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Important Dates

Community Kitchen

Wednesday, Dec. 14th

Please send a donation please.

The Community Kitchen will be serving a Turkey lunch to celebrate the holidays!

Christmas Holiday

Closure

Friday, Dec. 23rd

Monday, Dec. 26 - Monday, Jan. 2

Reopen Tuesday, Jan. 3rd



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

~December 2016 Newsletter~

Children's Centre Happenings

Our exploration of wood as a building material continued throughout November. The children have had opportunities to: sand the wood, trace it and build with it; alone and in a group. All of which have supported their investigation and knowledge of the material. This month we will continue our project and offer the children new ways in which to learn more about a material that surrounds them. As we learn along-side your children we will be asking ourselves and the children questions such as:

How do they share their knowledge with their peers and how do they incorporate this shared knowledge in their expression and exploration of the material? How do we, as teachers, create experiments that excite the children and spur them on to explore and test the material looking for answers to their theories, thus developing an intense relationship with wood.

Wood is part of our culture, not only in our use of it, but also as part of our environment; how do we move within it and how much do we take for granted the children's knowledge of a material that they are surrounded by. Our original intent was to use the wood to build something and although it may appear that we have lost sight of this, we believe it is worth-while to side step the original intent and immerse ourselves in our forests and truly understand the material.

With Christmas fast approaching we will be focusing on the love we have for our families and what this means over the Christmas season. The children love to make things for their families and we will be supporting them in doing so by providing some seasonal activities such as making ornaments and cards. So as not to add to a prolonged Christmas hype, we will begin our Christmas preparation mid-December. One tradition is to hold a short Carol Sing with the James/Nickoloff family who bring their brass and woodwind instruments to the Centre and lead us in some well-known carols. We invite all our families to join us in this lovely event, date and time TBA.

In the New Year we will be introducing a new program to the children called Second Step: A prevention program designed to increase empathy and reduce impulsive and aggressive behavior in children. This is an effective program that we have used at the Centre in past years. The first Unit: Empathy Training helps children recognize how others are feeling. More details about the program and a parent information evening will be held in January before the program commences.

Quadra Kids News

With all the rain in November we have been spending a lot of time indoors creating and playing. Plasticine continues to engage the children as they create miniature objects, people and animals. The glue guns are used on a daily basis to construct everything from popsicle stick houses to beautiful art pieces. Your children's imaginations are incredible. We have been enjoying puzzles, board games and building forts. To burn off energy we set-up mats and take turns wrestling each other.

In December we will make holiday gifts and cards for friends and family. We will set-up the candle making table which has always been a well-loved holiday tradition with the kids. They love the process of dipping the candle wick over and over again in the wax as they create their candle.

With the dark coming so early now, please feel free to walk through the preschool building to get to Quadra Kids.

What Do Children Really Want For Christmas

Excerpt from "Unplug the Christmas Machine" by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli.

A relaxed and loving time with the family.

Children need relaxed attention. During the holidays, normal family routines are temporarily set aside for parties, shopping, and special events. It's important to slow down and spend quality time with your kids.

Realistic expectations about gifts.

Kids enjoy looking forward to gifts and then having their expectations met. The key is to manage their expectations. You might try, for example, to educate your children about advertising in an attempt to mitigate its effects.

An evenly paced holiday season.

The modern Christmas season starts months before December 25th, when the first store displays go up, and then things end with a bang on Christmas day. The authors suggest beginning the season late in the year. Get out the Christmas music on December 15th then get the tree on the following weekend. Schedule some low-key family events during Christmas week. Stretch the season to New Year's Day.

Reliable family traditions.

When I talk to my friends about what Christmas was like when we were Children, it's not the gifts that we remember. We recall the things we did as a family. I remember sleeping next to the tree every Christmas eve, but never being able to catch Santa in the act. I remember seeing the cousins. I remember decorating the trailer house. Your kids will remember the traditions, not the gifts.

Membership Fee

On your December bill you will see a \$10 membership fee. This fee is mandated by the Society Act as Quadra Children's Centre is a non-profit society ran by a Board of Directors. Some of our board of directors are parents of children attending the Centre and others are community members that are interested in being involved with our Centre. The board of directors monitors the daily operations of our Centre, goal setting, fundraising, promotion, finances and many other tasks. Dee McPhee, our administrative director reports directly to our board of directors monthly where they have the final vote on all decisions regarding our Centre. Our board of directors is the foundation of our Centre; we sincerely appreciate all that they do.

Christmas Holidays

Over the Christmas break will be combining the preschool and school age programs as our enrollment dictates. From the Board of Directors and staff we would like to wish you a wonderful holiday season with friends and family!

Welcome to ...

- Poppy Schaffrick and family
- Sarah MacLellan, Mason's mom, who will be a substitute teacher in our preschool program.

**Thank you for sharing your children with us~
Dee, Barbara, Lise, Cally, Pam, Cathy, Ramona,
Sarah and Sue.**