We would also like to thank everyone who has sent an **extra set of clothing** and a pair of indoor **shoes** to school. If you have not already done so, please send in these items **labeled with your child’s name** as soon as possible. In addition, please help and encourage your child to **put on and take off their shoes and outdoor clothing independently** including doing up snaps, buttons and zippers on their clothing. To further facilitate this, comfortable running shoes with **Velcro straps** are recommended.



As the weather becomes colder, please ensure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately for outdoor play. Please take some time with your child to practice zipping up their coats, putting on their shoes as well as zipping and unzipping their back packs as we are finding that some of the children are having a difficult time with these tasks. As the weather becomes colder and the children begin to switch from their fall to winter coats, please take another few minutes and work with your child on learning to zipper his/her coat, put on and take off their winter boots and so forth. For more tips and strategies on how to help your child get ready for the outdoors, please visit: **http://kindergartenteacherclaire.wordpress.com/2009/11/10/zip-those-zippers-and-tie-those-shoes**/



Also, as fall cold and flu season is beginning, please encourage your child to practice good hygiene by washing hands, using tissues for runny noses and covering their mouth when coughing. We greatly appreciate all donations of tissue boxes and hand soap to our classrooms.



As part of our health and physical education curriculum, we are encouraging healthy food choices and therefore ask that you continue to send healthy snacks and lunches to school, along with reusable containers, refillable drinking bottles and cutlery. If you wish, you can visit the web site, [www.healthyeatingpeel.ca](http://www.healthyeatingpeel.ca) for ideas on a healthy balanced lunch. We have some students who have life threatening allergies in the school and therefore ask that you do not send any foods that contain peanuts or other nuts. We ask you to take this policy as seriously as if it was your own child with these allergies.



Student attendance

Please call the centre if your child will be absent, late or if you will not be able to pick up your but are sending someone else to pick up and please remind that person to have their Photo ID on them when picking up your child. This is to ensure the safety and well being of your child.

Drop off and pick up

Parents please drop off and pick up your child (ren) at the kindergarten doors. This is to ensure the safety of your child as well as it gives staff and parents time to communicate with each other about up-coming events, activities, concerns, how your child’s day went etc…

attire

The weather lately has been quite unpredictable. The mornings have been really cold and some afternoons have been nice and warm. When sending your child to school, please dress your child according to the weather (morning and afternoon). We are required to take the children outdoors for 45 minutes a day so please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the outdoors.

extra change of clothes

**We kindly ask parents/guardians to provide an extra change of clothes (seasonal clothing) for your child. At times, children will get messy or have accidents throughout the day so if you could please keep an extra change of clothes in their back-packs at all times that would be great! Also, please remind your child not to leave their extra change of clothes in their classroom because it is quite difficult for us to leave our program to retrieve their clothes from another classroom. Thanks!**

or take them out of their bag when in the YMCA care unless, it is for a show and share activity. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

allergies

This YMCA sites are peanut and nut free zones but there are other allergies that we have to be aware of! We understand that the children have their bagged lunches and snacks for when they go to school but they are to be kept in their backpacks when they are at the YMCA before and after school care. We appreciate your co-operation!

**EDP 102**

**February**

The month of February was lots of fun with tons of different things going on in our room. We stayed busy with food and turning our home center into a restaurant. We learned about different food groups, decorated cupcakes and even hosting a grand opening of our restaurant. We also had fun doing activities all about our letters and shapes. We made shapes and letter on our geoboards with elastic bands, made letters with our whole bodies and matching our shapes with the names. Then came Valentine’s Day! An exciting time filled with valentine’s parties in the home center, making valentines cards and bracelets for our friends and families and even making flowers out of pipe cleaners and tissue paper. During this time we were also working on our Read-a-thon, raising money for strong kids. The children loved reading as many books as they could to work on our grand total in the center towards our goal. From there the children had a blast learning all about butterflies, how they started and all the different colours they could be. Mixing colours was also a big interest, having fun mixing lots of paint colours and even different colour waters was a lot of messy fun for everyone. We can't wait to see what happens next!

**March**

This month, the children participated in a number of fun activities, such as: pretending to be at the beach, exploring the Safari and observing safari animals, turning the home center into a Pizza parlor, building and talking about different cities and celebrating St. Patrick's Day. Throughout these activities, Brianna, Hayden, Jaylen and Ashley pretended that they were having a pizza party in the home center. Sebastian, Katarina and Megan pretended that they were Safari Animal and they were out hunting animals for food. Lucas and Brianna used the coffee filters to make safari hats. Miguel, Nate, Skylar and Luca used the city lego's to build a city with wooden people and a train station, they say it was the city of Toronto.

The children were super excited about the beach activities. They created a beach using sand, stones, seashells and water, and constructed boats out of lego's to use at the beach. They also pretended that they were having a picnic and a beach party at the beach. Skylar , Catherine, Alexander, Salvatore and Laura planted plastic trees in the sand. They said that they were making a tree house beside the beach, so that they can go inside when the sun gets too hot and when they felt sleepy. For St. Patrick's day, the children made cup cakes and decorated them

with green icing. They made patterns with shamrocks and buildings with sugar cubes and painted them green. We concluded the celebration with an awesome St. Patrick's Day Party.

 **The Beach! Woowhoo!**

**From your Extended Day Program Teachers,**

**Jessica and Josette ☺**

**SA Stage**

**February**

Last month the children on the stage participated in a variety of activities. One of the highlights this month was the art gallery that we set up on the stage. The children were able to create their own artwork and then we decorated the stage and set it up to look like our very own art gallery. Jared decided he wanted to run the ticket booth where we gave tickets to all of the visitors to the gallery and he did a great job! Colby and Jordan were tour guides that showed our visitors from kindergarten around the art gallery. The children were also interested in music so we spent some times doing activities around music; one of which was setting up a cup xylophone that Aqeal had a lot of fun experimenting with. The children also got to make instruments using materials they could find around the house. For example we made guitars using tissue boxes, elastic bands and paper towel rolls. Charlize and Isabelle really enjoyed creating their own instruments. Of course we couldn’t spend some time doing music activities without doing something with American Idol. Natasha G. and Katie were excited to emulate their favourite judges while Gabby and Chiara tried to sing their way to a golden ticket. The children were also interested in Star Wars so Jacob and Nathan spent some time making Star Wars spaceships using the Lego. We can’t forget Valentine’s Day either! We did a few different activities leading up to Valentine’s Day including making cards, decorations and baking heart-shaped cookies. Emma and Isabella like creating different Valentine’s crafts and of course the cookies were a big hit with everyone!

**March**

This month the children had some diverse interests that we explored with various activities. To start off the month, the children were interested in transportation. Some of the children designed their own paper airplanes and enjoyed seeing who could get their plane to do the coolest trick or fly the farthest. Nathan, Elijah and Connor were particularly good pilots! Daniel, Jacob and Chiara also had a lot of fun building their own boats using straws, construction paper and tape. They experimented with different materials to see who could get their boat to float best. Another popular activity we did this month was building different vehicles using marshmallows and toothpicks. It wasn’t surprising that the children showed interest in an activity that involved marshmallows. Natasha T., Charlize and Emma were a few of the children that really enjoyed getting creative with this activity. From transportation the children’s interest shifted to Princes, Princesses and castles. We played a game called giants, wizards

Spring Cleaning

**Spring cleaning**? Don't dump it; **donate** it to St. Aidan YMCA. We would gladly take any gently used household items such as, pots and pans, clothing, shoes, toys, etc. This will give children more materials to expand their interests and learning capabilities.

Thank you!

Article Title

The purpose of a holiday newsletter is to keep friends and family updated on the events in your family’s life and to share holiday greetings across the miles. The year-end holidays are a good time to tell about your experiences from the past year and to express warm wishes for the year to come.

Why send a family newsletter? Most people send greeting cards to friends and loved ones at these times. A newsletter is a more informative yet convenient way of keeping in touch with those you do not see as often as you would like.

Writing a family newsletter can also be a fun activity to do together as a family. You can make everyone feel included as you take stock of the events in your life together.

First, sit down and talk about the most important things that have happened in the past year. What special memories do you share? What have you learned or come to understand? Has anyone in your family achieved any accomplishments (like a graduation from school or winning an award) or reached a major milestone (like retiring or moving into a new home)? Your family newsletter is a good place to share that information and relive those memories with people who could not be there to share your joy the first time.

Also, think about who will be reading your family newsletter. What would your friends or distant family members most like to hear about? Do they have any special interests that your family shares?



In order to maintain an effective creative centre, we need your help. If possible, please collect items such as small boxes, frozen juice lids, empty paper towel and toilet paper tubes, old wrapping paper, ribbons and bows, yarn, beads, buttons, fabric or any other reusable items and send them to school with your child. All items sent should be washed and should not have come in contact with nut products. The children use these items to make a variety of creations, providing them with opportunities to cut, paste, manipulate a variety of materials, and to use their imaginations in an engaging manner.



Library book exchange will start this month with kindergarten students. Please read the library book with your child and show your child how to care for books. Return the book once you have finished reading it, as students will have an opportunity to choose another book from the library each day with the assistance of Mrs. Saini and Mrs. Winter.



what were the children interested in?

To find out more about what we have been doing in our classroom please visit our classroom blog:

<http://sfvfdk2.edublogs.org>

On our classroom blog you will find a new post two times a week speaking to the events occurring in our class! We are looking forward to more learning adventures and seeing where the children’s interests will take us during the month of October!

**Thank you for your continued support,**

**Mrs. Winter & Mrs. Saini**