

Please note: This newsletter has been modified for public distribution. For privacy reasons, names and contact information has been removed.



Greenfield Community Nursery School

NEWSLETTER

September 2008

The Greenfield playschool offers a learn-through-play program designed to encourage the development of a child's physical and intellectual abilities, to contribute to the development of a positive self-concept, and to encourage the desire to learn. As a parent-run organization it requires the active participation of all members.

Parent Orientation Night

Wednesday, September 3, 2008

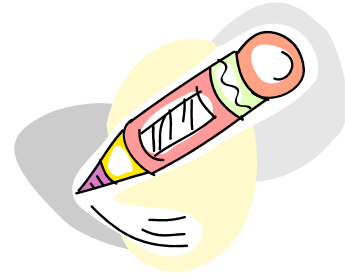
6:30 p.m.

Sweet Grass School Library

It is **mandatory** that one parent attend the parent orientation night to ensure that parents fully understand all details of the program, as well as the expectations for parent involvement.

*Please take the time to review the attached Parent Handbook document prior to this meeting.

A Note from your Executive!



Dear Parents & Children,

On behalf of the new executive team, we would like to welcome you and your children to Greenfield Community Nursery School. Your timing to be a part of our school this year could not be better as we have a lot of new and exciting things coming our way very soon. I trust everyone had a fantastic summer and is looking forward to what they can expect to see at the school.

As a parent of 5 children, 3 of whom have already had experiences with Teacher Thérèse, it is a real pleasure to know that she will be back in full swing, teaching our children again. To date, she has done a fabulous job and I have no doubts that she will continue to be important in the growth and development of our children.

Accompanying Thérèse this year is Claudette Santos, our new Teacher's Assistant. Claudette brings with her a Level 3 Early Childhood Development education from Grant MacEwan and is excited about being a part of the team. Be sure to introduce yourself to Claudette when you see her in the classroom.

One of the executive's primary objectives in addition to running a successful school year is to increase both the awareness of the preschool as well as improve communication between the school and the parents and children. For this reason, the executive committee has voted to complete a major overhaul of the existing website. The current website, www.members.shaw.ca/greenfield_preschool/ will be moved to our new URL, www.greenfieldnurseryschool.com. What you will expect to find here is a wealth of information pertaining to school schedules, parent duty and cleaning days, field trips and other contact information. Some of this will be located behind a secure login to ensure we are PIPA (Personal Information Protection Act) compliant, while other information will be placed here to market and advertise how wonderful we really are! The web company we hired is working feverishly at getting this site up and running, so be sure to check often to see its progress. Once completed, we will inform you on the next newsletter.

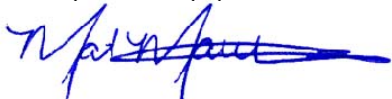


Another first for our school this year is an infusion of money from last year's fundraising event, the casino. We are ecstatic to learn that we have almost \$80,000 extra added to our budget. For those that volunteered at the casino, last year many, many thanks. The funds raised will allow us to purchase new furniture, a laptop for the school, new play centers, books, costumes, and much more for the children. We will also be looking at more field trips this year so that is very exciting news. If there are any parents that have suggestions towards field trips as well as recommendations towards purchases, be sure to mention that to Thérèse or any of the executive group.

Lastly, remember the executive group is there for you and your children. Our main goal is to make sure that Greenfield Community Nursery School continues to be as successful as it has in the past. If we can make things better, we will. If you would like to offer any comments for improvement or wish to attend any of our executive committee meetings, we welcome it with open arms!

I will see you all on orientation night and have a fantastic school year!

Respectfully yours,



Mat L. Matthews,
President, GCNS

The Executive meets monthly to discuss ongoing business of the preschool. Parents are always welcome to attend. If you wish to attend September's meeting, feel free to contact one of us for details.

Our 2008-2009 Executive

President: Mat L. Matthews- 780-433-2337
Vice President: Coral Larocque- 780-436-5017
Treasurer: Jody Marshall- 780-447-3058
Registrar: Kim Christopher- 780-432-9441
Secretary: Laurie Snowden- 780-988-5326
Casino Coordinator: Brenda Persaud- 780-437-0373
Field Trips: Sheree Mireau- 780-431-0619

*Please note that once the website is up we can all be contacted via email.

Mark your calendars!

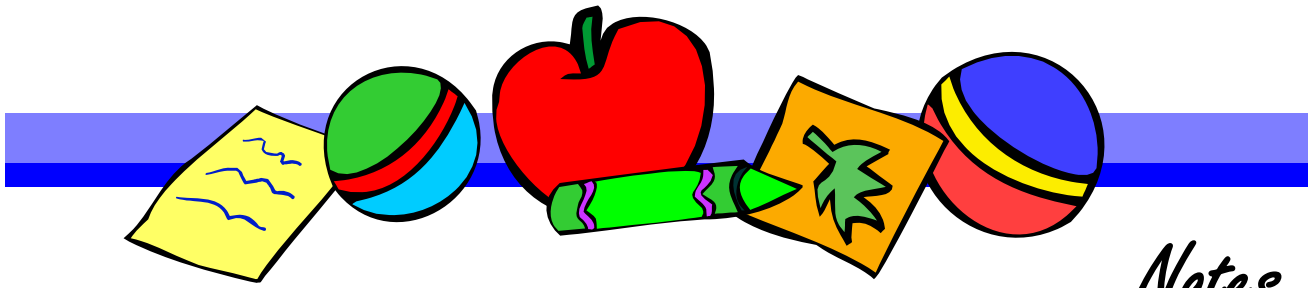
Staggered Entry for First Day of Class:

As many students (and parents) are nervous attending class for the first time, the first day of class will be divided into two 1-hour classes to allow students (and their parents, if desired) the opportunity to become acquainted with Teacher Thérèse, the new Teacher's Assistant (Teacher Claudette), and the program in a smaller sized class. Please note that there is **no snack time** on the first day of class and regular class times resume on the following school day.



Cleaning nights will be held the last Thursday of each month. A reminder notice will be sent home from school the week prior with a list of cleaning duties. These shifts typically take 2 hours, starting at 6:15 p.m. Cleaning supplies are provided but it is recommended that you bring your own gloves and sponges.





Notes

from Teacher Therèse

Welcome to Greenfield playschool, a time for new beginnings, new faces, new routines and new friends. I am really looking forward to a fun and exciting year, spending time together with you and your child.

I would like to send a very special thank you to the entire executive and the volunteers for helping to get this playschool year off to a great start. Thank you everyone for all of your support. I really appreciate it.

At Greenfield playschool play is recognized and valued as a fundamental part of a child's development. Therefore, I offer a fun, stimulating "learn through play" program that focuses on all areas of development including the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual well being of the child. I do this by providing a wide variety of age appropriate activities such as open-ended art materials, songs and movement, weekly themes, story time, show and share, field trips and special event days of the month as well as many other experiences that help each child explore and express themselves through their play.

All children learn at different stages in their growth and development. Children learn through their play and explore their world by direct experience. With the love and encouragement from their families and other people in their lives children can feel free to express themselves openly in their play during these early developing stages.

Separation Anxiety

Going to playschool can be an exciting time for some children and for other children there can be a lot of anxiety and mixed feelings about leaving their parents. I encourage parents to please stay with their child for the first little while until your child starts to feel more secure in their new surroundings at playschool. Please remember to let your child know when you are leaving and that you will be back to get them after class ends.

It is very important to be on time and to stay with your child until he/she goes into the playschool. When picking up your child please arrive no later than five minutes before class ends.

Show and Share

Show and share time is a wonderful opportunity for your child to express their independence and try out their own ideas. This is a great way for each child to gain social confidence from learning to share their ideas with others.

Your child's show and share day will be on the same day as your duty helping day in the playschool room. Please remember to allow your child the choice to choose from different things that he or she believes is important and wants to bring on their day. These can be things like their favorite teddy bear or a toy. Please no pets because of allergies and no toy items that would tend to encourage aggressive play.



Snack at playschool

Each child is required to bring his/her own snack and drink. Nutritious snacks are a must for our playschool friends. *Do not send foods containing any nut by-products. No peanut butter or peanut products of any kind are allowed. We have children at the playschool with severe allergies.* A list of student allergies is posted in the room. No junk food please. Providing healthy foods for a snack will teach your child healthy eating habits for life. Please remember that the children only have 15 minutes to eat their snack. Try to send no more than two healthy snacks.



Clothing

Each child is required to keep a pair of inside, non-marking, rubber-soled runners at the playschool. Please send a small backpack or a bag with your child, within which should include a change of clothing and a plastic bag for wet/soiled clothing. Label your child's belongings with their full name. Children like to explore with paint and glue. Some of the activities can get messy. Please have your child wear play clothes that they can feel comfortable in while having fun. For helping parents it's a good idea to wear old clothes and comfortable inside shoes.

Helping out at playschool

It is very important that parents be on time on their duty helping day. This means being ready to enter the classroom at 8:50am or 12:50pm. Starting class on time is essential for being able to finish on time. Please remember as a volunteer there are no siblings allowed.

Feel free to gear your activities and play at home around the playschool themes. It will help your child understand the concepts and also be a great way to be more involved in your preschooler's life, especially for parents who don't get to visit the playschool very often. Please feel free to come into the room any time and share a story, sing a song, or play a musical instrument.



Seasonal Super Sleuths at the John Jansen Nature Centre

We are already looking forward to our first field trip. At the parent meeting we will have permission forms for you to fill out. A signed permission form must be collected for each child in order for them to attend. We will require five parent helpers per class. Parents are asked to drive their children to the John Jansen Nature Centre (located at the SW Corner of Fox Drive & Whitemud Drive or approx. 70 Avenue - 143 Street) and to arrive at 9:20am/ 1:20pm in order to be ready for the scheduled program. Please have your children appropriately dressed for the weather and send a small snack and drink. Please pick your child up at 11:00am/ 3:00pm.

Prior to the start of each new month, the **monthly newsletter**, calendars and field trip forms will be posted on our new website www.greenfieldnurseryschool.com. Please be sure to check this site for upcoming events in the classroom.

The playschool will be starting the Elf book club this month for anyone interested in ordering books. By ordering Elf books the playschool gets credits and can get new books for the room. Your child will bring home an Elf book order sheet in September. Please be sure to get the order form back into the classroom by the date specified on the back of the form.



I am looking forward to a fantastic and memorable year together. If you have any problems, questions or concerns, please feel free to come and talk to me. I am always available after class.

Thérèse



September
Calendar 2008

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
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	1	2	3	4
New beginnings. Getting to know each other.	8 Staggered entry. Craft: Fun art. Craft: Draw a picture with your favorite colors. Craft: Glue fun materials onto paper.	9 Staggered entry. Craft: Fun art. Craft: Draw a picture with your favorite colors. Craft: Glue fun materials onto paper.	10 Craft: Draw a picture of your first day at playschool. Craft: Make a class collage together. Craft: Cut and paste pictures.	11 Craft: Draw a picture of your first day at playschool. Craft: Make a class collage together. Craft: Cut and paste pictures.
Let's talk and learn about safety rules inside and outside the playschool.	15 Craft: Safety signs. Craft: Safety picture. Craft: Safety art.	16 Craft: Safety signs. Craft: Safety picture. Craft: Safety art.	17 Craft: Safety maze picture. Craft: Safety awareness. Craft: Red, yellow, green.	18 Craft: Safety maze picture. Craft: Safety awareness. Craft: Red, yellow, green.
Wear fun colors this week. Let's learn all about colors. 	22 Wear your favorite color outfit today. Craft: Color art. Craft: Let's have fun mixing colors. Craft: What color is it?	23 Wear your favorite color outfit today. Craft: Color art. Craft: Let's have fun mixing colors. Craft: What color is it?	24 Field Trip! Seasonal Super Sleuths at John Janzen Dress for the weather.	25 Field trip! Seasonal Super Sleuths at John Janzen Dress for the weather.
Apples and colors.	29 Craft: Apple art. Craft: Apple person. Craft: Colored Apples.	30 Craft: Apple art. Craft: Apple person. Craft: Colored Apples.		

Looking forward to a great year! See you in September 😊