
DALHOUSIE COMMUNITY KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Tuesday February 2 Skating lessons at Brentwood - 9:45-10:45.

Monday February 8 LAC meeting - 7:00 p.m. (all welcome).

Monday February 8 Fundraising meeting - 8 p.m., in the classroom.

Tuesday February 9 Skating lessons at Brentwood - 9:45-10:45.

Tuesday February 9 Junior Kindergarten registration for 2010/2011 - 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Wednesday February 10 Valentines party (in class).

Thursday February 11 Teacher's Convention - no school.

Friday February 12 Teacher's Convention - no school.

Monday February 15 Family Day - no school.

Friday February 19 Bottle drive.

March 2,4,9,11,16,18 Swimming lessons - 9:30-10:30.

CONTACTS

Chairperson/Supplies:

Marcella

First Vice:

Natalie

Second Vice:

Sue

Secretary/Newsletter:

Lisa

Administrator:

Catherine Spackman, dcakids@telus.net

Teacher:

Clair Brown - 288-1050,

dcakids@telus.net, clair.brown@shaw.ca

WINTER BLUES GOT YOU DOWN? THEN YOU NEED *BLUES IN THE BURBS!*

Tickets - Tickets for Blues in the Burbs (Saturday March 20), featuring the Rooster Blues Band, will be on sale this month. This is the Kindergarten's main fundraising activity for the year, and we would love for you (and lots of your friends!) to attend. Music, dancing, snacks, cash bar, martini lounge, prizes, 50/50 draw and a silent auction will make it an evening to remember. Tickets are \$30, but buy four or more tickets for just \$25 each.

Door Prizes/Silent Auction - We are collecting door prizes and silent auction donations. We are counting on all families to help out with this endeavour. If you would like a letter explaining the event to present to your employer/rich uncle/other organizations, please contact our lovely administrator Catherine (288-1050, dcakids@telus.net) for a signed copy.

Master of Ceremonies - Love being in the spotlight, or know someone who does? "Blues in the Burbs" is in need of a Master of Ceremonies. We are accepting candidates to fill this important role. Contact Mrs. Brown for details.

PHOTO CONTEST! BIG PRIZES!

Okay, not really. But Lisa Zap is starting to put the yearbook together and is very short of photos. If you have any photos of the children participating in their various school activities, please email them (in highest resolution possible) to Lisa or if possible, burn the photos onto a CD and leave it in Markus' school mailbox at school. If you only have printed copies, that's okay too - they can also be left in Markus' school mailbox.

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR 2010/2011 SCHOOL YEAR.

Junior Kindergarten registration for the 2010/2011 school year begins on **Tuesday February 9**, from 6:00 until 7:00 p.m. Please help spread the word!

FIELD TRIPS / EVENTS

***Ice skating** lessons continue on Tuesday mornings until February 9. Lessons are still at the Brentwood Sportsplex from 9:45 - 10:45. Note that for the lessons, children must wear an ice helmet (cycling helmets do not offer the proper protection on the ice), snow pants and mittens. Children also need to be dressed in warm layers, but not in ski jackets. See permission slips for more information.

*On **Wednesday February 10**, the class will be celebrating Valentine's Day with a **Valentines party**, including a Valentines exchange, snacks, and an outdoor skate. If your child is planning to exchange Valentines, please bring enough for everyone in the class. This year we are asking children to avoid giving food and gifts along with their Valentines. The outdoor skating will begin with lacing up at 10:55, with plans to be on the ice at 11:00. As a gesture of community spirit, some students from HD Cartwright Junior High will help the kids with lacing up and skating. Of course parents are invited to participate if they wish. Any parent interested in sending a special nut-free snack on that day, please contact Mrs. Brown. Any extra parent volunteers at the party would be greatly appreciated.

***Swimming lessons** will run March 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, and 18, at the Winston Churchill Pool, from 9:30-10:10. See permission slips for more information.

FUNDRAISING

***Spring Fundraiser** - Please note that this year the Kindergarten program will be hosting the **Blues in the Burbs** fundraiser on **Saturday, March 20, 2010**. This will be our biggest and most important source of raising revenue. **We are in need of volunteers to help put this thing together.** We currently have a fundraising co-ordinator (Richard). This event requires volunteers for the following areas: 1) Promotions and tickets, 2) Setup, decorating and cleanup, and 3) Entertainment and prizes.

Remember, *many hands make light work*, so please, please, please help out. Task lists will soon be devised and made available to parents so they can choose how they would most like to help. If you're interested in attending the next fundraising committee meeting, it will be held on Monday February 8, in the kindergarten classroom, 8 p.m.

***Ongoing Bottle Drive** - Our next school bottle drive is **Friday, February 19**. Don't forget - **milk containers can now be returned for a refund**. Bottles can be dropped off on that day at school. You can also drop your own bottles off at the VRRRI bottle depot and ask for the proceeds to go to the Dalhousie Community Kindergarten program. Every little bit helps!

***CO-OP Gift Cards** - Orders for CO-OP gift cards are ongoing will be appearing in the children's mailboxes. A monthly order is placed so if you shop at CO-OP please consider purchasing the gift cards.

BRING-YOUR-PARENT TO SCHOOL DAYS

Parent volunteers are always welcome (and appreciated) in the classroom. The kids love to show their parents what they are doing at school. Check the bulletin board and sign up for February if you are able.

COIN JAR UPDATE

The coin jar collection is coming along nicely. The students have had fun watching the jar fill up and don't even realize how much they are learning about money, math, and measurements! This ongoing activity is very popular with the children.

IMPORTANT FIELD TRIP REGULATIONS

Smaller children are legally required to be in an anchored car seat. The school has only boosters to lend - NO car seats.

In order for these children to participate in field trips, parents of children who are not yet 40 pounds must insure that arrangements are made. Your options are:

1. Be at school early enough that you can transfer your car seat into the designated driver's vehicle. Never leave your child until this job is complete.
2. If your car seat is not easily transferable, then arrange your own child's transportation to and from the event. Inform Mrs. Brown the day before if such arrangements have been made.

We want each child to be able to participate as fully as possible in our enriching field trips and lessons, yet safety is paramount. Although there are occasionally volunteer drivers who do have an installed car seat available, we cannot guarantee one at any given time; therefore it is incumbent on parents to be prepared. Thanks for your cooperation.

FAMILY POTLUCK VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

Building on the success of September's Pasta Night, on Wednesday February 10, please join us at the Community Centre from 5:30-7:30 for a family potluck in honour of families and the sharing of friendship in our community. There will be lots of food, entertainment by the playschool teachers, and crafts for the children. Food Bank donations are greatly appreciated.

Please sign up for your dinner contribution on the poster in the community centre lobby by Monday, February 8.

This event is open to families and alumni of the Dalhousie Community Playschool, Kin-

dergarten and Playgroup, whether or not they are Dalhousie residents. Please feel free to spread the word to others in our caring community.

TIPS FOR FIELD TRIPS & LESSONS

If you plan on driving your child to a field trip or lesson, please remember to let Mrs. Brown know one day in advance if you plan on driving your child directly to the event, rather than meeting at the school first - this prevents Mrs. Brown from having to wait around for any children, and having to make last minutes changes to the volunteer driver arrangements. This same consideration is asked if you know in advance that your child will not be attending an event at which their presence was anticipated.

CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATIVE HOURS

Our lovely administrator, Catherine, has changed her work hours, and is now in the kindergarten office on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Please feel free to drop in the office on this mornings and say hi!



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TEACHER'S CORNER

January was a great beginning to a new year, and though we miss Sanjeev we now have a two new friends in class. During the 'Winter' theme, the children had lots of fun; sledding and skating and building walls out of snow. Through stories, science activities, and outdoor play they have explored ice, water, freezing, melting, and sliding. Our skating lessons are going very well, and the children are learning quickly. Style and confidence have both improved already. A huge THANK YOU goes to all the Moms who are driving, lacing, organizing and encouraging for lessons, and to those Moms, Dads, and Grandmas who have been able to help on our outdoor skating days. After the lessons, it might be fun for families to arrange a time for a day of fun skating at Bowness Park, on an evening or weekend. Anyone willing to pick a time is welcome to put a poster on the bulletin board, or send a note home.

The themes for February will be FRIENDS AND FANTASY. Talking about Friendship helps the children to think more objectively about their own social relations and skills, and hopefully to extend their friendships within the class. We will talk about feelings, and how our actions affect the feelings of others. With the Fantasy aspect of this theme, which includes all those magical things like fairies, dragons, castles, knights, Queens and Princes, we will have lots of fun exercising our imaginations. After Fantasy, we begin our unit on Dinosaurs, always a real favorite and highly motivating for Kindergarten kids.

Throughout February, we will continue to develop skills of sequencing (placing items or events in order), patterning (repetition of a sequence), and making sets (counting a group of objects and matching it to a number). We will continue to practice letter formation and letter sounds, do lots of phonemic awareness activities, and work on number recognition and formation. The kids have been telling me their addresses, and a little review at home would be helpful.

As a part of our Friends theme, there will be an exchange of Valentines on Wednesday February 10. This Valentine party will be special, since there will be some volunteer students from HD Cartwright who are eager to come and help us lace up and have some fun on the ice outside. Don't forget to send skates to school on that day. Any parents who would like to provide special Valentines snacks that day please talk to me, or leave a note on top of the mailboxes. We do love to eat! Please note that for all shared snacks, we do not allow nuts or peanuts.

The curriculum information given in the "Teacher's Corner" is necessarily somewhat general. For example, though I can say we are studying the letters and sounds, I do not tell you specifically which letters. If you would like more specific information, please have a look at the teacher's long-range plans, which are posted in the classroom. Read the reminder note on the door at pick-up and drop-off times, or ask the person doing the driving to make notes. Resist taking too much responsibility for knowing the letter, since ideally children should remember it themselves.

Thanks parents, to all who have helped in any way. I remind you that parents and friends are always welcomed by teacher and children alike. If you have any ideas for special projects, crafts, or story sharing you would like to become involved in, speak to us. Such participation enriches our program. Keep an eye on the themes, and see what you have in your bag of tricks that might fit in! Demonstrators and those sharing their expertise with the kids are exempt from the PRC requirements as they do not work alone with the children. Don't forget to bring your camera on your helper day, and send Lisa a few shots of the kids for the yearbook. If you give me a few selected printed photos, they will be admired by all during book sharing time, and then they will be distributed and placed in the children's scrapbooks to take home at year-end.

Clair

JANUARY 2010 AT DALHOUSIE COMMUNITY KINDERGARTEN

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Skating lessons at Brentwood 9:45-10:45	3	4	5	6
7	8 LAC meeting 7:00 Fundraising mtg 8:00	9 Skating lessons at Brentwood 9:45-10:45 Junior Kinder- garten Registra- tion 6:00 -7:00	10 Class Valentines Party/outdoor skating Community Valentines Pot- luck 5:30-7:30	11 Teacher's Con- vention - no school	12 Teacher's Con- vention - no school	13
14	15 Family Day - no school	16	17	18	19 Bottle Drive	20
21/28	22	23	24	25	26	27