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Important Dates

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, January 9th @ 6:30pm

Community Kitchen

Wednesday, Jan. 11 & 25
Please send a \$2 donation please.

Family Literacy Day

Monday, Jan. 23rd
@ Quadra Community Centre
from 10m- 12pm



Happy 2017 TO ALL!

~January 2017 Newsletter~

Children's Centre Happenings

A Happy New Year to all our families, we hope you had a quiet, and enjoyable holiday and are feeling rejuvenated and ready to returned to our routines and at times, busy lives.

Moving into the New Year, we want to bring to your attention the gun play that has been happening at the Centre. For several months now, many of the children have been involved in gun play, and as we write this we feel the trepidation that this type of play stirs in all of us. The children delight in bad guy play, the meaner the better. There are gangs of mean spirited "guys" who have no mercy and who make us, the adults, feel uncomfortable. None of us enjoy being held at gun point. Of course as in all stories there is an opposite force counteracting the dark side; the Superheroes, and at the Centre we have an abundance of them. The "good guys" fight the "bad guys" with all their might, while the Firefighters passionately fight fires and rescue Mommy's. The play is fast, loud and chaotic which in our setting can be extremely disruptive. We would like to shed some light on this kind of play and share with you how we handle it. Firstly, gun play has been explored by children for years here at the Centre, in one form or another. Secondly no matter how many times we say, "no weapons" the children find ways to transform objects into guns to facilitate the powerful play they seek. At the Centre we have established "weapon free spaces" so that other play and interests can be explored in a calm, nurturing environment. We have not stopped the gun play altogether because we see value in all types of play. What we do instead is join the children in their play; play is their language, and in doing so we join their conversation as they continue to figure out the world around them. An article that we have all read and which has helped us to understand the value of this type of play is called, "Good Guys and Bad Guys What is our responsibility?" by Kim Atkinson, an Early Childhood Educator in Victoria, with many years of experience with pre-school children. In her article she writes: "A difficult issue indeed. But by allowing children to explore a vast array of possible worlds filled with emotions and behaviours ranging from monstrous to heroic they are able to explore what constitutes good and bad, right and wrong, moral and ethical. The adult role, Edmiston says (Brian Edmiston calls this kind of play 'mythic play' in his book 'Forming Ethical Identities in Early Childhood Play'.), is to create dialogue about the issues of good and evil, caring, empathy and power. He writes: "When we tell children what they should do without discussion or thoughtful processes we are not having a dialogue, it is a monologue. When there is no room for negotiation then it is a monologue". By listening carefully we may learn something about what children learn and experience. And we can share what we know and have experienced."

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Children's Centre Happenings Continued

Therefore, we strive to be aware of the children's play so we can support them in all areas of their development. Some of our conversations that we have had with the children have revealed that: the children are 'pretending' and are capable of distinguishing between pretend play and real violence and hurt, pretend death and real death. They are playing with the concept that making mistakes does not make you a bad guy all the time or forever. This play is strong and vibrant and once you enter it you will be amazed at the concepts your child is wrestling with and the insights they will give you into their knowledge of the world will blow you away.

If you have any questions or concerns about this subject please do not hesitate to talk to any one of us and or read the above mentioned article, there will be copies available on the Parent Board in the Welcome Area of our preschool building.

Preschool Program: Second Step

We will be starting the Second Step youth Violence Prevention Program this month. This program promotes and develops children's social skills and self-esteem by giving them age appropriate skills to solve everyday problems. The first unit, Empathy helps children learn to identify feelings, predict how other people feel, and show they care. The second unit, Impulse Control, helps children learn to solve problems and perform social skills. It focuses on the period in a conflict between the realization of the problem and taking action. The last unit, Anger Management, helps children to calm down and redirect their feelings in positive ways.

Children who learn and use the skills presented in this program are more likely to get along with others and have more success in school. We use these skills with the children on a daily basis and will also be presenting structured lessons from the program on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10 am. Lessons will begin on Tuesday January 24th. There will be a short parent information evening on Wednesday January 18th at 6:30 pm. The program takes approximately nine months to complete and we will be posting important parent information throughout. Stay tuned.

Quadra Kids News

Our favourite activities definitely revolved around the ``white stuff`` in December! Whether it was building a deluxe 2 room Igloo, a large jump on the sledding hill or fine tuning the half pipe at the bottom of the hill our Quadra Kids took full advantage of the snow falls! The children spent countless hours sledding, getting lots of air from their handmade jump! The Igloo was quite the creation, having two dwellings; one being a 2 person space and the other a single dwelling, a great deal of thought and muscles went into the structure.

Quadra Kids did spend some time indoors and of course enjoyed some Christmas time activities. One of the favourites was the candle making where the children created a variety of sizes and shapes of candles, the kids were so patient layering the variety of colours on. They also enjoyed decorating handmade ornaments and ginger bread cookies and joined the preschool program to listen to the Big Band sounds of the James, Nickoloff family and friends, Christmas Band.

Possibly the best part of December was the free-flowing schedule, (or lack there-of) of the Christmas holiday at Quadra Kids, so nice to just be able to enjoy what is happening in the moment, without a ridged schedule.

We look forward to this brand New Year and all of our endeavours in 2017.

Happy New Year from our vibrant Quadra Kids program!

Family Literacy Day 2017

Monday, January 23 at 10 am – 12pm

@ Quadra Community Centre

Quadra Literacy is hosting a Pirate Themed Family Literacy Day.

Families are welcome to join their children and pirate costumes are encouraged! There will be many activities to participate in and children aged 5 and under will receive a free book.

We will have posters up at the Children's Centre with all the details and will be bringing the children that attend on this day up to the Community Centre to join in this annual event.

Goods and Services Auction

Fundraiser

Well the grand total is in, we raised \$16,500 at our 2016 Auction, this amount is our highest total to date!

Congratulations to All! We could not achieve this awesome feat without the support of our Board of Directors, Staff, Families and Community. We all worked together and thoroughly enjoyed the Auction event, creating a financial fundraising success for our Centre.

Our sincere gratitude goes out to all!

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

