



February 2012 Newsletter

January gave us some wacky weather. Although the deep freeze kept us inside for which felt like forever we did manage to keep busy and enjoy some fun inside activities. February looks to be a busy month with Chinese New Year, Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, a Night of Winter Fun and Family Day! Any guesses on what the groundhog will say about spring arrival?

VALENTINE'S DAY

- Valentine's Day! Our focus for Valentine's is friendship, and kindness. This year the Transition, Preschool and Jr Kinders will have a individual parties with several amazing activities and then join together for some dancing fun in the morning from 9:45 - 11:15. The Kindergarten children will have theirs at stay up time. Parents are able to send Valentines for their children to hand out. When sending Valentine cards we recommend having your child write only their name on the cards thus making it easier for them to give out and I hope less frustrating for you too! A list will be made for the older children (Kinder's and older) for them to try and write names. You may encourage your child to try but it will not be required. Remember to keep it fun; it should not be stressful for either of you.
- How many valentine cards will my child need...? If you are in the Toddler room you will need 10, Transition room will need 6, Preschool Room will need 17, Jr Kinders & Kinders will need 21.
- REMEMBER TO WEAR RED!



WINTER FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

- Our Evening of Winter Family Fun will be Friday February 10, 2012 from 4pm - 6pm. Come join us at the Brookview Community Hall and George Luck Park. It will be a wonderful event for all the families! There will be skating on the rink, sledding on Monkey Mountain, and fun in the snow. We will also have hot chocolate, coffee, hot dogs and treats in the hall to keep you warm. I hope you will all be able to join us. The OSC children will get the fun started at 4pm. Children should bring their own sleds, and skates to use this afternoon. For the safety of the younger children the Toddler, Transition, Preschool, Jr Kinder and Kinder children will remain at the center and be brought over by their parents.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- More winter fun- The Riverbend Family Winter Festival is on Sunday February 12th at James Ramsey Park (Riverbend Road and 43 Ave.) from 1:00 -4:00pm. It is always a great family event!
- Tax receipts are ready; please ask Amy if you need one.

BE MY VALENTINE!

- We will be closed on Monday February 20, 2012 for Family Day – enjoy the day with your families!
- Scholastic Book orders are due by February 10, 2012 – many good choices to choose from!
- Looking ahead... April 6th is Good Friday and April 9th is Easter Monday.
- Friday June 1st, 2012 is our staff PD Day, we will be closed. Professional Development is valued and beneficial for our staff. Accreditation supports and promotes professional growth in the child care field. This year our staff will be required to attend the Grant MacEwan Chilcare Conference.

Extra Curricular Activities

- The children will continue to enjoy gym time at George Luck School on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays throughout the month. Please visit the website for particulars. All children must have indoor running shoes to participate please check your child's footwear.
- Music Class continues every Tuesday morning from 10:30 to 11:30 for toddlers, Transition, Preschool, Jr Kinders.
- Are you missing a mitt or a hat? Check out the Lost and Found basket in the entrance. Please check it out and take home any missing belongings.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Thank you to all the parents for keeping your child, teachers, and your child's friends healthy. We had a successful season with limited illness. This is all in cooperation of following a healthy practice with our guidelines and in accordance with Alberta Health Services (AHS) in keeping your child home when ill. As we enter the final stage of cold and flu season please continue to practice this routine. For ease of reference it is listed below.

Just a reminder, if your child is well enough to come to the center, your child is well enough to participate in all activities during the day – this includes going outside! If your child is not well enough to attend school, they are not well enough to attend the child care centre. Please consider all of the other children and staff, your child will meet when making the decision to send your child to school. We will call you and ask you to pick your child up, if we feel he is unable to cope with our busy days. If your child has fever, diarrhea or vomiting they need to stay home for 24 hours after their symptoms are gone without the aid of medication. If your child does require medicine while at the centre, please be reminded to fill in the necessary forms everyday Our staff will help to ensure the correct form is filled out! An exact time for medicine to be given is required (cannot be as needed) and all medicine MUST come in original packaging with the entire doctor's information. Thank you for your understanding!

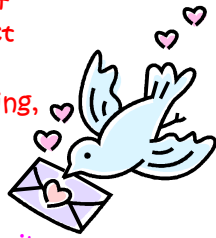
- Outdoor Wear – Does it smell a bit like a wet dog? That is the scent of wet, sanding, soggy, muddy, salty, mitts, snow pants, jackets, and those socks!!! With our wacky weather please remember to leave a complete change of clothing, this includes shirts, pants, underwear and lots of socks, for your child here at the Centre. It will get used

HUGS!



after sledding, skating (OSC only), and any outdoor activities. Send your child with all the appropriate outdoor wear. Remember we go outside everyday!

- Thank you to all the parents for helping us keep your child's play space clean by removing your outdoor shoes upon entering the Centre.
- At the end of the day please ensure your child has put all their belongings in their cubbie. This includes their indoor shoes.
- Pick up and drop off times are very busy periods of the day. Your child's safety is of the utmost importance to us. Should you pick up your child without making contact with your child's teacher it may result in an unnecessary alarming situation. Please inform your child's teacher by speaking with them directly, making eye contact, waving, or have your child inform the teacher, prior to leaving.



TEACHERS CONVENTION

- Child Identification program is coming on Thursday March 2nd at 9:30am. More details to follow with the application the week of February 20th.
- March 2nd the Out of School Care children will be going swimming at Terwillegar Community Recreation Center in the afternoon.
- Permission forms are available on the website. Please ensure you return your permission form by February 17th, 2012 if your child will be attending the center during Teachers Convention

SPRING BREAK

- Spring Break is from March 26th - 30th this year. We have a number of exciting fieldtrips planned for the Kinder and Out of School Care children. We have even planned a fieldtrip for the Preschool and Jr Kinders too!
- Permission forms are available on the website. Please ensure you return your permission form by March 5th if your child will be attending the center during Spring Break. I must confirm numbers for the fieldtrips by the second week of March, if I have not received your permission form your child will be unable to attend.

YES WE HAVE STARTED TO PLAN SUMMER ALREADY!!!!

- Even though snow covers the ground I am beginning to plan the summer fieldtrips. I look forward to hearing some suggestions from you related to favorites, not too interested, and new ideas. Please let me know via email, or notes, or chatting with me.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

- Kindergarten 2012 - 2013: As long as your child is five by March 1, 2013, they are eligible to register. Registration has begun at schools for your child entering kindergarten in September 2010. Please visit the Edmonton Catholic school website at www.ecsd.net and the Edmonton Public school website at www.epsb.ca for more information. Please be advised that our program is provincially licensed and accredited. St. Monica's has extended bussing service to families who attend our program. Brander Gardens has bussing ONLY if you are registered in the French immersion program and George Luck is within walking distance. Should you have any questions please feel free to speak with me. Please let us know what school your child will be attending once you have registered. Thank you





TODDLER ROOM NEWS

This February we are going to talk about Valentine's Day and Family. We are going to paint hearts, make hearts with playdough and make a collage with hearts. We are going to read books about Valentines and learn this song:

If you are really sweet,
make a heart that's nice and neat!
Add some kisses and hug,
A Valentine is made with LOVE!

TRANSITION ROOM NEWS

Last month we welcomed the year with a blast. We worked on our cutting and tracing skills, continued to learn about letters and played some special letter "I Spy" games. This month we will continue having fun with games, singing and dancing as we learn the letters M, N, V and O. We will continue to master our letter and name tracing and also continue with our cutting skills

PRESCHOOL ROOM NEWS

Finally LOVE month is here! This February we will be learning about Hearts and Valentine's Day. We'll also learn about kittens and Lollipop. We will continue working on our Alphabet letters H, V, K and L too! We have been having fun playing outside with the snow and we will hopefully go sledding too. Please make sure your child has snow pants, mittens and hat every day.

JR. KINDER + KINDER ROOM NEWS

Happy Love month everyone! This month we will be sounding, tracing and writing the letters U - Z and recognizing the numbers 7 - 10. We have be memorizing number poems too! We will start working on our journals by the first week of March. Themes will be based on the interest of the children.

OUT OF SCHOOL CARE ROOM NEWS

We have many fun activities planned this month. We will be doing a lot of friendship and kindness activities as well as a bit of Black History Month. We will also be having another FEAR FACTOR(eating gross stuff contest) as requested by the children! It will take place on Thursday February 9th from 4 - 4:30 pm. We have really been enjoying our time skating and will continue to skate on Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the month of February. With cooperation from the weather we would like to go skating as much as weather allows. On skating days please send your child with skates with guards and a CSA approved helmet for skating(No bike helmets). Please check whiteboard for more details. We hope to be able to go sledding as well but currently the hill is very icy. As a friendly reminder in this wet

weather, the OSC children need a spare change of clothes as their socks and pants often get wet. We go outside each day, please ensure your child has proper clothing for outdoor play, such as, snow pants, mittens and a hat.

OSC parents please remember to visit the website for Teachers Convention and Spring Break Permission forms.



Happy Chinese New Year & Valentines Day!
Have a great month!