



SCARBORO COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL NEWSLETTER

February 2012



Chair's Report

Hello everyone and welcome to 2012. We have some wonderful and amazing things planned in preschool this coming year. It is great to see everyone back after the break, and we had a good turn out at our last parent board meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 27th at 7:00pm in the Sunalta School Library. We will be discussing results from registration, and thoughts and ideas as we plan for the fall (I know it sounds crazy, but yes, we have to start thinking about fall already!). On that note, I would like to welcome all families, and perspective families to our open registration night and open house on February 8th, at 7:00pm. I look forward to seeing you there! As always, please email me any questions, comments or concerns at jamesdurant@hotmail.com.

James Durant - 2011-2012 Scarboro Preschool Chair



CONTACT INFORMATION

Preschool Phone Number: (403) 228-3446

Website: www.scarboropreschool.com

Email: scarboropreschool@gmail.com

Teachers' Report

Happy New Year to all! Let us begin by thanking our wonderful preschool parents for your generosity and kindness.

With Christmas learning, crafts, songs and parties behind us, we now look forward to moving into the next segment of our preschool year. The three year old classes will continue the winter theme with a focus on bears. We will be learning many fun facts about bears through the month of January. This theme will come to a close just in time for Valentines day. We will celebrate our bear learning with a Teddy Bear Picnic in our pajamas (stay tuned for more details). We will also be spending more time on the alphabet, learning and identifying the letters in our names and the names of our classmates.

The four year old classes will continue to work on learning, identifying, reading and printing the letters in the alphabet as well as numbers and counting. The January theme will also be winter with a focus on penguins.

All classes will move forward with goals to excel at following the routines in class, sitting and listening, expressing oneself appropriately, following directions, participating and cooperating, sharing, and respecting each other. We will continue to use the lower gym for gross motor skill, games, and movement.

Please feel free to contact your teachers if you have any questions or concerns.

Miss Wanda & Miss Gail

-Teachers of the 3's and 4's

Important February Dates

- 3rd- NO SCHOOL, CBE closure
- 8th- Fall Registration Night and Open House 7PM
- 13th- 4's Valentine's Day in-class celebration
(no parents please)
- 14th- 3's Valentine's Day in class celebration
(no parents please)
- 16th- NO SCHOOL- Teacher's Convention
- 17th- NO SCHOOL- Teacher's Convention
- 20th- NO SCHOOL- Family Day
- 23rd- Newsletter Submission Deadline
- 27th- Parent Board Meeting- 7PM School Library
- 27th- COP ski lessons
- 28th- COP ski lessons
- March 2- COP ski lessons

Lucky Duck Reminder

Please remember to arrive 15 minutes before class, and be prepared to stay 15 minutes after class to assist with clean-up. Please consult the snack menu at www.scarboropreschool.com or contact our administrator, Jodi Durant- scarboropreschool@gmail.com for questions or concerns. If you are unable to make a volunteer day you signed up for, **you are responsible** to find a suitable replacement. If you are having difficulty, please contact your class volunteer coordinator for help or a class contact list. Thank you very much for your cooperation!

Special Events Update

Happy New Year to you all. The Special Events Committee has had fun working on the Halloween and Christmas parties and trust fun was had by all. For the rest of the year the Special Events team will be supporting three events with the teachers and arranging the year end party. They are the Valentine Event, the Easter Egg Hunt, the Mother's day Tea, and the Year End Party.

More information will be coming via the Teachers closer to the events so stay tuned. We would like to let you know that this year's Year End parties are scheduled for June 14, 2012 for the three year olds and June 15, 2012 for the four year olds. They will be similar in format to the Halloween and Christmas parties. If the weather is supportive, we hope to be outside to enjoy them. If there are any questions or comments please feel free to contact me or any of the team members. We hope you all enjoy the rest of the year.

- Giulia Maida, Special Events Committee Head
gmaida0@gmail.com



Special Thank You to
Mike Morden for
repairing the doors in
the classroom. Much
appreciated!

Registration

We will be hosting our registration night and open house on February 8th, 2012 from 7PM-9PM in the classroom and Sunalta Library. Parents can meet the teachers, tour the classroom, meet other parents, and register their children. Questions will be answered and you can learn more about the preschool. If you have friends, family, or neighbours that may be interested, please ask them to contact Jodi Durant at scarboropreschool@gmail.com or call her at 403-560-4881 for more information. We are looking forward to seeing you all there!

Reminder

Parents, please remember to sign in and out at drop off and pick up times as this is a serious licensing issue.

Sunalta School Kindergarten

Sunalta School has begun their kindergarten registration for the 2012-2013 school year on January 16th, 2012. For more info, please contact Donna LePlante in the Sunalta School office for more information.

A BUDGET-FRIENDLY CRAFT FOR BOOKWORMS: PAINT CHIP BOOKMARKS



These paint chips were begging to be spared from the trash. Trim them to a size you like, paste two colors back-to-back with some rubber cement, attach a string or ribbon, and you're golden. They're especially sturdy because the paper stock they're printed on is very tough. This project is perfect for adults and kids alike, as kiddos can really put their imaginations to work and decorate their bookmarks with stickers, doodles and just about anything else they'd like. And the best part? If your bookmark gets lost, you can replace it for pennies!.

www.howaboutorange.blogspot.com/2009/01/paint-chip-bookmarks.html

ABOUT FAMILY LITERACY DAY



Family Literacy Day is a national awareness initiative created by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 and held annually on January 27 to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family. More than 1.5 million Canadians have already participated in the initiative since its debut. Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development. Even just 15 minutes a day can improve a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well.

<http://abclifeliteracy.ca/family-literacy-day>

How to Help Your Preschooler Fall in Love with Reading

By Diana Ballon

<http://www.canadianfamily.ca/articles/preschooler-love-reading/>

Ways to instill a love of reading in your preschooler

Early childhood educators commonly rely on a range of approaches to teaching reading and writing, but the most important thing parents can do is simply read to their child, says Dr. Dale Willows, a professor at the University of Toronto's Institute of Child Study. Here's what she says parents should expect at this age:

at age three

Children should be read to often. Rhyming books and picture books are a great place to start, says Dr. Willows. Give your child opportunities to handle books and to pretend to read them.

at age four

Expose your child to books with more words. "Many four-year-olds are ready to start learning the letters and sounds of the alphabet and decoding little books." Dr. Willows also recommends starfall.com, a website that eases kids into reading in a playful way.

at age five

Nearly all children can learn to read and write at this age with appropriate instruction. "Research shows that focusing on the sounds in spoken words through rhyming and playing with the individual

sounds in words — known as phonemic awareness — provides an essential foundation for learning to read," says Dr. Willows. And rather than pushing children to develop reading and writing by kindergarten, it's more important that children experience motivating instruction at school and have playful engagement with print at home, she says. Fortunately, even if your child was not exposed to effective instruction in kindergarten, he'll still learn fine in Grade 1, assures Dr. Willows. "Reading is a learned skill, not something that develops naturally, so timing is not critical for it to be effective."

what you can do at home

Read to your child every night: It doesn't matter where you do it — in their bed or a comfy chair — but do it as part of your evening routine, emphasizes Paul Kropp, author of *How to Make Your Child a Reader for Life* (Random House Canada). And even if you've read your child's favourite book several hundred times, don't hesitate to read it again.

Keep it light: "Kids love wordplay," says Kropp. They love repetitive songs with structure, like "Old MacDonald Had a Farm," where they can predict and then change a song." Make a storybook for your

child, writing out the stories he tells you and getting him to do the illustrations. Or dig out his favourite toddler book and see if he can read it to you now.

Use the words around you:

Dr. Victoria Purcell-Gates, a professor in the faculty of education at the University of British Columbia and the Canada Research Chair in Early Childhood Literacy, says kids don't necessarily need fancy kids' books or reading programs. Get them to notice the "s" on the stop sign, the "h" for hospital or words on the cereal box. Dr. Willows also encourages parents to teach children to print their own name and words using both upper- and lower-case letters — and only use upper case where it is appropriate to avoid confusion.

is there ever a time to be concerned?

If you are worried that your child is well behind his peers, speak to your pediatrician. He may need a hearing test or an assessment to address potential processing or memory issues.