



Website

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Important Dates

Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, May 30 @ 6:30pm

Community Kitchen

Wednesday, May 11th & 25th
\$2 donation please

Closure

Monday, May 23rd – Victoria Day

May is Childcare Month!



Mayday

Saturday, May 28th – Parade begins at 10am

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, June 12th at 6pm

~May 2016 Newsletter~

Children's Centre Happenings

A big thank you to all the parents who joined us in making our first "Yard Day" a success. With your help we were able to: replace the rotten wood surrounding our garden beds; lay wood chips around the beds; and move the majority of the new sand into the sandbox. The children were amazing. Most of them were involved in one or more tasks that needed doing, giving them a sense of belonging and community. Not only did they learn about helping each other and team work, they also experienced and learnt about weight and volume. How much sand can be put into a wheelbarrow so that we can move it without tipping it over? What does the root system of a strawberry plant look like?

In May we will begin growing scarlet runner beans in ziplock bags on the large window in the kitchen. Growing them this way will allow the children to see how they grow. In past years the children have recorded their bean's growth by drawing the changes they observe or representing them with plasticine. Possible outcomes include: measuring their beans, introducing them to mathematical concepts; develop an interest in biology and botany; an awareness of symbols being used to represent ideas, a form of early reading and writing literacy. Eventually we will plant the beans around the horseshoe bed and create a bean teepee for the children to play in.

MAY DAY. Each year we enter a float in the May Day parade, but we can't do it without your support. We need parents to help us decorate the float the night before the parade, on the Friday, May 27th at 6p.m. at the Children's Centre. We will also need help taking down the float before heading to the May Day celebrations, (when you collect your child from the float, if you stay for a few minutes and help with the take down it usually happens quickly and smoothly). A sign- up sheet for the float decorating and take down is posted in the welcome area on the parent participation board. This will be voluntary and will not count towards your participation hours. If you would like your child to ride in on the float please be at the Spit at 9:30a.m. on May 28th. Our float will be located past the first gate on the first road to the right of the marshalling area.

Sunscreen and Hats

That gorgeous sunshine is appearing most days now so we request that you send your child with a **labeled hat** each day. On the sunny days we will apply sunscreen, if you do not want your child to wear sunscreen please let us know. We would appreciate a \$4 donation from each family which can be put in the bin by the sign-in sheet.

MAY IS CHILDCARE MONTH!

\$10 a Day Plan

Let's celebrate this very special month together. One of the ways that you can celebrate is to learn all about the \$10 a Day childcare plan; endorse the plan and show your support. We need everyone's voice for the government to hear us! Visit the \$10 a Day website and find out the numerous ways in which you can tell our B.C. government that this plan is essential to the well-being of early care and learning in our province. <http://www.10aday.ca/>

Did you know that:

- Among developed countries, CANADA RANKS LAST on child care. And the BC government's failure to address the crisis is keeping us there.
- 81% of parents who use childcare say that the cost puts financial strain on their family. Fees are the second highest cost after housing.
- Waitlists are too long with a regulated space for less than 20% of children, forcing some families to use unregulated care, with no safety standards.
- The B.C. government still has no plan to meet the needs of working families.

The \$10 a Day Plan offers the solution to the above issues and more. It will benefit: children, families, women, employers, community and our economy. Together we can make affordable child care a reality in B.C.!



Butterfly Release

Another special event that you can be involved in is a first time event for our Centre. We will be raising butterflies at the Centre to be released at Rebecca Spit on Mayday. In co-ordination with several childcare centers in Campbell River we will raise our butterflies and release them on Saturday, May 28th. This project symbolizes a child's growth and development during the time we spend with them, while supporting them so they can eventually fly by themselves. This is the first year of the annual butterfly release, Centres and families will be releasing the butterflies on May 28th at Centennial Park in C.R. Because this date coincides with May Day, we will be releasing our butterflies at the Spit during the May Day celebrations. If your family is interesting in sponsoring a butterfly through a small donation we would appreciate it.



Quadra Kids News

It has been busy at Quadra Kids with the beautiful spring weather. We have weeded our gardens beds, added compost and planted the peas, there will be more planting in May to come. We have dug out our mud pit to create a sandpit and we are in the process of moving sand from the parking lot to the pit. It is amazing how many wheelbarrows full of sand it takes to make a sandpit. The mud kitchen has been improved by the kids, they have even created a dishwashing station. Who would of thought!

Our field trip to Rebecca Spit on Earth Day was lovely. Even though the children had already spent part of their day at school gathering garbage they willingly collected at the Spit too. Well done Quadra Kids! We were treated by a spectacular show by group of 10-12 sea lions. They barked at us and swam around for our enjoyment. The children built forts, explored the beach and enjoyed s'mores roasted on our campfire. The children helped fill the back of Dee's car and Ian's truck with driftwood pieces to take back to the Centre. We kept half for Quadra Kids and gave the other half to the preschool program for building with. It was a wonderful day at the Spit.

The children continue to enjoy using the garden clippers to cut down greenery in the forest to create forts. Our surrounding forest area is truly loved by your children. With the collected driftwood they have started making obstacle courses to challenge each other with. They first draw their idea of what their particular section will look like then together as a group they make a course using each child's idea. This is one example how well the children work together at Quadra Kids. The older children include and assist the younger ones when needed and the younger ones respect the older children's need to have some alone time. When problems arise the children willingly use their problem solving skills and find inclusive, creative solutions together.

The summer program is starting to be put together. We would like to offer the spaces to our regular families first. We ask that you submit your summer needs by **Monday, June 20** after that we will be accepting requests from other families if there are still spaces available.

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, June 12th @ 6p.m.

Mark this date on your calendar!

To ensure our eligibility for funding we need our families to attend this meeting. A sufficient amount of members must be present to receive \$15,500 in gaming funds.

There will be a slideshow of the comings and goings of both programs over the past year and we will share a potluck meal. Please bring a dish to share and your own plates and utensils. This is an entertaining, yummy and important evening, don't miss it!

Raffle Fundraiser Prize Winners

Prize #1 – Robyn Dysart, Beach Acres Resort

Prize #2 – S. Willson, Brentwood Bay

Prize #3 – Mary Charron, Taku Resort & Heron's Restaurant

Prize #4 – Valerie Inrig, Thrifty Foods Card

Prize #5 – Brenda Lenahan, Quality Foods Card

Congratulations to the lucky winners. Our raffle fundraiser was a great success, raising \$3550.00! Our gratitude goes to the extremely generous prize donors, our enthusiastic sellers and of course all of the ticket purchasers! Thanks so much for making this a profitable fundraiser.

Garage Sale Reminder

Our Garage Sale is quickly approaching and there is still plenty of room on our back deck. If you have any gently used items that you could contribute we would greatly appreciate it! Please tell your friends and family also. Please no big box T.V.'s, computer equipment, ski's or clothing. **Garage Sale-Saturday, May 14th from 10-2**

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

Welcome To...

- Eva Lounsbury who joins her brother Finn and family
- Welcome back to Shaela Bourque
- Ana Kobierski who joins her foster brother David.
- Isaiah Mulroy who joins his brother Elijah
- Ramona, Haven's mom, who will be a teacher in our pre-school program.