Welcome to Preschool!

The staff and board members are excited to welcome you and your child to the Canmore Preschool. Thank you for embarking on this learning adventure with us! Please familiarize yourself with the contents of the Parent Handbook provided on payment night. You will find it full of valuable information regarding snack requirements, discipline, and parent-of-the-day duties. And please, don’t hesitate to use the contact information on the back of this newsletter if you have any questions.

September Activities

Outdoor Days: September 18th & 19th
Specific days each month are designated Outdoor Days even in winter. When you arrive at school, before taking coats off, please check with the teachers whether the children will go out at the beginning or end of class. If it is very cold or raining, outdoor days may be canceled at the discretion of the teachers. They may also take advantage of good weather on any day, so please make sure students always have layers and footwear with them that are appropriate for the outdoors.

Fall Walk and Scavenger Hunt: September 27th & 28th
This outdoor event is part of our Fall theme for September. We will need additional parent volunteers, so please sign up on the sheet located outside the classrooms. Thank you!

Colour Days: Orange! September 20th & 21st
One day each month will have a special colour theme. On this day, please help your child choose a clothing item and a snack in the designated colour. In keeping with our Fall theme, the colour for September will be ORANGE.

First Day of Class:

For many of our students this will be their first time attending school. To help everyone with the transition on our first day, we will not have regular classes. Instead we will have a shorter orientation, which we ask parents to attend. Each class is divided into two groups to ensure we’re not too crowded. You will receive your orientation time slot on payment night.

Four-year-olds program, Monday, September 10th:
Morning class – 9:00–10:00 & 10:30–11:30
Afternoon class – 12:30–1:30 & 2:00–3:00

Three-year-olds program, Tuesday, September 11th:
Morning class – 9:30–10:15 & 10:45–11:30
Afternoon class – 12:30–1:15 & 1:45–2:30
Ways to Prepare
Talk positively about preschool. If your child sees that you like preschool, he or she will be more apt to develop positive feelings about school too.

Read a relevant book and discuss what will happen at preschool. See the Preschool Picks section at right.

Avoid rushing!

Place a photo in your child’s snack as a surprise and a reminder of how much you care.

Say good-bye lovingly yet quickly. Always reassure your child that you will be back at the end of preschool time. By saying something like “Have fun, I’ll be back soon and you can tell me all about what you did today,” you can make the transition much easier.

Keep the good-bye cheerful, even if your child is tearful!

Talk with your child’s teacher if you have any concerns. We will be happy to work with you to make the most of your child’s preschool experience.

Preschool Picks
Here are a few suggestions for books to enjoy with your child that involve the topic of going to school. Many are available at the public library or Cafe Books.
• “What To Expect At Preschool” by Heidi Murkoff.
• “How Do Dinosaurs Go To School?” by Jane Yolen
• “Going to School” by Anne Cirardi
• “The Kissing Hand” by Audrey Penn is a heartwarming tale that provides a gentle goodbye ritual for you and your child.

Snacks
Students are required to bring a healthy snack to have during the school day (please see your Handbook for suggestions). Please place snack bags in the bins near the classrooms when arriving at school, and collect them from the same bins at the end of the day. Please ensure that your child’s snack bag and cup are labeled with his or her name. Also, we serve only water at the preschool, so please do not send your child with juice.

Allergies
Please do not send any snacks with your child that contain nuts, peanuts or peanut oil as other children may have severe allergies. Please refer to the parent handbook for more detailed snack do’s and don’ts.

Where to Park
There is a 15-minute drop off zone in front of the school at the corner of 7th Avenue and 5th Street. There is also a parking lot to the left of the Roundhouse for Preschool/Daycare parking. Please observe all parking signs, bus zones, painted curbs, playground zones, and watch out for excited kids running everywhere!

Arriving at School
We share our wonderful new facility with the Canmore Day Care. Daycare children may be in the front play yard when you drop off or pick up your child, so please make sure that you secure the gate at all times! The Daycare sometimes leaves bikes outside, so please let your children know that they are not ours to play with. All preschool children should stay with their parents in the play yard and lobby. We appreciate it!

From the play yard, enter the door with the “Preschool” sign above it. Immediately inside you will find the school lobby where the cubbies are located. Each preschooler will have a cubby assigned to them. Children can place their personal belongings here while they are in class, and this is where artwork and notices will be placed for collection by parents.

REMEMBER to sign your child in on the attendance sheet outside their classroom when you drop them off.
At the End of the School Day

To avoid confusion, we ask parents to come to the classroom door to pick up students. Children will not be allowed to leave the classroom or playground unless accompanied by a parent or guardian.

REMEMBER to sign your child out of class on the attendance sheet when you pick them up.

REMEMBER to clean out their cubby of all personal belongings and artwork at the end of each day as it will be used by more than one child throughout the week, and will be cleaned out regularly of any items left behind.

Parent of the Day

Parents are asked to check the Parent-of-the-Day Classroom Calendars for September, which are posted beside each classroom door. Please sign up to take a turn assisting in your child’s classroom. There is a rotation schedule that lets you know how often we will need your help, but it is up to you to sign up for specific days that work for your schedule.

For all parents—of-the-day: when it is your day to help out, please arrive at the preschool ten minutes prior to the start of class to ensure that you are there to assist as other students arrive.

For all parents: we cannot run classes if there is no parent—of-the-day on site, so when dropping your child off at school, please do not leave until it is established that there is a parent—of-the-day present.

Class pictures will be taken before individual shots, so please arrive a few minutes before the scheduled time so we can take the group photo right away.

Picture Timetable

Wednesday, October 24th, 2012

Nataliya’s Classes:
9:00am 4-year-old morning class
9:30am 4-year-old afternoon class
10:00am 3-year-old morning class

Carmen’s Classes:
12:30pm 4-year-old morning class
1:00pm 3-year-old morning class
1:30pm 3-year-old afternoon class

Scholastic Book orders

Each month you will receive a Scholastic Books flyer. Every book purchased by you from these flyers contributes towards books and materials for use at the preschool!

If you are interested in purchasing any books, please complete the order form on the back of the flyer and put it in the drop box in the preschool lobby along with a cheque made out to Scholastic Canada.

The deadline for the upcoming order is October 3rd. Perfect timing for Halloween books!

Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire.
- William Butler Yeats
Welcome preschool families!

My name is Carmen Haase and it is a privilege to welcome new and returning families to our Canmore Preschool community!

After completing an Honours degree in the Arts and Sciences Program at McMaster University, I pursued my Bachelor of Education and Outdoor and Experiential Education certificate at Queen’s University. Together with this background, I also bring with me various experiences in hospitality and community services.

My 3 children find it humourous that when the youngest started kindergarten, it was finally their Mom's turn to go to Preschool!

Five years down the road, I’m still thrilled to be part of this team. I really value the experience that the Canmore Preschool offers to families with young children. Through parent participation on the daily volunteer and board levels, and by connecting community through field trips and visitors, there is a network created for “a village to raise a child”.

I look forward to working with the Preschool team and our families to make together a positive first school experience for each of our students!

Sincerely,

Carmen Haase

Welcome to all children and parents!

My name is Nataliya Fladager and I am delighted to welcome you and your children to our preschool. It’s my fifth year teaching preschool and I feel very fortunate to be a part of such a wonderful preschool community.

I graduated from university in Ukraine with a degree in Preschool Education and obtained most of my experience working with preschool age children here in Canada.

I believe in the importance of social interaction, early literacy, and building self-esteem in children. We plan all of our activities with this goal in mind.

To make learning fun I use lots of props, puppets, and drama. Since children learn most when they have the opportunity to touch and feel objects, we will do many sensory activities and work on various interesting craft projects.

I am looking forward to working with you to make your child’s preschool year a positive and fun learning experience.

Sincerely,

Nataliya Fladager
There are a number of different areas of preschool fundraising where we greatly appreciate and rely on parents contributing their time. Sign up sheets will be posted on the Volunteer Opportunity board in the preschool lobby.

Remember to sign up for your hours early in the year when selection is varied and timing is flexible.

Watch for details about our Rocky Mountain Raffle in the October newsletter.

**POSITIONS REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY:**

**Room Parents**

This is the person responsible for ensuring that there is a parent-of-the-day signed up for each day throughout the month. One position per class.

**Canmore Christmas Artisans’ Market**

This fun annual event will be held November 24th & 25th. We need a variety of helpers to set up, close down, oversee the preschool bake-sale table, etc. If you are interested in any of these positions please watch for sign up sheets, or see Nancy in the office.

**Did you know?**

Did you know that the Canmore Preschool is a registered charity? This means that if you make a financial donation to the preschool you will receive a receipt that you can use for income tax purposes.

This year we are going to apply for a special grant from the Alberta government called the “Community Spirit Grant”. Based on the donations we receive, we are able to apply for extra funding from the provincial government.

This means that if you donate $100.00 to the preschool, we can receive an additional $100.00 from the government. All goes to support your children’s education!

This is a fantastic opportunity to double your charitable dollars (in addition to deducting them on your income tax), so please consider making a donation. Ask Nancy how – and she can write you a receipt on the spot.

Also, if you know any corporate donors who might wish to sponsor the preschool, please feel free to approach them or bring it to the attention of the preschool board. Any amount will help! Thanks!

**A Letter from Summer Camp**

By Lindsey Madden

My family and I moved to Canmore in 2012, and after taking our bearings, we decided to enroll our daughter, Clare, in Canmore Preschool’s three-year-olds program to start this fall.

Clare was missing her friends at our old home, and fall seemed a long way away, so we were excited when we heard Nataliya would be teaching one-week summer camps at the preschool for the first time.

What a great introduction to Canmore and what a great introduction to school! After one week of camp (with a Rock’n’Roll theme), we were sorry to hear from Nataliya that all the rest of the camps were fully enrolled, because Clare wanted more! More costumes, and games, and music, and crafts, and time at the playground...

It seems this was the reaction of many kids and their parents, and I’m pleased to say that Nataliya is planning to expand the program for next summer. She’s hoping to offer more weeks, and to apply for a grant to hire an aide.

I’m glad now to have joined the preschool board and am looking forward to helping support our wonderful teachers in their work.

And needless to say, Clare cannot wait for preschool to start. She really can’t.

See you at school!
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Newsletter Delivery
The Canmore Preschool is doing its part for the environment. Kindly note that this is the only copy of the monthly newsletter that will be provided on paper. Future editions will be emailed to parents, and can be viewed on our website at www.canmorepreschool.com.

Please send any submissions to lindmadd@gmail.com before the 15th of each month for inclusion in the following month’s edition of this newsletter. Thank you!

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Check us out on Facebook!
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