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2011 September Newsletter

Welcome To Preschool!

The staff and board members would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to the Canmore Preschool.

We are all excited about embarking upon this learning adventure with you! Please familiarize yourself with the contents of the Parent Handbook provided on payment night. Valuable information regarding discipline, snack requirements and parent of the day duties is contained within the Handbook.

September Activities

Outdoor Days and the Fall Walk/Scavenger Hunt:

Specific days each month are designated as Outdoor Days even in winter. For morning classes the last part of this class will be spent outdoors at the playground and for afternoon classes, the children will spend time outdoors during the first part of classes. Your child should remain dressed when you drop them off so they are ready for outdoor fun! In September and October, please dress your child appropriately for playing outdoors every day as the teachers will take advantage of good weather on any day. If it is very cold or raining then outdoor days can be canceled at the discretion of the teachers. The 19th & 20th of September are Outdoor Days. The 29th & 30th of September are Scavenger Hunt/Fall Walk Days. September's theme is Fall. This event requires additional parent volunteers. Please sign up on the sheet located outside the classrooms.

Colour Days:

One day each month is designated as a specific Colour Day. On this day, please choose a clothing item as well as a snack with your child to represent the designated colour. The colour for September is ORANGE and will be held on September 22rd and 23th.

First Day of Class

The Staggered Entry is a new orientation process we are trying this year. Parents will find out which time slot they are in when they attend Payment night, September 7th.

Four year old program:

On the first day of school 1/2 of the class will come from 9 am – 10:00 am the other half from 10:30 am – 11:30 am. Parents are encouraged to attend the hour with their child.

Three year old program:

Morning Class: 9:30am – 10:15am & 10:45am – 11:30am

Afternoon Class: 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm. Parents are encouraged to attend the hour with their child.

NO REGULAR CLASSES FOR THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.

Seeds of Empathy

Is a 4 year old program that has been very successful in past years. It introduces children to a family and their new baby and also incorporates literacy activities. The children have the opportunity to watch the baby develop over the year and gain a better understanding of empathy and caring for other human beings.

issue
1

1

Welcome to Preschool
September Activities

2

First Day of School

3

Picture Day
Scholastic Book Orders

4-5

Volunteering,
Preschool Board Message
from teachers

6-7

Board Members List,
Calendar



First Day Jitters & Tips

This year will be an exciting year 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 a few trepidation for students (and sometimes even more so for their parents!)

How to Prepare

- Talk positively about preschool. Stress the fun or new friends and activities. If your child sees that you like preschool, your child will be more apt to develop positive feelings about preschool too.
- Reading a relevant book and discussing what will happen a Preschool can be helpful. See our Preschool picks section.
- Avoid being rushed!
- Placing a photo in your child's snack as a little surprise and reminder of how much you care.
- Staying positive when saying good-bye as your child will pick up on your energy.
- Say good-bye lovingly yet quickly. Always reassure your child that you will be back at the end of the preschool time. By saying something as simple as "Have fun, I'll be back soon and you can tell me all about all the things you did today" you can make the transition much easier.
- Even if your child is tearful, keep the good-bye cheerful!
- Talk with your child's teacher if you have any concerns. We will be happy to work with you as best we can 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 a Café 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.

Snack Ideas

Preschoolers are required to bring a healthy snack (please see your Handbook for suggestions) to have during class time. They place their lunch bags in the bins near their classroom when arriving to school and they are to be collected by parents upon dismissal from the same bins. Please ensure that your child's lunch bag and cup are labeled with their 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 due to children with allergies. Please refer to the Parent handbook for snack do's and don'ts.

Where to Go

The Preschool lobby is located through the second set of doors and is the main meeting area for all preschoolers. Here is where the lockers or "cubbies" are located. Each preschooler will have a cubby assigned to them near their classroom. Look for the colourful nametags. Children can place their personal belongings here while they are in class. This is where all artwork and notices will be placed for collection by parents at dismissal. Please try to clean out your cubby after each class, as it will be used by more than one child throughout the week and will be cleaned on a regular basis.

Where to Park?

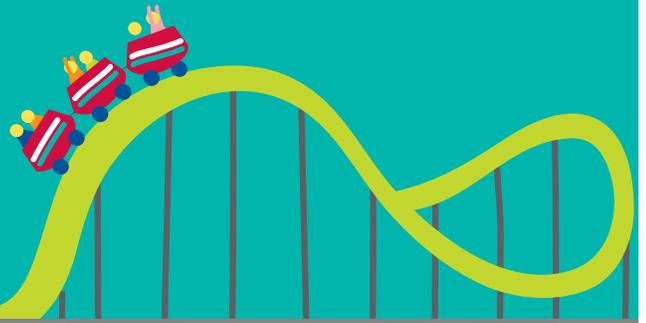
Parking can be found in the Preschool parking lot or along the roadside in front of the school. Please be aware of the school bus zone, the fire lanes, the new yellow "no parking line" and excited children running everywhere!



There will be a friendly "welcome" greeter on the first day of class who will be in the lobby to assist anyone with direction and to answer questions. Be sure to use them to settle any of your uncertainties.

First Day Jitters & Tips cont'd

Everyone involved with the Preschool would like to ensure an enjoyable experience for all children and parents. Here are a few tips to help things go a bit smoother as well as some general information about the Preschool & Picture Day information.



What happens at the end of class?

To avoid confusion, we are asking parents to come into the classroom or playground to pick up your child. Children will not be allowed to leave the classroom or playground unless a parent or guardian is with them. REMEMBER it is imperative that you sign in when you drop your child off and sign out when you pick your child up!

Parent of the Day

Parents are asked to check the Parent of the Day Classroom Calendar for September. It is posted beside the classroom door for each class. Please sign up for your turn in the classroom. There is also a rotation schedule that lets you know how often we need your help in the classroom.

For all "parents of the day": if you are parent of the day for your child's class please arrive at the preschool 10 minutes early (prior to the start of class time) to ensure that the class is covered for that time.

Also, we request that when you drop your child off at school do not leave until it is established that there is a parent helper for the day.

We cannot run the classes if there is no parent of the day on site.

Thank you for your co-operation!

Picture Day

Individual and class pictures will be taken on October 25th, at the Canmore Preschool. **NO REGULAR PRESCHOOL CLASSES ON THIS DAY.**

*Please bring your child for the class picture even if you do not plan on getting individual shots of your child. The class pictures will be taken before the individual shots so please arrive at the time scheduled above.

These class pictures are great keepsakes and will be available for a nominal fee even without purchasing an entire photo package! Last year's cost for a class shot was \$7. We can also use these class pictures for Preschool displays.

Even if your child is starting preschool later in the year, please come for picture day so that your child will be part of the class picture.

Check the time for your class and remember to come a few minutes early as the class pictures are taken first.

Picture Timetable

All children in Carmen's morning Preschool classes are scheduled for pictures in the afternoon of October 25th.

Nataliya's morning and afternoon Preschool classes are scheduled for pictures in the morning of October 25th.

The following is a list of the times for the various Preschool classes:

Nataliya's Classes

- 9:00 AM 4 year old morning class
- 9:30 AM 3 year old morning class
- 12:30 PM 3 year old afternoon class

Carmen's Classes

- 9:00 AM 4 year old morning class
- 9:30 AM 3 year old morning class

Scholastic Book Orders

Each month you will receive a Scholastic Book flyer. If you are interested in purchasing any item in the flyer, complete the order form located on the back and drop it off with a cheque made out to Scholastic Canada in the drop box located in the lobby. You will receive your order in approximately 2-3 weeks from the deadline. Every book purchased by you contributes towards books and materials purchased by the Preschool to use in the classrooms. The deadline for the next order is October 7th. Perfect timing for Hallowe'en books to arrive.



"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere"

- Chinese Proverb



Volunteer Opportunities

As a requirement of preschool enrollment, each preschooler's parent/guardian must complete four hours of volunteer time throughout the year. This helps with various fundraisers and activities, to keep the cost of preschool to a minimum.



There are a number of different areas where parents can volunteer their time. Sign up sheets will be posted on the Volunteer Opportunity Board in the lobby as positions need to be filled. There will also be reminders in the newsletter.

Here are just a few areas where help will be needed. Remember to get signed 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.

REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY:

Room Parents

- Person responsible to be sure there is a "parent of the day" signed up for each class throughout the month. One position per class.

Canmore Christmas Artisans' Market

- Variety of helpers needed to set up, close down, oversee the preschool bake sale table, etc., This event is held on the second last weekend of November (unless otherwise determined) If you are interested in any of these positions, please look for sign up sheets or see Nancy in the office.

Casino Fundraiser

Canmore Preschool turn has come around for another Casino fundraiser! Our last one was in 2008.

Place & Date:

November 11 & 12, 2011
Century Casino 1010 42 Ave SE, Calgary

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY AND WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

The shifts are: 11am-7pm and 6:30pm -closing (2am).

Food, gas, baby sitting (for all shifts) and hotel rooms for those volunteering for the late shift are paid for by the Preschool.

The work at the Casino is easy to learn and there is very little pressure. It can be a fun experience, so grab your spouse, friends or family and see behind the scenes of a busy Casino!

In all we will need approximately 40 volunteers to cover our days, Nov. 11 & 12th. If you think you can help out and not have to worry about your volunteer hours for the rest of the school year.

Please contact:

Nicole Trottier: 403 621-3791
(ntrottier7@yahoo.ca) or

Scott Anderson: 403 678-1741
(scott0147@shaw.ca)
as soon as possible.

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 another \$100.00 from the government to put towards our programs.

This is a fantastic opportunity to double your charitable dollars! So please consider making a donation - ask Nancy how. She can write you a receipt on the spot!

Also, if you know of any corporate donors who might wish to sponsor the preschool please feel free to approach them. Any amount will help.



"Tell me, I forget. Show me, I remember. Involve me, I understand."

author ~ unknown



Our Teachers



Nataliya Fladager

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 fourth 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 our activities with this goal in mind.

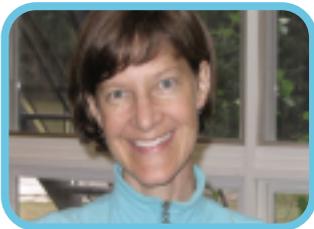
To make learning fun I use a lot of props, puppets and drama. Since children learn most when they have the opportunity to touch and feel objects,

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



Carmen Haase

Welcome parents and students!

Many years as a summer recreation "Tot Lot: leader" and supervisor inspired me to pursue studies in education. Together with this I bring various work experiences as a teacher, in hospitality services, in community services and as a Mom. I am thrilled to be part of the dynamic Canmore Preschool team!

Students will find variety of learning experiences in my classroom. There will be many different ways to

celebrate the current theme and opportunities to explore spontaneous interests. Students will have the opportunity to move through a variety of interesting activity centres, create with familiar and new materials and discover more about themselves as they learn more about their classmates. With senses alerted for the next adventure, we will be ready to further explore our community and the world around us through numerous guest visitors and field trips. Students

will come together as a group for calendar time, circle time and story time with opportunities to sing, engage in dramatic play, discussion and fun!

With the belief that no child blooms in the same way, I look forward to working with the Preschool team and our families to create a positive first school experience for each of our students.

Sincerely,

Carmen Haase



Education is not filling a pail but the lighting of a fire.

~William Butler Yeats

2011/2012 Preschool Board & Staff



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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 newsletters that will be provided to you directly. For upcoming newsletters, please refer to our website at www.canmorepreschool.com where you can view each newsletter at your leisure. Thank you for your support!

The newsletter will be emailed to you every month!



“It takes a village to raise a child”

~ African Proverb

September



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Labour Day	6	7 Payment Night at the Preschool Lobby 3 pm - 6 pm	8	9	10
11	12 First Day of School 4 yr olds <i>Staggered Entry:</i> 1/2 of the class will come from 9 am -10:00 am the other half from 10:30 am - 11:30 am. Deadline for Newsletter submissions	13 First Day of School 3 yr olds <i>Staggered Entry:</i> <i>Morning Class</i> 9:30am -10:15am 10:45am -11:30am <i>Afternoon Class</i> 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm 7pm Board Meeting Georgetown Inn	14	15	16	17
18	19 Outdoor Days Please dress your child appropriately for outdoor play	20 Outdoor Days Please dress your child appropriately for outdoor play	21	22 Orange Day Dress your child in something orange and bring an orange snack	23 Orange Day Dress your child in something orange and bring an orange snack	24
25	26 Seeds of Empathy Natalyia's class	27	28	29 Fall Scavenger Hunt Please dress your child appropriately for outdoor play	30 Fall Scavenger Hunt Please dress your child appropriately for outdoor play	