

Canmore Community Daycare and Bow Valley Before and After School Program



Spring Newsletter 2017

We asked the Grizzlies what Spring means to them and this is what they said.

- "I love Spring because there are bees and flowers and butterflies" – Clara
- "I like Spring because there is biking and running and no more snow" - Graham
- "Snow melts, and vegetables grow, bunnies and bears come out" - Addy

Executive Director Message:

A warm welcome back to Cherri.

Cherri has been away and will return part time in April. She will be attending to a few projects upon her return. She has been so very grateful of the support, care and best wishes the community has sent.



Assistant Director Message:

I would like to thank the Staff for their hard work over the last few months. We have been busy preparing for our accreditation visit and I am sure there were days they thought would never end....but all days end and better, brighter days follow. I would also like to thank the Board for their

continuous hard work. The job you do makes all of our jobs better and easier, THANKS!!!

Program Director Message:

Over the past few months we have been evolving our programs to reflect more of an "Emergent Curriculum". The staff have been planning amazing activities for your children based on their interests and their developmental skills. The staff work hard to create new activities and opportunities for learning. I feel very thankful to work with such a talented and dedicated team.

Over the next few months, my goal is to bring new ideas and activities to our outdoor play space such as natural materials and dramatic play.

I always welcome your ideas and thoughts regarding our program. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Board Message:

With the snow behind us and the temperatures warming up, the Board of Directors is looking forward to cool, crisp, fall days

ahead. You guessed it: the 4th Annual Fall Fair will take place in September and we're full steam ahead in planning for this great family event! There are lots of opportunities for you to get involved (all time volunteered counts towards your volunteer hours!) before the event and on the day. We'll make sure opportunities are added to the new online volunteer sign-up but if you are keen to help out now, please email me at chair@canmoredaycare.com

Sign in and out:

The new electronic sign in and out is working really well. If parents would like to try using the sign in or out tablets it is simple, and we are happy to support. All children can be signed in or out from any one tablet. To sign in click on the room name e.g. Bear Cub Attendance, a drop down list will appear. Select your child's room. The list of children's names will change to show your child's room. Tap on the IN button and your child is signed

in. Out is mostly the same; however it does request you identify which adult is signing your child out. Starting next week feel free to give it a try...a tablet is kept in the office if you would like to sign in or out before getting into the room. Don't forget to let staff know you have signed in/out.



Accreditation:

You may see two ladies walking around the building taking notes. These are the validators, they are here to observe our interaction and provide us feedback on what we are doing well and what we can improve on in the future. Feel free to introduce yourself and let them know some of the great work our staff do.

Quality Enhancement Plan:

In the hallway towards the adult bathroom you can see our QEP's. Please feel free to stop and read them. I will only highlight a couple in our newsletters: Standard 1 - Introduce an area of learning on the weekly program plan called "Practical Life" where teachers will introduce skills and activities that promote experimentation, risk-taking, and a positive sense of self. This has been added to the weekly program. Some examples are pouring water,

zipping, buttoning, cleaning, scooping, hammering nails, sanding wood and taking care of our garden. Standard 2 - Another QEP goal is Provide updated observation tools, staff communication log sheets, revised weekly program plans and "What We Did Today" templates for the staff to observe, record, plan, and communicate. – This has been achieved and staff are completing daily "What we did today sheets" and displaying them on the room door. Additionally they are completing both individual and small group observations and these contribute to the weekly program.



Time with your child's teacher:
If you would like to speak with your child's teacher about their progress, friendships, interests etc. please feel free to complete the "May I book some time please" form. These forms can be found at the front desk and in each room. It is a great time to share with us the unique knowledge and understanding you have about your children.



Junior Kindergarten:
JK students have been observing the change of season through outdoor exploration. The children were excited to see snow melting, buds growing in the butterfly garden at ERS, and reading in the paper about the first bear waking. For our Growing Caring Hearts we have learnt how to be great 'bucket fillers' for ourselves, each other, and the world. We have been doing 'waste-free Wednesdays' to help the planet and set up a classroom worm compost with the Biosphere Institute.



School Age Care:
The children had loads of fun at the last holiday break and are looking forward to all the fun we have planned for April break. One of the highlights was the visit to the Dog Sled kennels. The children got to see the puppies, find out about what the dogs eat, see the sleds and harnesses and possibly best of all enjoy some hot chocolate and a marshmallow roast.



The children have been talking about music from all around the world last week. We had fun with Saint Patrick's day. We celebrated spring by planting some flowers that we are watching grow. We are moving into recycling and oral hygiene for April.



Spring Clothing:

It is getting warm and so children don't need such heavy clothes, however they do need waterproof clothing as we are still enjoying playing outside in the melting snow.

As it is starting to get warmer please bring in a sun hat and check that your sunscreen (if still at Daycare) has not expired and is clearly labeled with your child's name.

Staff Changes:

We have said goodbye to Charmaine but will be welcoming MeJung (MJ). Charmaine is planning to spend more time with her own children and we wish her all the best. MJ will be joining our team on Monday 17th April. We are excited to have someone with her skills and knowledge join our team. You may also see a couple of other new faces around the Daycare. Victoria and Jeannie will also join our team as Supply staff. Both ladies are leveled and have experience working with young children. Miss Sophie will be leaving us on 5th May to have her second baby. We will miss her greatly, however Miss Bianca will be returning to Daycare on 8th May and she is looking forward to seeing everyone and telling us about her amazing adventure.

Moving to the next room:

It is almost that time of year. Our Grizzlies will soon be leaving us and heading to "big school". This means there will be an opportunity to move to the next room in July. At the beginning of May the class charts will be completed and transition letters will be sent out. We are planning to have an open night in July to meet your child's new teacher, find out about what room, and meet some of the other children and their parents. Keep your eye out for the invite to our "Getting to Know You Night".



Special Events:

We have had some awesome events at daycare. We have had a monthly visit from the Library, a WildSmart seminar, and a Puppet Show from Entangled. Our field trips have been visiting the Bow Valley Parent Link Centre. We look forward to additional trips now that the weather is more favourable.



Purdy Chocolate Fundraiser:

Thank you to the families that supported the Easter Chocolate Fundraiser. The money raised will go towards toys and equipment to enhance the children's program. A special shout out to Jodi and Andrew Calder our biggest sellers, well done!!!

Alpine Edibles:



We are up and growing!!!! The children have begun planting spinach, lettuce and arugula for our garden. We have now transferred the seeds into the greenhouse where they will stay until the ground is ready for planting! The children have started visiting the garden to check up on our seeds and will begin weeding our garden section in the next couple of weeks. Be sure to check out our photo documentation in the lobby of the daycare of our garden experience thus far!



Some of our favourite Moments:

The Grizzly children have been enjoying the new magnetic tiles. They enjoy making their creations and then getting their teacher to write a note saying "SAVE" so they can show off

their creation to Mum and Dad in the afternoon.



The Mountain Lions celebrated Dr Seuss day by reading some of his iconic stories. The children have been enjoying small group experiences most mornings. This is given them time with a group of friends and one teacher to really explore their ideas and interests.



The Bear Cub Staff have been making sensory toys for the children. The Bear Cubs are very interested in sorting, matching, and cause and effect concepts.



The school age care children made some of their own music instruments.



The Chickadees got to do two of their favourite things, play with a big box and do some drawing at the same time. This group are very much into their music and actions and their creative exploration of all things art.



The Coyotes enjoyed making their own afternoon tea with Miss Addy and Miss Jossee. They measured, mixed, baked and shared a meal together. Afterwards the children became very interested in making cups of tea and baking in their home corner.



