

Paramount Family Centre February 2019

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Centre Greetings, News/Updates and Reminders

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Classrooms Updates, February Birthdays

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Community Events

Greetings from Paramount Family Centre!

Now that we have made it through the polar vortex, we can get out again and enjoy the fresh air! Spring is on the horizon and with that comes feelings of cleaning and purging.

We too have plans to organize and streamline items into order, by getting rid of some of the bulkiness that we accumulated over the winter months.

As we purge the physical, we also want to streamline some of the abstract by way of how the newsletter is delivered or rather how often it is sent out.

Going forward we will be submitting seasonal newsletters that will pack more punch with more meaningful and thoughtful information. Instead of brief updates we will get more in-depth reflection of the development and interests in the classrooms along with concrete direction for programming.

We hope you will be open to a more essential and relevant version of information to share with you.

Our first seasonal newsletter will be out the first week of Spring!

Stay warm and dry! - Paramount Family Centre

Survey Time!

Each spring we welcome and encourage parent feedback so that we can make sure our services are meeting your expectations. A short electronic survey will be sent out to current parents with questions related to the quality of care you are receiving. Please take the time to comment and share about areas in which we are doing well and perhaps areas in which we may need improvement. This survey is anonymous for confidentiality reasons, no names, or identifying information will be collected.

We appreciate your participation as this feedback helps us to improve our delivery of service.

Parent survey will be out Feb. 11-22, with results, questions and answers posted on the bulletin board by the playground doors the following week.



Reminders

**Centre Closed February 18
for Family Day**

**PA Day March 1'st-
Catholic and Public Board**

March break March 11-15

Thanks for Participating in Snuggle Up and Read Day January 24'th, 2019!

The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go. – Dr. Seuss

This is a literacy basket containing a book and loose parts (sensory hands) to help further children's understanding of the message of the book. This provides something concrete and tactile for them to explore in addition to the vocabulary, facial expressions and gestures used to read the story.



The connection between Daniella and Olivia during reading is evident. They are cuddled together, sharing in the moment, looking at one another and strengthening their bond. Mom Daniella is sharing valuable information with her child Olivia and she in turn is soaking it up like a sponge.

Parent engagement is so important. The more adults that children can make connections with, the more confident and capable they will be to learn more, try again, get up and dust themselves off because they have loving and caring adults around them to trust. Others join in as Maria reads to her son Massimo.



PIC-COLLAGES

Children's attention is captured by using songs, props and voice intonation. This book is interactive with pop-up features that children can take turns pulling out which promotes waiting, listening to and watching for teacher's cues for when to do this and sharing in the story as part of a group with peers.



Congratulations to Graham in P1 who won the Literacy Basket!

This basket included loose parts to help in telling stories. It is so simple to add onto a story by adding everyday objects to represent characters or key pieces from the story.

Children can then re-tell the story themselves using these same objects. Since loose parts are open-ended, they can be reused to tell various stories.

Check what some a loose parts story looks like below!



Can you guess what story this is based on the objects? One object represents Goldilocks, three others the bears, the beds, the chairs and the porridge bowls.



In this picture, you can see Santana using the objects to retell the story to her peers. Using these objects this helps her to recall what happens and because there is colour and size as well it further helps her to tell it in the correct order, even though it is perfectly ok to retell it in a different order!

February Birthday's

- *Lille February 1'st*
- *Niko February 6'th*
- *Jordan February 11'th*
- *Ivy February 25'th*
- *Martin February 26'th*
- *Graham February 27'th*



Toddler News

Hello everyone, just a little update about your little toddlers! The children have continued with their sensorial interests. One example is the day we jumped in muddy puddles. We were on a morning walk when the puddles were discovered. The children seemed to be drawn to them like magnets. The next thing we knew we were splashing around and having a great time. Some little friends lost their balance and made a splash with their bottoms! We continue to support this interest with water play, painting and anything squishy. What sensory activities does your little one experience at home? Please share with us as we love new ideas. Stay cozy and enjoy the winter months.

Miss Ana, Miss Martha and Miss Shannon



P1

Winter is in full swing and we have enjoyed playing in the snow! We spent many days sliding and rolling down our big hill, used food coloring to experiment with and made snow people. In January we also explored what it meant to be a super hero, and how we can use our super powers to help others through sharing, showing compassion to those who are hurt and helping others.

Our children have been interested in loose parts so we have created a new little area in our room for children to further explore this. For those of you who don't know, loose parts are open ended materials with no specific function. They allow children to use their imagination to create and build.

We have started our Jolly phonics program and will keep you updated on HiMama on which letters we will be focusing on throughout the coming weeks and months so you will be able to continue their learning at home. We have seen many children in our room show interest and excitement around the alphabet already!

Stay warm!

Miss. Shamima and Miss. Amanda

P2

The children have really been enjoying circle time each day. Each child made a personal mat for circle time, in the shape of a circle with their picture in the middle, decorated in their own way using markers and stickers. The children are eagerly learning each new letter by using Tad the leap frog, the daily letter song and the daily letter poem. We have also been touching on the days of the week and months of the year. It's the leader of the day's job to put the number on our calendar each day and choose a song from the song board to end our circle time. The children are doing very well accepting this as the leader's role. There is no arguing or tears about not doing it, they all know it will be their turn when they are the leader. There has also been a lot of baby play happening in the classroom, this play is being supported by having enough babies for all to play with. We have provided baby check lists to see what items a baby might need such as a bottle, clean diaper, a nap or possibly a story. We have been laying the babies on blankets and singing songs to them, this type of baby play supports language, memory, promotes compassion and empathy. A new activity started recently in the class is loose parts story telling. This is story telling with random pieces instead of using the actual pictures. The children have enjoyed listening to and re-telling the Goldilocks and the 3 bears story.

Miss. Kelly



P3

In the month of February, we plan to continue and build on the many interests we have shown throughout January. Cooking, dramatic play, sensory, literacy and gross motor. The children have taken their interest in cooking to creating restaurants and serving the meals that they created using their imaginations and cognitive abilities. Sensory play throughout the month of January has been sand, water, ice and water beads, giving the children different textures to explore and observe.

Our classroom has many loose parts throughout, and we are changing them when needed. Our loose parts help the children to use their imagination, and creativity to make whatever they feel the loose parts are.

- Miss. Michelle and Miss. Kelsey



Hello from the Kinder Room

I'd like to thank you for all the kind wishes welcoming me to the Kinder room I am looking forward to spending time creating and implementing a program to support the interests of the group!

We have recently been taking time while walking back from school, to explore our neighbourhood using all our senses. We found pine cones that were not open and we put them in the oven to speed up the process and beautiful pieces of thick ice that appeared to have painted designs through it!!

- Miss. Les



PIC•COLLAGE



School Age News

Welcome to 2019, with a new year we have some new changes! Some friends have moved on and we have added new friends in their place. All of the School Agers have been very welcoming and helpful to our new faces. The class has also had a staffing change, we say goodbye to Miss Les and hello to Miss Christine who has joined Miss Shelby in the school age room but don't worry we still get to see Miss Les around the daycare!

The children have been interested in building and creating with various items. There has been lots of exploration with the Lincoln logs, k'nex, melty beads and much more. All of these mediums are great for promoting fine motor skills and concentration. We need to use our smaller muscles in our hands to create with these smaller toys as well as our patience for concentration, which all help us to succeed with things like reading and writing. We hope to further this interest by providing different materials to enhance our learning through creating and building.

It's that time of year to start thinking about your plans for March Break. Sign up will be posted soon, keep an eye out!

Miss Christine and Miss Shelby

Family Day Fun

Sing-a-long Sound of Music at The Burlington Performing Arts Centre with an interactive screening of the classic musical The Sound of Music on Feb. 18 at 1 p.m.

The event includes onscreen lyrics, props, costumes and vocal warm-ups. Before the movie screening, there will be a live show and prizes for the fancy dress competition (costumes are not compulsory but are encouraged).

Tickets are \$20 each or \$70 for a family of four.

Location: 440 Locust St., Burlington, Ont.

Horse-drawn rides at Mountsberg with Tales by a Winter Fire program on Family Day weekend. It includes horse-drawn sleigh and wagon rides, as well as tobogganing, hiking and an outdoor bonfire.

Park admission for a family of two adults and two children is \$25.50 and children four and under are free. Sleigh and wagon rides are \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

Location: 2259 Millborough Line, Campbellville, Ont.

Information: 905-854-2276

Snowflakes and Snowsnakes at Crawford Lake Conservation Area event on Family Day weekend

The festivities include demonstrations of snowshoeing and Snowsnake, a traditional Iroquoian winter game, as well as winter survival hikes, Hemlock tea tasting, marshmallow roasts and craft making.

Park admission for a family of two adults and two children is \$25.50 and children four and under are free.

Location: 3115 Conservation Rd., Milton, Ont.

Information: 905-854-0234

Frosty Fest at Brantford's Frosty Fest features ice carving, horse-drawn trolley rides, figure skating shows, a street midway, free skating, pony rides, free Kids Zone games and fun winter fare like snow taffy.

Admission is free.

Location: Harmony Square, 89 Dalhousie St., Brantford, Ont.

We would like to learn from you



NOW RECRUITING IN HAMILTON

Is your child younger than school-age?

Do you want to talk to a researcher about your experience with getting support for your child? Examples of support include:

- A resource consultant
- Autism support services
- Speech and language
- Behavior supports
- Physical therapy
- Mental health services
- Occupational therapy
- Indigenous family supports
- Other advice or assessment related to your child's growth or development

If you have used (or are waiting for) any of these services **we would like to hear about your experience**. The Inclusive Early Childhood Services System Project wants to learn from what you know about getting support for your child. The study hopes to learn more about how early childhood services are meeting the needs of children with "atypical development", "special needs", "disability", or "gifts". Participation in the study is voluntary and involves:

- A 1.5 to 2 hours interview that will be audio-recorded.
- Child care and/or translation if needed
- The opportunity to participate in an interview once a year for 3 years in the preschool phase, with the opportunity to join the school-age study
- A thank you gift for your time (value \$30)

If you would like to join our study or find out more information please contact the project office at, inclusion@ryerson.ca, 416-979-5000 ext. 7637 or 1-833-671-8003.

www.InclusiveEarlyChildhood.ca

This project has been reviewed and approved by the Ryerson Research Ethics Board, REB#2014-344



Thank you for reading!

