



February Newsletter

Administrator's Column

Wow what a busy and very quick January! Personally I am very happy to see the days gradually getting longer and the subtle hints of spring in the air (when it doesn't rain).

Just a note!!! As from March our newsletters will be published bi-monthly, therefore you will receive March/April and then May/June.



Night Fundraiser

Please join us on Saturday, Feb 27 @ 6:30pm Samz Pub for our fun pub night fundraiser Cost: \$20 that includes a burger, a side and a beverage and lots of door prizes. There will be a 50/50 draw, gift basket raffle (tickets are now on sale \$2/ticket), a silent auction and many amazing raffle prizes.

Staff Sickness

I would like to take a moment to reassure you that when staff are sick we follow the same protocol as our children are asked to. For example, 48 hours after any diarrhea and vomiting, don't come to work if you are contagious and follow our guidelines regarding communicable disease control. To this end there are obviously going to be times that our staff are not going to be here and I always reassure them that they have to take the time needed to feel well enough to return as this is a very demanding job. I am completely comfortable that when a staff is not in, the other members of the team are fully able to run the programs competently and to the wonderful high standards as always (it's a team effort). Our casual staff we call in from time to time are acquainted with our programs and are completely qualified and vetted to be able to work in our Centre in compliance with licensing and our own high values. As a mother who had a child in daycare this was something that I felt the need to know and I hope you don't mind my sharing this with you.



This month let's talk about Lori I (office Lori) (she didn't want her photograph!!!)

Lori has been with Discovery for 10 years. You all know her as 'office' Lori but I wanted to give you some idea of what exactly this 'machine' does for the Society. Lori is my backbone; she is responsible for the payments, registration, subsidy, wait lists, duty schedules, email, website updates, arranging meetings, payroll and generally being wonderful at keeping me on track. Lori is the person to go to if you have questions about



fees, subsidy and registration. She does all of this in her part time hours and on rare occasion also helps out in the classrooms (she is a qualified Responsible Adult). If you haven't already made her acquaintance (I am pretty sure you have) pop in and say hello. Lori says: "Just make sure to tell her your child's name, because she says she's getting old and can't keep you all straight!"

Lots of important dates in February so please take note:

- Friday 5th Pro D - Preschool closed - sign up for Adventurers and Kinders is open
- Monday 8th Family Day - our Centre is closed so our staff can spend some wonderful 'family' time
- Thursday 18th and 19th - no school - therefore no preschool - sign up will be available for Adventurers and Kinders soon
- Saturday 27th - PUB night - more info will follow from Joy our Fundraising coordinator

Spring

Spring Break Sign Up

Yes can you believe it's almost spring break again!! We have the sign-up sheets in both Kinder and Adventure rooms; the internal registration is open this week so please make sure to sign up before Friday. Next week beginning 9th February we will

open registration for siblings (Adventurer age only Grade 1-4). The week beginning 15th February registration will be open to the public. For more information please see our website or we have posted the schedule in each program.

Easter closure tags onto the end of Spring Break this year so please note that we are closed Friday March 25th through Monday 28th.



Board Column

The Board has had its first meeting of 2016 where we assigned a member to familiarize themselves with the new Societies Act and also struck the Lease Sub-Committee (as mentioned in a previous newsletter). We are still looking for a volunteer from the general membership to participate on that committee as well. Please contact the Board through executive@discoveryplayhouse.ca or Mandy directly.

During our February and March Board meetings, we will be discussing our upcoming Board for the 2016/17 school year. Nomination forms will be coming out in March. If you are interested and haven't already indicated so on your registration form, please contact the Board at executive@discoveryplayhouse.ca or Mandy directly.

Looking forward to Spring heading our way soon!

Thanks, Juli

Preschool Column

January went by quickly. We really enjoyed our fieldtrips to Angelic Voices; the children had a great time singing, moving, using different props and musical instruments. Thank you to everyone who drove

February is a busy month with a lot of busy activities. We will start the month with Chinese New Year. **Gung Hay Fat Choy!** Then Valentine's Day will be quickly upon us. We plan on having a pyjama Valentine's party. Every child will need to bring valentine cards for the party. These can be store bought or homemade. Please do not fill in the "to:..... Every child needs to print their name on the cards. It does not matter if your child does not know how to print their name. Still have them try to put their first letter on the card. It doesn't matter if it looks like the letter or not, this is the 1st step to learning how to print. We recommend not doing all the cards in one night but do them over several. If it is hard to read your child's name then you can print their name on the card. After Valentine's we will explore and discuss community helpers.

Reminders: do not forget to sign in and out each day, Also if you are on duty please remember when putting children's names on art work to check the spelling. Some parents have commented that their child's artwork has the wrong name when in fact it *is* their child's but the name is spelled wrong.

Because we run with the school year we will have a few days in February where we are not in session.

- February 5th - Pro D - No Preschool





- February 8th - Family day - all programs closed
- February 18th and 19th - PME professional days - No preschool

Registration - if you haven't already registered your child to return next year please make sure to do so as soon as possible as on 22nd February registration will be opened to the public. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask us.

Thanks

Lori and Sonja

Adventurer's Column

The next few months are very busy for us. There are three days in February with no school. On the 5th we will be making vegetable stir fry. On the 18th and 19th we will be having a sports day and then a PJ/games day. The sign up for the last two days will be out soon.

As Spring Break is right around the corner we already have a sign-up sheet out for this. If you have not signed up and need care, please do so ASAP, as we will be opening the care up to the public this year. We have a ton of fun activities planned including bowling, cooking, a junk art day and a dress up as your favorite character day.



Unfortunately January has been a wet and muddy month with many inside days. Please bring inside shoes for your children if you have not done so already, as it helps keep the floors clean. With the wet season comes colds and the flu. So, as per our new policy please have your children wash their hands when entering into the Centre (in the morning in particular); it would help everyone a great deal to stop the spread of infection. Lastly, if your child does not bring a water bottle already please pack one. We are still outside during this weather and do not always have water access.

We have a busy few months coming up and it should be full of fun. As always, if you need to talk to me feel free to do so in person or by contacting the Centre.

Rob

Daycare/Buzzing Bees Column

Hello to all our families. February is here and it is a very busy month for us. Our first week will be learning about Chinese New Year. Our first cooking project in February was fried rice and fortune cookies. The children had the opportunity to try using chop sticks with their rice.





We will be celebrating Valentine's Day. Our party will be on Thursday February 11th, there will be a sign-up sheet for treats if you would like to bring some in. For this party your child will need to bring 23 valentine cards, on the card:

To:....Blank..... (leave it blank)

From: ...your child's name.... (have your child sign their own name)

This is the perfect time to work with your child on letter and name recognition and early writing skills. Your child can dress up for this party if they would like to because we will not have the paint out on this day. This Valentine party we would like to invite those parents who have not had an opportunity to volunteer for our past parties. Please see Tammy if you are able to help.



On February 25th we are having a Jersey Day. If your child has a sports jersey they are welcome to wear it.

Reminders:

Monday Feb 8th Family Day - Closed

Thursday Feb 11th - Valentine Party

Thursday Feb 18th - PME closed - No Buzzing Bees

Thursday Feb 25th - Jersey Day

Kinders - Pro D - Friday 5th (remember to sign up this week). - Joining Adventurers to make vegetable stir fry)

Pro D Thursday Feb 18th - sign up will be available - Joining Adventurers for sports day so please wear running shoes)

Pro D Friday Feb 19th - sign up will be available - to be arranged

Kinder parents - Please complete the spring break sign-up sheet this week, as we need to know our numbers before it opens to the public.

Happy Valentine's Day from all of us in the very busy but fun Daycare classroom!

Tammy, Christina C, Emily, Christina H



PUB NIGHT

for

Discovery Playhouse
Childrens Society

\$20

INCLUDES BURGER + SIDE + BEVERAGE

**SATURDAY
FEB. 27 2016**

Silent Auction

Door Prizes

50/50

6:30PM

SAMZ

Pub

19267 LOUGHEED HWY, PITT MEADOWS

limited tix available

purchase from Discovery Playhouse Childrens Society
at Pitt Meadows Rec Centre