

Save the Date!

Dec 7 – Jr. High Visit to HD Cartwright

Dec 7 – Parent Council meeting 7pm: All are welcome to join for the meeting and Christmas cheer!

Dec 16 – Christmas Celebration 6.30-8pm

Dec 18 – Last day of Classes

Dec 21 – Jan 4 - Winter Break, Jan 5 – Classes resume

Jan 12 – Bottle Drive (SAVE YOUR HOLIDAY BOTTLES!)

Jan 12, 19, 27 – Skating lessons



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Sena
Ian
Allan



Volunteers Needed!

Christmas concert

We need 2 – 3 volunteers to help with set up for the Christmas concert on December 16 from 5:30 – 6:00 and then some more volunteers to assist at the end with clean-up. **Please speak to Catherine about your availability.**

Skating & Swimming Lessons

In the New Year, students will be taking part in both Skating and Swimming lessons. We rely on parent drivers to take children to and from lessons and to assist once there. If we do not get enough volunteer drivers, we will not be able to run these lessons and the kids will not benefit from these unique program experiences. **Please block off and advise Catherine if you or a family member can help with any part of:**

- ✓ Skating - Wednesdays Jan 13, 20, 27, Feb 3 and 10.
- ✓ Swimming – Tuesdays and Thursdays – March 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17.
 - Volunteers are also needed in the change rooms – are there any Dads or Grandpas that can make these dates to help the boys out?

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 more!) in the class.

Farm to School Vegetable Fundraiser Update

A huge thanks for the support we had of this fundraiser! **Because of your generosity, we were able to raise \$475** which will go directly back into the classroom and programs / activities for your children. As well, a total of 17 bundles were donated to the Calgary Inter-Faith Food Bank who appreciated our support. Hope everyone enjoys their healthy veggies and thanks again to all of those who participated.

Save your holiday bottles!!

Your Parent Council is planning a BOTTLE DRIVE for the morning of Tuesday January 12th. Bottles will be collected at the school so please save your bottles through the "Festive Season" and bring them in to support our school.

All proceeds go to supporting unique programs for our kids!



Jr. High Visit

Over the last couple of years, we have partnered with HD Cartwright Junior High School (next door).

We will be heading over to their school for a "Buddy Visit" on Monday December 7 to do a craft and spend time with the big kids!



Giving Opportunities: help us help others.

Through the month of December, we will be encouraging the children and your family to participate in two giving opportunities:

1. We will be collecting non-perishable food items to be donated to the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank.
2. Also, to support the work of the Calgary New Syrian Refugees Supporting Campaign, we will be collecting winter clothes for the new families arriving in our city. Specifically they are requesting donations of winter jackets and boots, mitts and toques, and clothes for children/babies.

Collection boxes will be set up in the classroom for these donations. We appreciate any support that you are able to provide.

Skating Lessons

Skating lessons start after the Christmas break.

Lessons go for five consecutive Wednesdays and the dates are **January 12, 19, 27, February 3 and 10.**

We will need parent drivers to transport children back and forth to the Brentwood Sportsplex each time and to help tie skates, so please look at your calendar to see if you can help out. Please remember that if your child is under 40 pounds, they must be transported in an anchored car seat so please speak to Catherine or Clair about this. Each child will need skates (sharpened) and a helmet for the lessons – a great Christmas present! We have one or two pairs that could be lent out if needed. Permission slips and additional information will be going out in December so watch for more details.



TEACHER'S CORNER



November has been a month full of good work within the classroom. Each kindergarten child had a chance to visit with me one on one, and the rest of the class practiced their independence and problem solving strategies. The themes for November were Nutrition and Fairy Tales. The nutrition unit follows nicely after Hallowe'en treat-eating. We discussed healthy snacks, and the Canada food guide. Many of the children know their phone numbers, so thank you for your work at home.

We have tested and approved the class set of sleds on the big hill. It is possible that we will be sledding without much warning on any day when there is good snow, little wind, and decent temperatures, so be prepared right through the winter. That means boots, snow pants, mitts and a helmet - ALL WITH NAMES ON THEM. Some parents find a helmet not currently in use, such as a bike helmet, and leave it at school or clip it on the back pack. There are some helmets that can be borrowed, so snow pants and mitts are the most important things to bring every day.



The Fairy Tales theme is rich with opportunity for language learning, development of imagination, and understanding story structure. The children practiced telling familiar stories in the oral tradition. The experience provided a rich understanding of some important elements of a "story", and we used the terms 'characters' and 'setting' interchangeably with 'actors or puppets' and 'sets'. With these understandings the kids put on plays in the blocks and puppet theaters, acted out lots of tales, and provided awesome sound effects and actions in group story-time. These language experiences all work to increase fluency in reading and writing. December will be a very busy and joyful month.



Our theme will be Christmas, the secular version. The parent council may be seeking another helper or two to get together and assemble gingerbread houses, which the children will decorate at our Family Christmas Celebration. It's easy and fun. Let Catherine know if you are interested in joining the parent team. The Family Christmas Celebration will include a short performance by the class, followed by each family decorating a small gingerbread house, then sharing snacks and socializing. It will be held in the evening on Wednesday December 16, at 6:30 p.m. An invitation will be coming with the particulars. Be prepared to bring along a plate of finger foods or baking to share with everyone.

Parents, grandparents, thanks for your support and involvement in the classroom, on the Parent Council (current year's decision makers), and on special trips. The children notice your participation and develop a positive attitude to learning. Our program would not be as rich without you!

Happy Holidays! - Clair (aka Mrs. B.)



DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Jr. High Visit Parent Council Meeting 7pm	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Christmas Celebration 6.30-8pm	17	18 Last day of classes, resume Jan 5.	19
20	21 No School, resume Jan 5.	22 No School, resume Jan 5.	23 No School, resume Jan 5.	24 No School, resume Jan 5.	25 Merry Christmas! No School, resume Jan 5.	26
27	28 No School, resume Jan 5.	29 No School, resume Jan 5.	30 No School, resume Jan 5.	31 No School, resume Jan 5.	Jan 1 Happy New Year! No School, resume Jan 5.	Jan 2

Notes:

Themes this month:

- Christmas

**Keep your bottles! Bottle drive Jan 12.*

Class Info:

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

Birthdays:



Sena, Ian and Allan