A Message from Our Teachers

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! It’s been great to see all of our students again and hear about their holiday adventures...and see how much many have grown over the break!

We have enjoyed learning about ocean creatures during our ocean “escape” this month. Our first ride on the school bus and trip to the library was a highlight! Please remember that students should be picked up at the library on these days (except for Ms. Carmen’s 4-yr afternoon class which will ride the bus both ways with pick up, as usual, at the preschool). Due to safety concerns, we ask that parents arrive 15 minutes earlier to assist their child in selecting and checking out 2 books together. If you haven’t already done so, please arrange for your child to have a library card. This can be done at the library and there is no cost involved.

In February, we will focus on sharing, caring, love and friendship. For our Valentine’s Day parties we will be making mailboxes. We encourage children to bring Valentine cards to distribute. Please do not address the cards to specific students. Write only who they are from, your child’s name, on the cards (ex. From Jack). This makes it easier to drop into each mailbox one after another without having to search back and forth for particular names. Many of our students will enjoy writing their names themselves. If so, please allow plenty of time to do so in order to make this a positive experience.

Please also remember that in following the Canadian Rockies school calendar, there will be no school Family Day week – February 20-24.

This is the time of year when many families look into preschool options for the next year. If your child is moving on to a Pre-K program, we encourage you to take a closer look at how our programs grow with your child. Please consider the chart attached to learn how our programs evolve and build on your child’s previous experience with us. We would also like to invite you to see our Pre-K program in action! Please contact the office to arrange a visit or to talk with our teachers. We would love to tell you more!

A Fingerplay for February
I put my hands together,
This is how I start;
I curve my fingers right around,
And I can make a Heart

Ms. Claire and Ms. Carmen
## Our Preschool Programs at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 year old Program</th>
<th>4 year old Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 hours x 2 days a week, mornings</td>
<td>3 hours x 3 days a week (mornings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 hours x 3 days a week, afternoons</td>
<td>3 hours x 4 days a week (afternoons)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Positive introduction to school:</td>
<td>Foster positive connection with school:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• build trusting relationships with other adults</td>
<td>• ALL outlined in the 3-yr old program AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• foster self-esteem</td>
<td>• nurture relationships with other adults and peers</td>
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<tr>
<td>• encourage interactions with peers</td>
<td>• further improve social skills</td>
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<tr>
<td>• establish classroom routine and expectations</td>
<td>• build friendships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Circle times:</td>
<td>Encourage cooperation and teamwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• storyline: books, felt stories, puppet shows</td>
<td>Extended circle times:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• songs</td>
<td>• ALL outlined in the 3-yr old program AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• finger plays</td>
<td>• calendar activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>• games</td>
<td>• introduction to letters of the week and phonics making use of the Handwriting Without Tears (HWT) program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• discussions, turn taking</td>
<td>• Empathy program – literacy circles and baby visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning stations:</td>
<td>Learning stations:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• These activities change daily and may include prewriting activities, painting, cutting and pasting, colouring, seasonal crafts, playdough, sorting by colors or shapes, building or imaginative toys, games</td>
<td>• All outlined in the 3-yr old program AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• introduction to printing upper case letters and students’ names making use of the HWT program</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• more advanced crafts, colouring, cutting and pasting</td>
<td>• introduction to mathematical literacy through counting, patterning, sorting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Play Centers:</td>
<td>Play Centers:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A favourite time! Both programs have an opportunity for child-directed play in one of the many play centers: house center, story center, building center, puzzles, sand table, water table, etc.</td>
<td>The same play centers are offered to a small number of participants each. Students are expected to track their movement through the centers, thus, making choices, taking turns and often trying new things.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gym activities:</td>
<td>Gym activities:</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Daily physical activities in the gym: musical activities, games, use of equipment such as bean bags, ribbons, balls, hoola hoops, parachute</td>
<td>• ALL outlines in the 3-yr old program AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Body moves classes with a physical education specialist</td>
<td>• Additional focus on fundamental movement skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music classes:</td>
<td>Music classes:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bimonthly classes with a music specialist after Christmas</td>
<td>• Classes with a music specialist throughout the year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoor activities:</td>
<td>Outdoor activities:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Scheduled bimonthly outdoor days, sometimes more when taking advantage of good weather</td>
<td>• ALL outlined in 3-yr old program AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Seasonal nature walks</td>
<td>• Additional learning with nature experiences during nature walks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cross country Skiing</td>
<td>• Introduction to cross country skiing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adventures with Food:</td>
<td>Adventures with Food:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• discovering new foods on color days</td>
<td>• All outlined in 3-yr old program AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• baking Mother’s day and Father’s day goodies</td>
<td>• Some additional samplings on special days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Seasonal projects: apple sauce, baking bread, Christmas cookies</td>
<td>• Seasonal projects: apple sauce, baking bread, Christmas cookies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library visits:</td>
<td>Community visitors:</td>
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</table>
| A school bus ride for a program designed especially for our 2 age groups – books, fingerplays, songs and other activities with Ms. Rhonda and the chance to take out books | We are so fortunate to have a variety of community members support our program through visits and presentations tailored to our 2 age groups: health nurses, veterinarians, fire fighters, environmental educators, a nutritionist, a dental hygienist, RCMP officers, local athletes...and sometimes other talented parents!
REGISTRATION NIGHT & AGM

Wednesday, March 1, 2017
7:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn, 1 Silvertip Trail, Canmore. (Nakiska Room, Level P)
Thank you to the Holiday Inn for donating the meeting space!

In order to register for 2017-2018, and ensure your child’s place:

1. **In February, complete our online registration, including the $45 registration fee.**
   - You will be able to register for either 3-Year-Old Preschool (birthdays in 2014) or for Pre-Kindergarten (birthdays in 2013). Specific class placements will be determined by the Preschool after AGM.

2. **On March 1, attend AGM at the Holiday Inn.**
   - Families that attend will be placed in classes before families who do not attend. The Annual General Meeting will last about an hour. We recommend attending without kids in order to focus on business and wrap up as soon as possible. We will provide childcare on site during the meeting for those who need it. Paper registration forms will also be available at the meeting if needed.

3. **In April, we will advise families of their class placements.**

Alternately, if you volunteer for the Board your class placement will be guaranteed, as well as fulfilling your volunteer hours for the year. Please call or email, if you are interested in volunteering, or look for the sign-up sheets in the lobby. We will not be able to make class lists until the board is full.

If there are too many applicants for a class, registrations submitted (whether online or on paper) by those attending the AGM will be assigned class placements on a lottery system. Parents must attend the meeting for their child to enter the lottery. Once initial class lists have been made, all families who did not attend AGM, including registrations submitted after AGM, will be placed or waitlisted in the order received, as space allows.

Hope to see you at the meeting. Thanks!

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**PRE-K CROSS COUNTRY SKIING**

March 8, 2017 - Canmore Nordic Centre - **Remember, there are no regular classes this day!**

Parents should plan to bring their child to the Nordic Centre, with a helmet, and stay for the hour-long lesson (schedule coming soon). It is okay for one parent to bring two or three kids if you think your own child is familiar with skiing and will not need your active help throughout the lesson.

Please look in your cubbies in February to find the permission slip, as well as information about the schedule and gear rentals. Thanks!
Volunteer for the Board
for the 2017-2018 school year

All the following positions will need to be filled before we make class lists for 2017-2018!

Remember, children of Board Members are guaranteed their class placement.
Plus, each position fulfills your volunteer hours for the year.

CHAIRPERSON
- Attend monthly meetings. Usually about 1.5 hours.
- Chair all meetings and oversee preschool and board operations.

REGISTRAR
- Attend monthly meetings. Usually about 1.5 hours.
- Assist the Administrator as primary contact for registrations during July and August.
- Conduct two parent surveys in January and June using the template on Survey Monkey.

CHILDREN’S EVENTS COORDINATOR
- Attend monthly meetings. Usually about 1.5 hours.
- Create monthly calendar of classroom events, in consultation with the teachers. Book community visitors such as RCMP, Fire Fighters, Music Classes, etc. We have a yearly routine of events, so all contact info, etc. is provided.

FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR
- Attend monthly meetings. Usually about 1.5 hours, third week of each month.
- Oversee the Subcommittee Members (Market, Raffle, Scholastic).
- Coordinate one fundraiser in April/May using TeamFund to sell local products.

NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR
- Attend monthly meetings. Usually about 1.5 hours.
- Assemble the monthly newsletter with items from Lindsey, the Teachers, and the Children’s Events Coordinator.

SUBCOMMITTEE - Do not need to attend all monthly meetings.

ARTISANS MARKET ASSISTANTS
- Assist the paid Artisans Market Coordinator as needed from August until the event in November.
  - May include helping select artisans, putting up posters, event set-up/take-down, etc.
  - The market is on the third weekend in November, after which this position wraps up.

SCHOLASTIC COORDINATOR
- Organize Scholastic book orders throughout the school year.
  - Put flyers in cubbies once a month.
  - Place orders on Scholastic.ca once a month.
  - Put received orders in cubbies.
Canmore Preschool 2016/17

Board Members

CHAIRPERSON
Rachel Lippitt
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VICE CHAIRPERSON
Julie Vincent
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TEACHER
Carmen Haase
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carmenjhaase@gmail.com

Newsletter Delivery

The Canmore Preschool is doing its part for the environment. We try not to print our monthly newsletter. Each edition will be emailed to parents, and can be viewed on our website at www.canmorepreschool.com Please send any submissions to stacie.longworth@yahoo.com by the 15th of the month if you have any information to add. Thank you!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tues</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thurs</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Outdoor Day 4 P, 3A/P</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Music w/Sue 4 A/P, 3P</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Outdoor Day 4 P, 3A/P</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RED Day &amp; Valentine’s Party 4 A</td>
<td>RED Day &amp; Valentine’s Party 4 P, 3 A/P</td>
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<td>Outdoor Day 4 P, 3A/P</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Family Day</td>
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<td>Family Week - No classes</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td>LIBRARY Visit 4 A</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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3 = 3-year-old class, 4 = PreK class, A = morning class, P = afternoon class