



## Teacher's Corner

Happy New Year everyone! Our Christmas Concert and Family Party were great fun, and I was very impressed with the ability of the kids to learn all those songs! A special thank you to all those who assisted in making our Christmas theme one to remember: to Bernie, our accompanist; to the Lindsey of the Parent Council who arranged for construction of gingerbread houses and made up frosting and candy bags; and to those volunteers who cleaned all the equipment to insure a "flu-free" room for January. Please be aware we will need more help for the June clean-up and inventory, which are much bigger projects. Each family is expected to help in one of the tasks.

For the month of January, we will work on the theme 'Winter'. We would like to go outside most days, so please arrange those snow pants, boots, mitts, hats and helmets. Please PUT NAMES IN ALL BELONGINGS! Our skating lessons take place largely during the 'Winter' theme. Please try not to be late on skating days, as this would hold up the other children. If you should arrive and find us gone, bring your child to the Brentwood Sportplex by the Sir Winston Churchill swimming pool. All we need now is a set of authorized drivers to get us to the arena. If this proves impossible some days, you will each be asked to take your own child there and back! We hope that Dalhousie's own skating rink will be ready for skating fun, then we will head outside for the last half hour of class on selected days. This is a great way to reinforce what we've learned at our lessons, and just have fun with it. Watch for notice of chosen fun skating days and be prepared to send skating equipment.

The letter of the week program continues until Easter, so ask your child which letter is being studied and reinforce learning by doing activities at home. Remember to send in an item to show on Tuesdays, especially if your child is not outspoken.

## Important dates for January:

- Jan. 9 – Parent Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 11, 18, 25 & Feb. 1, 8 – Skating lessons
- **Jan. 13, 20, 27 – No school**

## Skating Lessons

Skating lessons will begin January 11 at the Brentwood Sportsplex (leaving the school at 9:15 am). Dates for skating are January 11, 18, 25, February 1 and 8. Please remember to pack your child's helmet and skates along with a warm sweater and snow pants. **\*Parent drivers are needed for this activity\*** If your child is under 40 pounds, they must be transported in an anchored car seat.

## Swimming Lessons

Mark your calendars now for swimming lessons. We will need a lot of parent help with driving and in the change rooms – especially for the boys. Any Dads or Grandpas that could help are very welcome! The dates are **April 4, 6, 11, 13, 18 and 20** from 9:30 – 10:10 am. We are at a new location this year – Foothills Pool by the University.

## Registration & Open House

We will be hosting an Open House on Tuesday January 10, 6:30 – 7:30 pm for prospective families to view the class, meet Mrs. Brown and have their questions answered. You are our best form of advertising though! If you know any families with kindergarten aged children that are looking at their options for next year, please send them our way! Tell them about the Open House, direct them to our website at [www.dcakids.com](http://www.dcakids.com) and / or tell them to contact Catherine on Monday / Wednesday mornings. Kindergarten Registration will take place on Tuesday, January 24, 6:30 – 7:30 pm.



### Teacher's Corner continued...

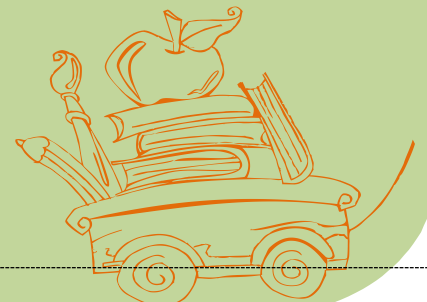
This casual sharing opportunity does great things for their confidence. A reminder too that it is really important that you be prompt on regular school days. Late arrivals are missing some essential writing and reading practise, and they make it more difficult for those children who are already working to focus on their writing.



Writing activities are on-going, with such practices as making lists, invitations, cards in the house cent; chalkboard practice every day; developing perceptive visual discrimination by copying shapes for artwork; improving fine motor skills with dot to dots and mazes; writing words in our own stories; dictating stories for paintings and pictures; and writing little messages for the teacher or each other. In math we will continue to build on patterning and sequencing skills, making and matching sets, and number recognition 0-9. In science we will be looking at the characteristics of winter and changes in matter - melting and freezing. We will likely have an in-class Winter Beach Party, a fun way to compare the seasons.

If you have any suggestions to enhance our themes please do not hesitate to talk to me. Some of you enjoy doing crafts with children, and you would be welcome to show one to the kids any time. Or you may play an instrument you would like to demonstrate, or bring in some nifty science related thing from work that you think would interest the children. Cultural heritage talks are always very enlightening. We welcome all involvement.

- Clair



# January 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday                 | Thursday                   | Friday          | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|----------|
| 1      | 2      | 3       | 4<br>Music with<br>Mrs. K | 5                          | 6               | 7        |
| 8      | 9      | 10      | 11<br>Skating Lessons     | 12                         | 13<br>NO SCHOOL | 14       |
| 15     | 16     | 17      | 18<br>Skating Lessons     | 19                         | 20<br>NO SCHOOL | 21       |
| 22     | 23     | 24      | 25<br>Skating Lessons     | 26<br>Music with<br>Mrs. K | 27<br>NO SCHOOL | 28       |
| 29     | 30     | 31      |                           |                            |                 |          |

Notes:

**Class Information:**

**Time: 9 – 11:50 a.m.**

**Phone: 403-288-1050**

**Teacher: Clair Brown**

**Administrator: Catherine Spackman**

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