

KEW BEACH DAYCARE FALL NEWSLETTER



2009

WELCOME

WE HAVE SAID OUR GOODBYES TO SUMMER AND ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO SUNNY FALL DAYS WITH BRIGHTLY COLOURED LEAVES TO COLLECT.

THE SUMMER WAS FUN WITH MANY SUCCESSFUL TRIPS AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS OFFERED FOR OUR VARIOUS GROUPS.

STAFF CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED:

ANDREA BAIN, REBEKAH BRIONES-CLARKE AND JACQUELIN COCHRANE HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR STUDIES. BOTH REBEKAH AND JACQUELIN WILL WORK A COUPLE OF DAYS AFTER SCHOOL TO SUPPLEMENT OUR STAFF AT THAT TIME OF DAY. STEVEN ANNING (KG), PAULA BORDIERI (PS) AND DEVON PERKINS (SA) HAVE RETURNED TO THEIR PART-TIME POSITIONS. PAULA RECENTLY COMPLETED A SIX WEEK INFANT PLACEMENT AS SHE ENGAGES IN PART-TIME E.C.E. STUDIES.

MEREDITH NADEAU HAS RECENTLY BEGUN WORK IN THE DOLPHIN GROUP WITH HARESH PART-TIME. SAFEERAN HAS RETURNED TO HER SPLIT SHIFT, WORKING WITH PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN.

THE DAYCARE COMMUNITY EXTENDS ITS SYMPATHIES TO DEVON PERKINS ON THE SUDDEN AND UNEXPECTED LOSS OF HIS MOTHER, BETTY.

WANTED: In good repair - your old guitars (acoustic or electric), drums, electric keyboards (like Casio) to put together a "performance" box for the daycare. Please look in your basements or attics!!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

On May 5, 2009, the Annual General Meeting of Kew Beach Daycare was held. At this time, the Daycare Board thanked John Allen for his 8 years of dedicated service as President of the Board. Duberlis Ramos was recognized for 5 years of commitment as Vice-President and Member at Large.

The following parents were elected to form the new Board of Directors:

Suzanne Murray - President

Sue Winton - Vice-President

Jane Malt - Treasurer

Anne West - Secretary

Rick Kane - Member at Large

Kevin Pasquino - Member at Large

The Board of Directors, along with Val Seibert and Janice Taskey (in an advisory capacity) meets monthly. Any parent concerns or suggestions should be brought to the attention of Val or Mary Ellen in the office. Parents are welcome to attend the information session that is held at the beginning of each Board meeting from 6:15 to 6:30 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW?

SINCE THE BEGINNING OF JUNE, THE DAYCARE HAS WELCOMED 20 NEW CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES TO ITS PROGRAMS.



TORONTO OPERATING CRITERIA

Kew Beach Daycare had its operating criteria review completed on July 15, 2009 by Anne Hepditch, our City of Toronto Consultant. At this time the daycare was observed and rated in key components. Within those components, the Consultant was scoring determinants of quality including areas such as:

sound management practices
training; experience and stability of caregivers; group size; ratio of children to caregivers; health & safety standards of the physical facility; program content and development

The following scores were achieved by our programs:

Preschool	3.9
School Age	3.8
Playground	3.7
Nutrition	4.0
Financial	4.0

The scores received by daycare centres with purchase of service agreements with the City are posted on the City's website www.toronto.ca/children

SCRAP PAPER

We are always looking for scrap paper children can use for drawing, experimenting, keeping track of scores. If your business has old letterhead or scrap paper please consider donating some!!

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

It may seem far off now but - for your information - Christmas Break for School-aged children will start Friday December 18th and the children return to school on Monday, January 4th, 2009

The daycare centre will be closed the following days:
Thursday, December 24 - early closing at 1:30 p.m.
Friday, December 25 - Christmas Day
Monday, December 28 - for Boxing Day
Friday, January 1 - 2010 - New Year's Day

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Staff are always encouraged to take advantage of the many on-going opportunities offered in the city to expand and enrich their knowledge of current child development theory and best practice.

October 16th - Val attending Budget workshop at Metro Hall

October 29th - Val and Mary Ellen attending 1/2 day workshop tying Operating Criteria to Ministry Licensing Review and staff evaluations.

November 7th - Dave and Mary Ellen attending Umbrella School Age Conference

EMERGENT CURRICULUM

The City of Toronto and Ministry of Community and Social Services will soon both recognize the document "Early Learning for Every Child Today", (ELECT) as the main framework for Ontario early childhood settings. To ensure that our centre meets these mandatory expectations, we are planning upcoming training for all staff, particularly around the ELECT document.

Within the centre, more programs are in the process of moving to emergent curriculum planning to support children's learning development while respecting their interests and choices. Staff observe children's play themes and the developmental tasks they are practising. Staff then provide an environment with materials that help children enter at their own level and see what interests them.

Interest is sustained when staff focus attention with novel materials and strategies connected to children's learning and development. Play is enriched and extended by staff. Staff documentation of observations is an essential part of this process and children have an opportunity to represent what they know.

TRIAL MENUS

The daycare recently had the exciting opportunity to participate in a three week trial of a new method of food delivery and preparation service. Through a company, COOKWISE, we enjoyed frequent delivery of pre-measured ingredients for lunches and snacks, which were then prepared by our cook, Arcy. The menus were child-friendly and approved by an independent dietician to meet all DNA and City requirements. Through both formal and informal input from staff and parents, we have decided to maintain our current method of food preparation. There were favourable features of the COOKWISE delivery service which we hope to incorporate into our food service, including more frequent deliveries of fresh food and some menu items.

We thank you for your co-operation and valuable feedback as we explored a new option. We can assure you that providing nutritious, appealing food for your children continues to be one of our highest priorities.