

Dalhousie Kindergarten Newsletter

- October 2015

Save the Date!

Oct 7 - Photo Day – Individual & Class Photo

Oct 8 - Photo Day for those that missed Oct 7

*There will be no group/class shot this day

Oct 12 - No School

Oct 13 - 7pm Parent Council Meeting

Oct 13 - Music Lessons with Mrs.K!

Oct 22 & 23 - Casino Fundraising

Oct 30 - Butterfield Acres Field Trip



Resources for you!

Remember to visit www.dcakids.com for information about current events, copies of the newsletter and calendar and other parent resources!



Volunteer Update

Casino

many thanks to all the families who have replied to the call for volunteers for the upcoming casino on October 22 and 23. Further confirmations and additional information about the event will be sent via email about a week before. For those families that have yet to reply, we are still in need of several volunteers for the Thursday evening shifts. Please contact Catherine directly at dcakids@telus.net to see what shifts still need to be covered or talk to her Monday / Wednesday. Thanks for everyone's willingness to assist with this major fundraiser.

In Class Volunteers

A sign-up calendar will be placed on the bulletin board outside of the classroom. Your child really values you coming into the class so please try to find time this school year to spend a morning or two (or more!) in the class.



Teacher's Corner

The 2015-2016 kindergarten year has gotten off to a great beginning. Kindergarten provides an introduction to formal learning. During this time, children will develop basic attitudes toward learning that will last a lifetime. I consider it essential to make the experience positive and significant for every child.

The children have been eagerly discovering just what school is. They have learned some new friends' names and are coming to understand the classroom routines, so that they are now very comfortable in their school.

The 'teacher's corner' of the newsletter will provide you with some information about curriculum goals that we have focused on. Many of the developmental goals are evident in more than one center or group activity, so that the children have lots of independent choice but still experience a range of skills. The learning goals of the curriculum will continue throughout the year, through a variety of themes. For example, the Math concept of one-to-one correspondence can be developed in the 'fall' theme counting leaves, during Halloween counting pumpkin seeds, during Christmas counting decorations for trees and so on. Changing themes keeps the children interested and excited to find out what is new. Our themes for September were "Colors and Shapes" and "Safety", which focused on pedestrian safety. We have practiced being helpful to our classmates, talked about basic shapes, mixed primary colors (red, blue, and yellow) to make new colors, learned to read some color words, practiced printing our names, and made simple patterns and sets. We have sung several fun songs, heard many great stories, played some games with our friends, and shared some interesting activities and snacks on Color Days.

Our Safety City trip was on a lovely fall day, and was a great hit. The drivers on their bikes and pedestrians on the real but kid-sized roads learned to recognize some of the safety signs and symbols, and to stay alert for 'the other guy'. Many thanks go to our parent helpers for that tour - Penny, Cindy, Samantha and Nana Marianne. The tour will be followed up by a fall walk where the children practice reading the real traffic signs and symbols in Dalhousie, while gathering fall treasures and visiting Mrs. B's favorite tree.

Through October our themes will be "Fall", when we talk about changes in animals, trees, plants and people for the season; and "Halloween", when we discuss real versus imaginary characters, and look at some creatures of the night. We will continue to work on patterns, sets, and printing names in lower case letters for kindergarten, and capitals for Junior K's. We will do some work on sequencing.

(CTD)

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On October 30 we are going to Butterfield Acres farm for a pumpkin hunt. Watch for more information later in the month.

Parent Helpers will begin in October. Your participation and initiatives are most welcome, and don't forget we love to have grandparents or other care-givers too. Sign up on the calendar posted beside the classroom door. Some kindergarten children are notoriously quiet about what they did at school each day. This does NOT mean they did not do very much. By volunteering in class you can observe the day yourself, and find ways to ask more focused or descriptive questions. This will help to extend your discussion with your child, and give them valuable reflection, practice, and opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments. Parent Helpers - please arrive 5 minutes before class starts (10 minutes if it is your first time) so that we can discuss what you will be doing before the children need my attention. I look forward to having you, and hope you will enjoy the time in the classroom.

Birthdays are celebrated on or as close to the birthday as possible. On this special day, if you would like to send a treat for the class, we would be delighted to have it. Remember group snacks must not contain any peanut or nut products. If you would like to arrange to be parent helper on your child's birthday, sign up as soon as the calendar is posted beside the classroom door.

If the weather is good, our Phys. Ed. time is usually spent outdoors. Please be prepared if it snows (boots, mitts, warm coat, hat and snow pants) because we will want to go out to play in it. We may go out as long as the temperature is above -15 degrees. Removable items of clothing, such as mitts, boots, shoes and coats MUST have your child's name in them. Many shoes came to school without names, which complicates the process of securing them for the weekend. Later, when we begin sledding, children will need helmets as well. Be sure to label backpacks, lunch boxes and water bottles clearly too.

Parents are always invited to speak with me if there are questions or information to exchange. Normally the best time for such chats is after the children are dismissed and the majority of them have been picked up by their families. Remember you can talk to Catherine on Mon. or Wed., and Miss Destiny can answer many questions too.

Kindergarten children are expected to make their own choices about their learning activities each day, so I will be providing more options than any child can be expected to complete. This means your child will not be bringing home exactly the same projects as friends do. Some of the best learning experiences do not produce a transportable product to bring home at all. So talk to your children about what they are doing, come in as a volunteer and see for yourself, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas. I welcome your input.

- Clair



Mabel's Labels fundraising extended

Parents – everything you send to our school must be labeled with your child's name on it and we have discovered a great way to make this extremely easy – AND raise a few dollars for the Kindergarten at the same time.

Mabel's Labels are a fantastic, personalized product that you can order online and in turn, the Kindergarten receives a portion of the sales. Our fundraising campaign will be active throughout the school year so please check out the following link to place your order: <http://campaigns.mabelslabels.com> - be sure to **select or mention in your email order that your order is supporting *Dalhousie Community Kindergarten*.**

HAPPY OCTOBER!



October 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 No school	3
4	5	6	7 Photo Day Dress Nice! (Class & Individual Photo)	8 Photo Day (only if you missed Oct 7)	9	10
11	12 Thanksgiving No school	13 Music Lessons with Mrs. K Parent Council Meeting 7pm	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Casino	23 Casino	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Field Trip Butterfield Acres	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN 

Notes:

Themes this month:

- Fall
- Halloween

Class Info:

- TIME: 9:00-11:50AM
- PHONE: 403-288-1050
- TEACHER: CLAIR BROWN
- ADMIN: CATHERINE SPACKMAN
- MORE INFO: www.dcakids.com