



## 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. 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 snowy 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 on the last day of class. Let Lindsey know if you can help prepare them.

## Important dates for December/January:

- Dec. 5 – Parent Council Meeting, 7 p.m.; followed by "Christmas Cheer" - all are welcome!
- Dec. 14 – Family Christmas Celebration, 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- **Dec. 19 to Jan. 2 (inclusive) – Christmas break**
- Jan. 11, 18, 25 & Feb. 1, 8 – Skating lessons\*  
(\*More info coming soon)



Food Bank Collection – Through the month of December, we will be talking to the children about the spirit of giving and will encourage them to bring in Food Bank donations. A box will be set up in the classroom and we will also collect donations at the Family Christmas Celebration. We appreciate any support that you are able to provide.

## Raffle Tickets

There are still a few tickets left to either sign out to sell or to purchase directly – please speak to Catherine or Destiny for tickets. The draw to win Flames and Stampeders items will take place at the Family Christmas Celebration on Wednesday, December 14th. Money raised goes back into programming for the kids.



### Teacher's Corner continued...

The Family Christmas Celebration will include a short performance by the class, followed by each family making a glowing snowman, then sharing snacks and socializing. The draw for the Calgary Flames / Calgary Stampeders raffle prizes will happen at that event. It will be held in the evening on Wednesday December 14, 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. Extended family is welcome.

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. Brown)*



### **“Gingerbread” Houses**

The kids will be decorating gingerbread houses on the last day of school before the break, Dec 16. On the morning of Thursday, December 15, Lindsey will be constructing the houses (out of graham wafers and royal icing) at the Community Centre and she could use some help. Please let us know if you can make it.

### **Registration for next year**

Although it seems unusual to be thinking about this already, we have begun planning for registration for next year’s September class. For parents that have children in Junior Kindergarten that would like to return to our program next September, please speak to Catherine about the registration process.

For other students, there will be an Open House on January 10 followed by Registration for typical students on January 24 – both from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

We are also trying a different process this year for registration of special needs students which will be on December 6 at 9:00 a.m. If you love the experience your child is having in our unique program, please spread the word to other parents considering their Kindergarten options for next year. Details about registration are also found on our website.

### **Family Christmas Celebration**

*Wednesday, Dec 14, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.*

We will need several volunteers to help beforehand, starting at 5:30, with set up of the stage, tables, chairs, etc. Please let us know if you can help. Also, we hope that everyone can help with clean up and the putting away of everything after the event. Thanks in advance for the help!



### **Skating Lessons**

Skating lessons will begin after the Christmas break and run for five consecutive Wednesdays on January 11, 18, 25 and February 1 and 8.

Parent drivers are needed to transport children back and forth to the Brentwood Sportsplex for each lesson, as well as to help tie skates. Please check your calendar to see if you can help out. Remember that if your child is under 40 pounds, they must be transported in an anchored car seat – you can 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 of skates that can be loaned out if needed. Permission slips and additional information will be going out soon so watch for more details.

### **Christmas Break**

Monday, Dec 19 to Monday January 2  
inclusive; School starts back on **TUESDAY**,  
Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>



# December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Parent Council meeting, with Christmas Cheer! 7 p.m.	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Family Christmas Celebration 6:30 – 8 p.m.	15	16 Last day of classes	17
18	19 Christmas Break	20 Christmas Break	21 Christmas Break	22 Christmas Break	23 Christmas Break	24
25	26 Christmas Break	27 Christmas Break	28 Christmas Break	29 Christmas Break	30 Christmas Break	31

**Notes:**

**Christmas Break:** Monday, Dec 19 to Monday January 2 inclusive; School starts back on **TUESDAY**, Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Class Information:**

**Time: 9 – 11:50 a.m.**

**Phone: 403-288-1050**

**Teacher: Clair Brown**

**Administrator: Catherine Spackman**

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