

Cordova Bay Preschool Newsletter

December 2009/January 2010



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ 1/27 4's Field Trip to Thrifty Foods
- ◆ 2/2 Executive Meeting
- ◆ 2/6 Open House
- ◆ 2/10 General Meeting & Parent Education
- ◆ 2/15 4's Field trip to the Shaw Ocean Discovery Centre
- ◆ 3/2 Executive Meeting
- ◆ 3/3 Parent Education

Leasa's Corner

Happy New Year everyone, all the best wishes are sent for 2010! It is exciting to think about all the wonders to be explored this preschool year, creating endless possibilities for learning.

As most of you have seen, Carly and I made some changes to our preschool room on our set-up day after the Christmas Break. Some changes include:

- The addition of a 'construction shop' in the block area. We hope this will encourage thought around 'building' when the children are using the large blocks. We have seen many amazing structures created ... from boats, to fire halls ... to a stage which is currently being used for dance, singing, and acting performances during free play and circle time
- A hammering table had been placed in the construction shop where the children can use real nails and hammers in a safe and stimulating way
- The addition of a small block table which we hope will encourage the children to explore the unit blocks we have placed on a shelf nearby. We will add items (i.e. people, animals) to keep area interesting to the children
- The children have been drawn to the 'train' table and enjoyed building and changing the tracks and taking turns with the locomotives.

We have been keeping our fingers crossed for some snow, and even though the weather has not yet cooperated it has not stopped us from playing with snow in the classroom. We have had snow play dough (so many beautiful and cute snow people have been created!), lot's of snowy art including real Ice Castles, and a snowy sensory table where the children have played with skiing/snowboarding & arctic igloo play mobile. We have read many snow related books and discussed what snow is and the weather conditions required to create it.

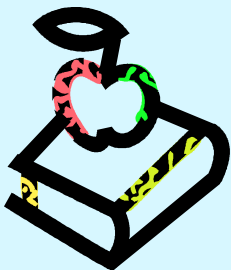
4's & 3/4's only

Our Shared Snack Day's with Dana have been very successful ... we made vegetable soup in November, gingerbread cookies in December, and fresh fruit and yogurt smoothies in January! It is great to see the children so involved in making their snacks, and stepping out of their comfort zones and trying some foods they may not be willing to try at home!

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Guest Speaker Series

- ◆ Thank you to Capt. Rich Pala of the Saanich Fire Department (Prevention Division) for being our guest speaker in January.
- ◆ February's guest speaker is Dr. Sandra Gibbons from UVic.
Topic: building children's self esteem through physical activity.
- ◆ March's guest speaker is Leanna Madill, again from UVic.
Topic: Video Games and our kids!



Leasa's Corner Continued...

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We had a special visit from:

*the Saanich Fire Department ... it was exceptionally exciting to have the fire truck with Santa's sleigh on top!

Christina de Wilde who did some yoga with the children on a rainy, rainy afternoon!

We finally had a combination of all our children in attendance AND some decent weather ... our adorable Scarecrow has finally come to life! If you have not already, you will find him/her (?, lol) on the green space.

Finally, please take a moment at preschool to welcome our new practicum student Caitlin. I am very excited to have her at Cordova Bay as she is someone I already know and admire ... she has done some babysitting for my children in the past, and I know her family well as our youngest children went to preschool together.

Leasa

Be There!

Wednesday January 27th 9:30 a.m. is the "Four's class" field trip to Thrifty Foods at Broadmead Shopping Centre. The children will have an educational tour throughout the store, meet Mr. Crab and learn about recycling!

On Monday February 15th, Mum's and Dad's of the "fours class" can enjoy a coffee while Leasa, Carly, Megan and Shelley guide the preschoolers "under the sea" at The SHAW Ocean Discovery Centre in Sidney.

On Friday March 5th kid's can dance their way into Spring Break as our field trip will be to Dansko Studio's!

April's field is at the CRD Animal Shelter. Details to follow!

Welcome!

Noah Thompson and Heather Doheny have joined the afternoon class in January. Both are younger siblings of students currently enrolled so these families are already familiar faces to our school.

New families joining us in February are Kelsey Fraser in the morning 3s and Ariya Sheikh in the afternoon 4s class. Welcome!

Reminder

- ◆ Please remember to send weather appropriate clothing to preschool each day ... this includes mud pants, rain protective jackets and boots if wet outside.

Play Dough Recipe

Here is a recipe for that amazing goopy stuff we had on the play dough table in December.

Wiggly Glue

*2 cups white glue (LePage glue works best)

*1 1/2 cups water

Mix the above ingredients in a large bowl.

*3 cups, each containing 1/3 cup warm water

*Mix 1 tbsp. Borax into each of the cups (3 tbsp. Borax total)

Add one of the cups of Borax/water to the large bowl of glue/water. Mix until a large clump forms, and then lift clump into a separate bowl and work into a ball. Repeat with remaining two cups Borax/water. Store up to two weeks in zip-lock bag. ENJOY!!!!!!



Extraordinary Meeting Update

Once again, we'd like to extend a big thank you to all of the parents who participated in the extra meetings regarding next year's programs. We'd also like to say thank you to everyone for participating in the Extraordinary Meeting on January 13th. Everyone's feedback and time is greatly appreciated!

The results of the Extraordinary Meeting show that the majority (large majority) of families are in favour of extending the 3's program by 15 minutes, and the 4's program by 30 minutes with the option of a preregistered afternoon program. Again, this is not set in stone, but as most of you are aware both Lochside and Cordova Bay received funding for full day kindergarten.

We are now in the process of gathering more information regarding funding and licensing, to bring further information to you. If any families would like to participate in assisting us gather information, please contact myself or Marnie Davison. We will continue to update families as we gather information and move forward. Thank you for your time and feedback.

Katie Hennessy

katiehennessy@shaw.ca

Marnie Davison

grntmarn@telus.net