



Canmore Preschool Society

September 2017



Welcome to Preschool!

We look forward to working together to create a positive start to school for our students and families. In September, we will focus on learning daily routines and settling into the classroom. You may enjoy helping your child look forward to the adventures ahead with this familiar song! –

**The more we get together,
Together, together,
Oh, the more we get together,
The happier we'll be!**

See you soon! Ms. Carmen & Ms. Claire

September Activities

Outdoor Days: Several in September

We may 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. We also schedule specific Outdoor Days each month even in winter. When you arrive at school on a scheduled outdoor day, before taking coats off, please check with the teachers whether the children will go out at the beginning or end of class. Depending on conditions, outdoor days may be canceled at the discretion of the teachers. If the temperature is below -15C outdoor days will be canceled.

Colour Days: Orange! September 19 & 20

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 should have received your orientation time slot via email.

Monday, September 11th:

PreK Morning class –
9:00–10:00 & 10:30–11:30
PreK Afternoon class –
12:30–1:30 & 2:00–3:00

Tuesday, September 12th:

3yo Morning class –
9:00–9:45 & 10:15–11:00
3yo Afternoon class –
12:30–1:15 & 1:45–2:30





First Day Jitters & Tips

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 small, 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 on 7th Avenue. 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 kids!

Sharing the Yard

We share our wonderful facility with the Canmore Daycare. 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! Daycare kids sometimes park their personal 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!

Arriving at School

Each preschooler will have a cubby and coat hook assigned to them in the lobby. 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.



What we learn with pleasure, we never forget.
- Alfred Mercier

Jitters & Tips Continued:

This year will be an exciting one for both you and your child. The first day of school, whether it be your child's first or subsequent experience in preschool, can be a day charged with both excitement and trepidation for students (and sometimes even more so for their parents).



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 take all personal belongings and artwork at the end of each day as coat hooks are used by more than one child during the week. Indoor shoes may be left under the cubbies throughout the year.

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 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 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.

Volunteer Hours – 4 hours per child per year – are **separate from Parent-of-the-Day**, and are usually fulfilled outside the classroom. Please take a look at the info on the next page about upcoming opportunities.

Picture Day

Individual and class pictures will be taken Tuesday, October 24th at the Preschool. There will be **NO REGULAR CLASSES** on this day.

Class pictures are great keepsakes and will be available for a nominal fee, even if you do not purchase a photo package of individual shots. Last year's cost for a class picture was \$7. We will also use the class pictures for preschool displays.

Please bring your child for the class picture even if you do not plan on having individual photos taken.

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.

We will post the picture day timetable in the next couple weeks, which will detail when each class should arrive.

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 2nd. Perfect timing for Halloween books!

Education is not the filling of a pail but the lighting of a fire.
– William Butler Yeats

From our Teachers



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 humorous that when the youngest started kindergarten, it was finally their Mom's turn to go to Preschool!

Ten 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 children and parents!

My name is Claire Cresencia and I am delighted to welcome you and your children to our preschool.

I joined the Preschool team in fall 2016, having previously worked at Canmore Community Daycare from 2004-2016 in a variety of roles - from classroom teacher to Before and After

School Care program coordinator to Assistant Director to Acting Executive Director.

I am thrilled to be back in the classroom to inspire and be inspired by your children. I have a love for the great outdoors and taking every opportunity as a learning experience. I am looking forward to working with you to make your child's preschool year a positive and fun learning experience.

Sincerely,

Claire Cresencia

Volunteer Opportunities



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.

VOLUNTEER POSITIONS REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY:

Room Parents

Each class will have one Room Parent for the entire year. This is the person responsible for ensuring that there is a Parent-of-the-Day signed up for each day on the calendar. The Room Parent may email their class if they notice an empty day coming up.

22nd Annual Canmore Christmas Artisans' Market

This fun annual event will be held November 25 & 26, 2017 at Canmore Collegiate High School. We need a variety of helpers to set up, decorate, man the door, clean up, etc. If you are interested in any of these positions please watch for sign up sheets in the lobby.

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED:

Canmore Preschool is seeking volunteers to join our board as

- * **Newsletter Coordinator and**
- * **Artisans Market Assistant.**

If you would be willing to give us a hand please let us know! For more details, please call or email Lindsey in the Preschool office at 403-678-2538 or info@canmorepreschool.com Thank you!

CASINO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Once every three years the preschool participates in a provincial casino fundraiser. This is our year! We have about ten volunteers already but we need many more. All positions are easy to fulfill and will take place in Calgary on:

October 12 & 13, 2017

Those on the day shift will be reimbursed mileage if they drive a carpool, and a shuttle bus will be provided for all night shifts. Every volunteer will receive a complimentary meal at the casino. This fundraiser has historically raised \$45-50,000!

Fall Walk and Scavenger Hunt: September 28 & 29

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!

AB Human Services "Stay-at-Home" Subsidy

This income-based subsidy helps eligible families offset the cost of their preschool child attending an approved early childhood development program such as ours.

In order to qualify, one parent must be staying at home and not working or attending school for more than **20 hours per week**. Parents can qualify for up to \$1200 per year per preschool child. The subsidy is paid directly to the program.

Applications can only be submitted one month prior to your preschool start date. Preschool can help file for back-payments, if approval is received after a child has started. Preschool will issue refunds to parents if subsidy payments are received for fees previously paid by parents.

Apply here:

www.humanservices.alberta.ca

Tel: 1-877-644-9992

Tell me, I forget. Show me, I remember. Involve me, I understand.
- Author unknown

2017-2018

Canmore Preschool Staff & Board



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CHRISTMAS ARTISANS' MARKET ASSISTANT

Newsletter Delivery

The Canmore Preschool is doing its part for the environment. Please tell Lindsey if you wish to receive printed newsletters in future, otherwise this is the only edition that will be provided on paper. Future editions will be emailed and can be viewed on our website.

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Check us out on Facebook!

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