



FEBRUARY 2007
Volume 1 Issue 4

BRIGHTON CHILDREN'S CENTRE

(BCC Buzz)

IMPORTANT DATES

Directors meeting 7:00 pm
Wed. Feb. 21

Spring Raffle April 5

INFORMATION

- Don't forget your Sobey's tapes and Canadian Tire money
- **Family Lunch & Social Time for Parents/ Caregivers & Children** - on Mondays at the United Church.
Crafts 10:30 -11:30
Lunch 11:30-12:30
- New Name—**BCC Buzz**— thanks to **Kelly Cooper**
- **Spring Raffle** for Doll House donated by Brighton Lions Club, Children's Bicycle donated by Trenton Canadian Tire, & a Home-made Quilt. **All parents will be given two books of 5 tickets, cost \$2.00/ticket.** & help selling these tickets would be appreciated. If anyone can help sell tickets at Sobey's or No Frills, inform Annette 475-1811.

PROGRAM NEWS

From Your Executive Director

Hard to believe Christmas is long over and we're into 2007! We are well on our way to filling up all of our spaces in our programs...we currently have a total of 91 children enrolled in our Centre! That translates into 66 families being from Brighton and the surrounding area receiving care. We have a few spaces left in our Day Care and Preschool programs if you have a friend or neighbour who might be interested in coming to join the fun!

A few reminders from the Executive Director's office:

- Please pay your fees in advance either monthly or on the 1st and 15th of every month. Post dated cheques are preferred. Late payment fee is \$10.00.
- Payment is expected for all Statutory holidays that fall on your child's regularly scheduled days.
- Tax receipts for July 1 - December 31, 2006 will be prepared and distributed by the end of February, 2007
- Please remember to sign your child(ren) in and out every day. We need to know who is here at all times in case of a fire drill or emergency evacuation.
- Please keep your contact information up to date so we can reach you in case of an emergency
- All full-time families (attending 5 days/week) are entitled to 2 weeks of unpaid vacation per year. Let us know if you'll be away for March Break!

If you ever have any questions or concerns about our programs, feel free to contact me at the Centre!

Annette

Craft

A fun craft idea for this time of year... Spread lard or peanut butter on all sides of a bagel, roll it in bird seed, string a piece of twine through the hole and hang it from a tree outdoors. This is a treat for the birds and squirrels while the ground is covered in snow!

To Contact Our Centre

PHONE NUMBERS

Day Care and B and A School 613-475-1811
Preschool 613-475-4217

WEB SITE

www.brightonkids.com

EMAIL

admin@brightonkids.ca

Preschool Chat

Two months have gone by since our last chat and the preschool has been bustling with many changes. Diana Jesshope and Sandra Fitzpatrick have since left to become a part of the daycare team, and have been replaced but not forgotten by Catina Bowditch as the Assistant, who has had her son attend the preschool the previous year. She has grown up in the area and may seem familiar to some of you as she also works at the YMCA with their child and youth programs. Our Enhancement staff Laura White is new to the area. Originally from Kitchener -Waterloo, she has had many experiences within the field of childcare, as an experienced child and Youth worker as well as a resource consultant for special needs children and their families. We have also been blessed with a second year Loyalist ECE student, Carrie Marquardt. As a pleasant surprise, she will be planning activities based on observations of the children. If you haven't signed a consent form, please do so, it is part of her school requirements. Please look for Carrie's Bio on the BB as well in the next week!

I hope everyone enjoyed their two weeks of Christmas excitement, and we want to hear how those brownies turned out! It was great to be back, and in spite of such a long break the children seemed to pick up the routine and staff changes like troopers!

Our theme of Teddy Bears and the Teddy Hospital was a hit with the children, and we all enjoyed our hibernation Jammie day, especially the teachers!

Our teaching concepts that we were focusing on were Big, Medium and Small, with the Three Bears, story sequencing, and shapes, and colours. The children loved freeing the frozen bears from their ice cube homes, and spraying the frozen ice towers. We went through three boxes

of band-aids and miraculously all of the bears recovered from their injuries!

Our next theme of Hearts and Valentines will take us until the middle of February where we will focus on feelings, and giving to others. Each child will have a mail slot, and the children will be encouraged to send letters and make valentines for others. We have all the children's names on laminated cards and we will be practicing printing, and letter rubbings. For our valentines party on the 13th and 14th, we will be taking the children on a surprise Heart Hunt where we will end up in the LLS classroom to do some baking.

If you would like to participate in Valentine giving please have your child sign 14 cards and they can distribute one to everyone, if your child comes on both the 13th, and 14th, they will need 24 cards in total. We will come back to the classroom for a valentine tea party!

The end of the month we feel the weather may finally cooperate for some Snowy Wintry Wonders. *Please send one white sock with your child on the 26th, and 27th, as we will be making sock snowmen!*

We are still looking for Pringles cans to hold finished art for the cubbies.

Please remember we are trying to incorporate some outside time into our programming, so dress your children accordingly. We are hoping to move our cubbies up the stairs to allow for more independent dressing. I find having the mittens and hats in the children's sleeves the simplest.

Have a LOVEly February!

Robyn, Laura, Catina, and Carrie

Before and After School Tidbits

Happy New Year!

2007 promises to be an exciting and fulfilling year here at the Before and After School Program.

We've already had our first very successful P.A. Day of the year. We started the day out at the library where everyone picked out their favorite Space Books to bring back to the program. We used our books and mapped out Solar System Poster Boards, & Dioramas and Planet mobiles. Everyone seemed to have a great time working on these projects. In the afternoon we trekked to King Edward Park for some fun in the snow and in the park. What a great day it was. The next one will be just as great with the Focus on Scrap Booking. We will be scrap booking picture frames, so if you have an extra 8x10 frame to send along and your child's favorite pictures that would be great!

We will be supplying all the tools, stickers and paper needed for this project. We can't wait to see what the day will bring! Remember lunch and snacks are provided on the P.A. Day.

Our creative talents have slowly been blossoming; we've been doing Mosaic Art work with beans, beads and pasta and the ideas all the children are coming up with are tremendous and so artistic.

Please remember its still really cold out there and we need all of our gear for the outdoors (hats, mitts, snow pants).

Amanda and Katherine

Day Care Days

It's difficult to believe Christmas is a month behind us and we're almost at Valentine's Day! Our celebrations went well with our gingerbread decorating, and plenty of carol singing. Our visit at Applefest Lodge was enjoyed by both the children and the residents. We sang and had cookies and juice before our walk back! Our donations to the food bank were received with smiles and treats for us, too! Pajama day was a big hit with the children watching Cars and Winnie-the-Pooh and Christmas too!

Winter weather and new friends arrived in January. With more friends, we have added a "Best Start" program in the morning from 9- 11:30. Our JK/SK children seem to be enjoying the challenge of working on literacy building activities. All of our children have been working on animal themed activities such as creating turtles with construction paper, singing animal songs and listening to stories about animals in the snow.

Valentines Day will have us focusing on friendship and kindness. With the cold temperatures, we will have plenty of heart warming activities. The children will be preparing Valentine card carriers for a Valentine celebration on the 13th and 14th. We will be providing a special treat as well!

Sweet thoughts from all of us here in the daycare!
Penny, Annette, Rhonda, Diana, Sandra

Family Lunch

Congratulations to Nancy Thomas! Mitchell now has a new baby brother.

The dietitian at the Health Unit will be coming soon—date to be yet decided.

Mary & Katherine

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Web Sites

- **Brighton Children's Centre**
For local links and other relevant links
www.brightonkids.ca

Books (Prices are online prices) - Library will order

- **Boys of Few Words: Raising Our Sons to Communicate & Connect** by Cox (Guilford Press) \$14.82
- **Breaking the Good Mom Myth** by Alyson Schafer (4 star) (Whiley Press) \$13.67
Two of the topics—Empowering your child to make decisions, & Sibling Rivalry
- **You're Wearing That: Understanding Mothers and Daughters in Conversation** by Deborah Tannen (Random House) 3 star \$15.16

Community Events

February

- **An Afternoon of Music & Magic** (Sat. Feb. 17 at 2:00)
"Stirling" local magician Gabriel Foley & children's entertainer Jam Sandwich (all ages) 1-877-312-1162
- **Skate Canada Carnival**—Sat. Feb. 17, 6:00-8:00pm (donations to the Food Bank)

March

- **Carnival** (Brighton & District Figure Skating Club) Sat. Mar. 3
- **Charlotte's Web** (Mar. 12 to 15 at 2:00 pm) featuring members of the SFT Young Company 1-877-312-1162
- **Theatre Classes in Belleville March Break** (9:00am—4:00pm) 1-877-312-1162
- **The Magic Flute: Qinnite Arts Council's Opera Gala** (Wed. Mar.28) "Empire Theatre" 613-969-0099

Early Years Centre

- **Toddler & Preschool Screening**—Wed. Feb. 14
- **Talking Literacy with Trlani**—Wed. Mar. 14 10:00am

We would like you to contribute ideas for this part of the newsletter. If you know of events coming up, let me know (Mary Gibb 613-475-2888). It can be Brighton Events, or events in the area of interest for children &/or parents.

DAY CARE & FAMILY LUNCH RECIPE

This recipe is another favourite with the children. The protein in the lentils takes the place of meat (although meat could be added if desired). Red lentils cook up quite quickly and seem to dissolve into a sauce or a soup.

ROTINI WITH LENTILS AND SPINACH

1		onion, chopped
1	clove	garlic, chopped
1	tbsp.	olive oil
2/3	cup	red lentils
1	tsp.	dried tarragon
1	tsp.	dried oregano
3	dashes	tabasco
1	28 oz. can	diced tomatoes with juice
10	sun-dried	tomatoes
2	tbsp.	tomato paste
1/2	10 oz. bag	fresh spinach (or frozen) finely chopped (optional)
450	grams	rotini pasta
1/4	cup	grated Parmesan (opt.)

1. Soak the sun-dried tomatoes in hot water just to cover for 10 min. Finely slice & set aside.
2. Saute the onion and garlic in the olive oil until the onion is soft. Stir in the lentils, tarragon, oregano and hot pepper sauce. Stir to coat the lentils with olive oil. Add 1 cup water, bring to a boil, then lower heat and simmer covered for 5 min.
3. Add the tomatoes and their juice, the sun-dried tomatoes, tomato paste and salt and pepper to taste. Simmer, covered for 25. min.
4. Stir the spinach into the sauce and cook just until wilted, about 3 min. Taste and adjust the seasonings. Serve with the cooked rotini garnished with grated parmesan if desired

