



March / April 2016 Newsletter

HELLOOOO SPRING!!!! THANK GOODNESS!!

As I mentioned previously, the newsletters will now be sent out every two months. I appreciate this may mean we need to send additional information emails should any dates or events either change or be added, but it also means you will have less reading to do and helps the teachers out a little too.

We won!!!!

As you will no doubt have seen we won the 'Best Childcare Centre' award through the Times newspaper for the second year running - hooray!!! This is absolutely because of you, who voted for us and we truly appreciate the time everyone had taken to do this; it really is wonderful to know we are so highly thought of. I would like to follow this up by thanking all of the parents who came to the preschool and daycare parent/teacher meetings and at the time were extremely kind in sharing their appreciation for our wonderful programs. I cannot tell you the number of times we were told we were magnificent and it is something the staff are delighted to hear as it is a hard job and definitely a labour of love.



Gaming Grant and a Special Visitor

I received a call from Doug Bing MLA the other week to congratulate us on being awarded our gaming grant again this year. For those of you who do not know, because we are a non-profit society we can apply for Gaming funds to help our programs run at the high quality we pride ourselves on. We apply in November and it is a great relief when we hear the good news. Doug Bing would personally like to congratulate us and in doing so will be visiting our Centre this Friday 4th March at 12pm. We will be thrilled to meet him and show him our amazing Centre and introduce him to our even more amazing team.

Board Nominations

It's that time again. You will find attached to this newsletter the nomination form for the next year's Board positions. Please take some time to read through the descriptors if you would like to be considered as one of our next Board members. The commitment for this is attending one meeting per month, usually in the evening around 6:30pm. The meetings are typically one to two hours and the agenda includes strategic and policy setting actions for the Society. Each position has different responsibilities; please do not hesitate to come and see me for more information on this if you are still unclear or undecided. The process involves you or someone you know nominating you for a position. We will receive these and post them 7 days before the General meeting (May 2nd). At the meeting these nominations will be read out to the Society membership and any objections heard at this point. The new Board are confirmed at the September AGM however, new, nominated



Board members will be invited to attend June and August Board meetings to get a handle on what items are currently under discussion. Don't be spooked by this, it is actually a rewarding and fairly straightforward role and any of the current or previous Board members would be happy to offer information also.

Pub Night



I want to thank Joy, the fundraising committee and everyone who contributed to a fun pub night; I would consider this a successful fundraising event. We will have the final figures soon to share with you.

Committee Meetings

For those on the following committees, Jaimee would have sent out information on the meetings happening this Friday 4th March. It is really important that you attend as the activities we plan will require everyone's input to be able to go ahead. To this end it is also really important that when roles within these committees are handed out they are completed. Should there be a problem attending the meetings it is also important that you let me know.

If you really cannot attend the meetings please be aware that a task for the events will be assigned to you; this will come as an email from either Jaimee or myself. Please note that Jaimee does this voluntarily as the Committee Chair and I would not like to see her take on the tasks by herself; her role is to pull all of the committees together to make sure the events can go ahead and I truly appreciate the effort and time she puts into this.

9am - Parade

9:30am - Picnic

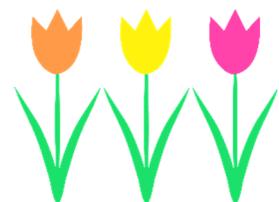
10am - Grad planning (not grad set up)

Spring Break

Can you believe we are actually two weeks from Spring Break? I know my daughter is delighted!! Just a reminder if you have not already signed up please do so if your Adventurers or Kinder child is attending.

Rob's column will confirm what is happening and if you need any further information please don't hesitate to ask.

Hoping the sun will shine for our two weeks. Please remember Easter is tagged onto Spring Break this year so the Centre will be **closed Friday 25th and Monday 28th March.**





It looks like numbers are going to allow the Kinders to join the Adventurers as much as possible. We usually do this around this time of year as it allows the Kinder children to get to know the Adventurers program and staff to allow a smooth transition when they enter grade 1 after summer.

Summer Camp



Following Spring Break, Rob and I will be planning our summer program; watch this space for information on activities and registration. Because there will be no April Newsletter this is something that will be posted on Facebook, Website and in our programs. We will also send out information via email when the information is available

This month's staff

Tammy - You all know Tammy, Tammy is our Daycare/Buzzing Bees Team Lead. Tammy has been with Discovery for 17 years and knows our programs and Society inside out. Many of you know Tammy for her infectious laugh, sense of humour and approachable nature. Tammy not only holds her ECE qualification but she is also qualified to teach infant toddler programs (which unfortunately due to space limitations we can't offer). I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge Tammy for adapting the Daycare program to provide our wonderful new 'emergent' curriculum. You will see that many of the interests the children are following are being posted on the Daycare notice board. Take some time to look at these; Tammy and the staff work hard to record the children's play and put these poster boards together to let parents see what their little angels are doing each day (Learning through Play!!).



Dates to Note:

Please note that April 7th is a $\frac{1}{2}$ day at PME. No Adventurers or Kinders care is available until 2:20pm. (We do have care 6:30am to 8:30am)

April 8th there is no school at PME, so there will be no Preschool or Buzzing Bees. Sign up for Adventurer and Kinders care will be available closer to the date.

Board Column

Spring is on the doorstep, which means that summer can't be far behind! The Board will be reviewing our recruitment needs for the upcoming term. Board member, Erik Oun, has recently resigned following a move for his children from the Centre. There is no current plan to replace his position on the Board, however if there is anyone keen to join, please email executive@discoveryplayhouse.ca.



Planning is underway for the yearend activities, including: the Pitt Meadows Day Parade, Graduation and the Yearend Picnic. We are looking forward to seeing many of you out at those events again this year.

If you have any questions of the Board, please email us at executive@discoveryplayhouse.ca.

Thank you on behalf of the Board, Juli Kolby

Daycare Column

Hopefully spring is soon in the air. We will be continuing to go outside in all weather. Please check that your child has boots and extra clothes at the Centre every day as we often go outside "puddle jumping".



"Which came first - the chicken or the egg?" The first week of March we will be looking at baby chicks and eggs. This will include incorporating eggs in our cooking and science activities. The second week will be all about bunnies. Our housekeeping will turn into a "pet shop" with stuffed animals. We will look at the importance of caring for a pet. "What do you feed them?" "What do they live in?" Easter this year falls at the end of March after Spring Break. We will be doing a few Easter crafts at the end of this week. These activities are 'planned' activities because of the season; please note that our 'emergent' curriculum still applies and the children's activities are based on their current interests.

Spring Break runs from Monday, March 14 to Thursday, March 24. Our Buzzing Bees program does not run during this time. Buzzing Bees resumes Tuesday 29th March.

The month of April we will be taking a trip to visit the Firehall. Please watch for details in an email and postings up in the classroom closer to the date. As part of their own interests and our emergent curriculum the children have shown interest in the different jobs people do. Our *Community Helpers* fit with this interest and so we will be talking about this more in the coming weeks.

Again, our curriculum goes on the children's interests so things could change. Thank you for allowing us to learn and teach with your children.

Just a reminder that if your child needs to eat breakfast at Daycare, they need to be at the Centre by 7:30am. You need to bring their complete breakfast (including milk if cereal). We are unable to store cereal and milk etc. due to our storage space. Thank you for your understanding.

Interviews went well at the end of February. If you were unable to make your appointment or received an update in an envelope and have any concerns about your child, please contact the Centre. I really enjoyed this parent communication and we are sure it



will be an annual occurrence. Thank you for all your positive comments about our program and staff. We work very hard and it's nice to feel that appreciation.

Kinders: Spring Break Plans

During the two weeks of Spring Break it looks like we may be joining the Adventurer program when space allows it. Our staff will take turns working with the Kinders and we will be following the same program activities as the Adventurers. This will include going on a fieldtrip once a week. The first fieldtrip will be bowling on Wed. March 16. Please keep up to date with the calendar of activities. If you do not have a copy of these activities, please request one from the office.

Any questions regarding Spring Break, please see Tammy.

We would like to wish all of our families a wonderful Spring Break and Easter.

Tammy

Preschool Column

February was a busy month with us celebrating Chinese New Year and Valentine Day. We also took a trip to the Firehall. The children really enjoyed the walk and the tour.



March and April will be busy with us finishing our interest of Community Helpers until Spring Break. There will be no preschool March 14 to March 28 inclusive. When we return we will be talking about Spring, Bugs, and Planting. As of now we do not have confirmed fieldtrips but will let you know when we do.

April 21 & 22 we are celebrating National Jelly Bean Day. We are going to ask the children to dress in their favourite jelly bean colour. We have some fun activities planned for these days.

Don't forget our Mother's Day Tea will be May 5 & 6. More information will be coming in April.

Have a great Spring Break and Easter!

Your teachers,

Lori W & Sonja



Adventurer's Column

It looks like Spring is around the corner. We have had some great weather in February and we are hoping that Spring will be much the same. As the weather gets nice we will be outside more so please bring a water bottle for your child. If we are not in the room after school there will be a notice posted near the sign in book telling you where we are.

Our Spring Break program is close to full and we are busy getting all the activities together. We are looking forward to a busy and fun two weeks.

In the past month we have said goodbye to a few children moving on from Discovery. We would like to say bye to those families and thank them for all they have done for Discovery. We would also like to thank all the parents who voted for the Reader's Choice as the Best Childcare Center. The support is much appreciated.

If you need to talk to me for any reason feel free to do so in person or call/email and we can pick a time.

Rob

Fundraising Column - from Joy

Thank you to all of our families for coming out to our annual Pub Night and all of your wonderful donations. It was a great success! We couldn't have done it without all of you! We were also very fortunate to have some many generous businesses in our community that donated to our event. A big thank you to: Believe Yoga, Buttons & Bows, Capture Studios Video & Photography, Cloud 9 Float Spa, doTERRA, Foamer's Folly, Good Life Fitness - Pitt Meadows, Home Depot - Port Coquitlam, Little Savages, Mary Kay, Nicole MacDonald Notary, Ode to Bloom, Sammy J Peppers, South Hill Designs and Tomes & Tales. And I cannot forget to thank the fundraising committee for all of their hard work and dedication to making this a fun and prosperous event. Thank you!"

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you!