



Discovery Playhouse

Children's Society

September/October 2017

ADMINISTRATOR'S COLUMN

Welcome to a new school year! I hope everyone had a wonderful relaxing summer. I know our summer months at Discovery were action packed with lots of outside activities planned for the kids. There were water fights, freezies, multiple games of tag and the Daycare kids got to splash around in the kiddie pools when they weren't off to another playground. Wonderful memories were made and I thank the staff for having the energy to keep up with the kids.

Summer was especially exciting for our Adventurer Team Lead, Rob. He and his wife welcomed their son Xavier on August 31st. CONGRATULATIONS ROB AND JASMINE!!!!



A few items to mention for the new school year. First off, our annual AGM is September 19th at 7pm located in the gym at PME. At that time we will get to meet the new Board and talk with the teachers. This meeting is mandatory but if you are unable to attend, please email Lori I at office@discoveryplayhouse.ca.

The Pitt Meadows Rec Center has asked that if we use the gym, can we please only wear indoor shoes. This will be especially important in the winter, snowy months when the kids have on rain/snow boots.

If you haven't already, please like/follow us on Facebook. We will continue to post pictures of your kids enjoying their daily activities and you get a glimpse into their creative play. During the winter months if I have to make the last minute announcement to close the Centre, I will post on Facebook, as I don't often take home my computer.

Starting in October we will have some Adventurer spots opening up if you know of anyone looking for before/after school attending PME in grades 1-3.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at admin@discoveryplayhouse.ca or drop by and see me in person.

Rachel Hess

DAYCARE COLUMN

Hello Daycare/ Buzzing Bees Families!

The Daycare children have had a great summer full of fun and adventures, from visiting local parks in the community to keeping cool in the summer heat by splashing around in our wading pools; and Emily even made a slip 'n' slide! We are excited to see familiar faces returning to Buzzing Bees and welcome our new friends! We are going to have so much fun!

Just before the week of closure, the children were busy creating mail for their friends, and we made a giant mailbox. This week the interest has faded out, as we have been very busy meeting new friends, playing with trains and tracks, racing cars, and getting reacquainted with our familiar favorite toys!

Morning Drop Off:

If you are dropping your child off at Daycare or picking them up between the hours of 8:00am and 3:00pm, we ask that you bring them in through the Rec Centre door. We have other programs running and they will also be using the outdoor space. For safety purposes, we ask that you do not enter the playground while another program is in the space.

The Kinders have been transitioning to school fabulously, walking to and from school with their partners hand in hand, and we have even been ready 10 seconds faster than the Adventurers! (not that it was a race or anything) Woot! Woot!

There have been some emotional moments this week with our children, from returning children ready to get back into the actions of our daily routines, to new children who aren't yet familiar with so many new faces. This transition can be difficult for the children and parents. We understand. The tears don't last long, and are turned to smiles and laughter and your children are having a great experience, playing, getting to know our routine, getting to know the teachers, and meeting new friends. Believe it or not, this is actually harder on you as parents than it is on your child. The staff are busy taking care of the most precious pieces of your heart, while you are driving away...worried. Please feel free to call the Centre and ask how your child is; it will put your mind at ease.

The teachers are constantly taking photos of your children, documenting their interests and learning through play. If you have a moment, take a look at the documentation boards. We will have them up and around the room, showing the different activities, they have been doing.



Buzzing Bees will be back in session September 18th! Here is a guide of how our day will look between 9:00am -1:30pm:

9:00 -10:00am - Walk in the community, visit local playground

10:00- 10:15- Show and Tell

10:15- 11:40am- Free Play, Project table (Monday-Open ended art activity, Tuesday- Science, Wednesday-Cooking, Thursday-Journals)

11:45-12:15- Circle

12:20-1:00 Lunch

1:00-1:30- Active Play (gym/multipurpose room/outside)

We will be spending a lot of time outdoors! Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather! The daycare will have muddy buddies for all the children to wear over top of their jackets, so the children will remain as dry as possible on those cold and wet days.

Extra clothes: We still manage to get wet, whether it be spills, a messy project, or simply an accident because we are so busy we didn't make it to the bathroom in time. Please provide 2 sets of extra clothes for your child. Trust us, we go through them!

Lunches: We are unable to heat up your child's lunch, so if you would like your child to have a warm lunch, send it in a thermos; they work great!

Kindergarteners: Wow! Kindergarten already! Where does the time go??? After school, the Kinders will spend time at the school playground running off all that pent-up energy of being in class all day! They will enjoy playing with their Daycare friends, Adventurer friends, as well as the new friends they meet in their classrooms! They are often hungry after school, so please send a little bit extra in their lunches so they have something to nibble on afterschool to tie them over until afternoon snack at the Centre. Again, there is a lot of outside time, so please make sure they are dressed for the weather, they will get wet!

Some days to mark on your calendar:

September 19th- General Meeting (7:00 at PME Gym)

September 25th- PME Pro D Day (no Buzzing Bees, Kinders have full day care)

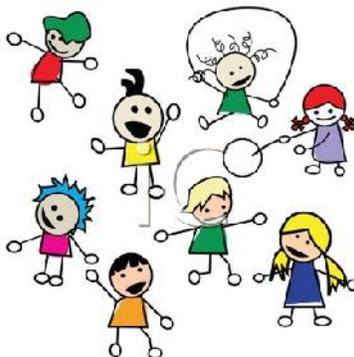
September 28th- Class photos for all Buzzing Bees

October 9th- Thanksgiving Day (Centre Closed)

October 23rd 10:30am - Laity Pumpkin Patch (...we will be looking for driver's...)

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to come to us.

Christina C, Christina H, Sheryl, and Emily



PRESCHOOL COLUMN

Welcome back to another school year! For those of you who are new, welcome, we are looking forward to a great new year. We have some changes to our program so please note where we will start the day and end the day.

Mon/Wed/Fri - Morning Class - Start in the gym *
End outside ***
Mon/Wed/Fri - Afternoon Class - Start outside **
End inside Preschool ****
Tues/Thu - all classes - Start outside **
End inside Preschool ****

* When we start in the gym, we will meet in the lobby and walk together to the gym at 8:45

** When we start outside, please wait outside of the playground until the teachers open the gate and greet everyone

***When picking up outside, please collect your child's things from the Preschool first, then come outside for dismissal

**** When picking up from inside the Preschool, please wait until the teachers open the door and dismiss your child right to you. Your child will have everything from their cubby and parent slot, so there will be no need for parents to come inside unless you need to speak to the teachers or administrators.

Once your child is dismissed to you, they are in your care now.

Please remember that every child will need:

- 2 photos (passport size) of themselves
- A change of clothing in a labelled bag (please label the clothes in the bag as well)
- A coil bound scrapbook (30.4cm x 25.4cm) Hilroy green preferably

We will be outside no matter what the weather, unless we feel it is not safe. Please have your child prepared for the weather. We ask that boots not be worn in the gym or preschool, so please bring a change of shoes (not slippers). These also need to be taken home every day.



Please be sure to sign your child in and out every day, read any notices at the sign in book, and check the chalkboard for updates and information.

We thank you for your patience as we work out the kinks due to the changes in our program.

Snack: Snacks should be healthy and not too big. *No chips, cheezies, candy, etc. Please remember to have a plastic cup (not a water bottle) for snack. Children may have a water bottle, but this will stay in their cubby and not be used for snack. We would only like to use water for snack, so please, no juice boxes, yogurt drinks, etc.

We do have two peanut allergies in the Tues/Thu Morning class, so we ask you to be aware of this and not to send any snack with peanuts.

The first few weeks may look crazy, but bear with us. The routine will come and everyone should settle in by October.

If you have any questions, feel free to come to us after class.

We look forward to this school year!

Your teachers,
Lori W & Sonja

Dates to Remember:

Sept 25 - no school

Sept 27 & 28 - class photos

Sept 29 - Terry Fox Run (Little Foxes)

Oct 9 - no school

Oct 20 - no school

Oct 30 & 31 - Halloween Parties

ADVENTURER'S COLUMN

Wow, the summer is over already. We have had a great summer in our summer camps. A lot of time was spent outside exploring parks like Harris Road and Lion's Park in PoCo. We also went on fieldtrips to Wayland Sports and The Rock Wall Climbing Gym, which the children loved. The children spent some of their time giving back to the community as we helped the Watershed Watch Salmon Society paint yellow fish by storm drains and raised over 50 dollars for the local SPCA. Thanks to all our summer staff; they did an incredible job running this program. It would not have been the same without them.

With the summer behind us it's now time for back to school. The start of a new school year is always exciting for parents and children alike. We will be spending a lot of time outside after school so please continue to bring your child's water bottle and appropriate clothing that they may need. Early September can still be very hot so hats and sunscreen are needed as well. As we move into the wet weather your child will also need inside shoes. We have many fun activities planned for this school year and we are looking forward to seeing what it will bring.

In the morning, we will be starting something new this year. We will have the gym available to us Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30am until we leave for school. If you drop off after 7:30am please go right to the gym with your child in inside shoes. Also, there is no food in the gym so any child dropped off after that time, can't eat breakfast at the Centre (only on Tues and Thu).

We also have new policies from Licensing concerning both active play and screen time. We will have active play for at least 30 to 60 minutes every day. On any given day this may be park, gym time and/or active movement activities in the Centre, weather dependent. The new screen time policy will limit the children's personal screen time to less than 30 minutes a day. We will still do things like fieldtrips to the movies and watch the occasional short video, but please, no personal electronic devices. If you have any questions about these new policies or any other part of the program feel free to talk to me in person or on the phone. I can also be reached by emailing the office. I look forward to great new school year.

Rob

