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 the first day of school. 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.

Upcoming Activities

Outdoor Days: September 17th & 18th
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.

Colour Days: Orange! September 22nd & 23rd
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.

Fall Walks: October 1st & 2nd
This outdoor event is part of our Fall theme for October. We will need additional parent volunteers, so please sign up on the sheet located outside the classrooms. Thank you!

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. Payment will be due the first day of class.

Monday, September 8th:
4yo Morning class – 9:00–10:00 & 10:30–11:30
3yo Afternoon class – 12:30–1:30 & 2:00–3:00

Tuesday, September 9th:
3yo Morning class – 9:00–9:45 & 10:15–11:00
3yo Afternoon class – 12:30–1:15 & 1:45–2:30
A Message from the Teachers

September will be the month to learn our daily routines and to settle into the classrooms. This little poem will help us move around our beautiful facility from the classrooms to the gym and back.

"My hands are by my side
I'm standing still and tall
My lips are quiet as can be
I'm ready for the hall"

Ms. Nataliya and Ms. Carmen

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.

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 on the next page. 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.

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 and 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 anything left behind.

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 note: the current construction on 7th Avenue in front of the preschool. The main gate will be accessible, but all parking on 7th Avenue must take place further down the street until the work is done.
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.

Picture Day

Individual and class pictures will be taken Wednesday, October 28th 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 your child is starting preschool later in the year. Also 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 September 17th.

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.

Stay at Home Subsidy Information

Regarding the Stay At Home Subsidy is available on our website. If you have applied for subsidy you will still be required to submit payment until subsidy approval is received in the office from the Alberta Government. If you are considering applying for subsidy, please do it right away as the process can take a while.
**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.

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**Thank You!!**

A huge thank you to Shannon Fox, Lindsey Madden and all our Casino volunteers! As we have previously mentioned, there is no other fundraiser that compares to the casino event in regards to total funds raised (roughly $50,000) so it is very important to the operation of the Preschool. We hope all volunteers had a fun experience and enjoyed the time with other parents. You all rock!!

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**Friendly Reminders**

****Please refrain from letting your children play on the daycare children’s personal bikes that are parked against the daycare side of the building. It is upsetting the children when they see out the windows.

***Donate to the Canmore Preschool at the Bottle Depot.

**Scholastic books help raise funds / points for teachers to purchase new books.

*Please remember to check the volunteer board and to sign up for parent of the day.

**Occasionally check the Lost & Found to ensure your child does not have any missing items.

*** If you have any unwanted arts and crafts supplies, please donate them to the shoebox in the Lobby cubby.

**** You can also donate any unwanted outdoor winter gear to be used for any children that forget to bring their own.
Canmore Preschool Staff

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SEPTEMBER 2014