



BANTING AND BEST CHILD CARE CENTRE NEWSLETTER December 2020

Centre Update

- ✚ Christmas Party -Due to the pandemic this year we unfortunately cannot hold our annual Christmas party. Children will participate in different Holiday activities in their own rooms.
- ✚ Reminder to all the parents - we will not be accepting any treats to share during the Christmas season, following Toronto Public Health Guidelines. If you are planning to bring in a gifts for staff, please make sure to bring it in a plastic bag that we can clean and disinfect easily and pass it onto the staff member.
- ✚ The center will be **closed December 25th & 28th, 2020** and **January 1st, 2021**.
- ✚ Centre staff are continuing with the added cleaning and disinfecting protocol as listed in the Toronto Public Health Guidelines.
- ✚ Spots are available in all the rooms at Banting & Best CC and our School Age Satellite Program at Prince of Peace.
- ✚ Please make sure that your child is dress appropriately for outdoor play as it is getting colder (Snow Pants, jacket, hat, scarf/neck warmer, mittens & boots). Please have at least 2 extra sets of clothes and a few extra pair of socks in case if they get wet, for your child to change into. We can store them in their cubbies in a Ziplock bag.

E-mail: bantingandbestcc@gmail.com

Website: www.bantingandbestcc.com/myhome

Dear Parents: Please feel free to e-mail us if you have any questions and concerns. The Centre is a PEANUT & NUT FREE environment. Please do not bring any breakfast, lunch and snack containing peanuts and tree nuts.

We are NO LONGER accepting Birthday Cakes or loot bags, as we are trying to limit the number of things brought into the centre due to Covid-19.



Dyson – Dec. 17th

Oscar – Dec. 29th

JR ROOM

By: Bindu, Erika & Lisa

Junior Room welcomed two new RECE's. Erika is one of the new RECE teachers in the JR Room, and it has been about 3 months since she joined the Banting and Best Child Care Team. She is looking forward to sharing the best of her abilities and applying it towards the growth of the children. Erika is so grateful for the experiences and teachable moments that the children have already given her during these times. Another new RECE teacher that joined the JR Room is Lisa who has had many years of experience in the early childhood field and is very caring towards the children and knowledgeable of the learning opportunities she is providing for them. Lisa and Erika joined Bindu in the Junior Room and created various educational and fun activities for the children based on their interest.

December is here and the last 3 months have been very enjoyable in the JR room. During September, we learned about farms, farm animals, fall weather, seasons changing and have been doing a lot of creative arts that incorporated leaves and sticks into our art pieces. In October, we had a theme of Orange and Black to represent Halloween. We had learning opportunities that included using sensory bins with shredded paper and we put insects and bugs for the children to find. The children sparked interest in the dramatic centre by pretending to be a bakery or switching it up to a construction work site. At the end of October, we celebrated Halloween by having a dance party and watching a mini movie of "Olaf's Frozen Adventure," which the children really enjoyed.

In November, we had a theme of Blue and White to represent "Frozen" or "Cold" as the weather and season changes. We celebrated Remembrance Day by creating beautiful art pieces that represented a red poppy and made a suncatcher of a poppy. We did a lot of creative arts to represent the arrival of winter and the children would tell stories of the activities they would do during winter with their families. In December, we plan on preparing gifts from the children to their parents. That includes having their photos taken and putting their picture inside an ornament which the children will be decorating. We are also planning on doing a creative art piece where they decorate a picture frame and place a photo of the children into the frames they make. The children are definitely getting settled into preschool now and it seems to be established into their routines. At preschool, we have been practicing the following: using our words and calm bodies to stay safe in the classroom, starting to learn how to play together with the children learning what it means to share, and including others by respectfully taking turns and showing compassion towards each other.

There are some new routines and skills your children are learning:

- Recognizing and remembering all their classmates and teachers
- Remembering to use "walking feet" inside and saving "running feet" for outside.
- Experimenting with scissors, glue, crayons, and paint (these are skills that take time and practice). Some of the children's artwork is displayed in our classroom and they are very proud of it.
- The children are doing an excellent job wearing a mask while they are in the program and they know to take it off during lunch, snack time and during naptime.

Winter has arrived so please be sure your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear. We plan to play outside on the playground every day as the weather permits. So, we do ask that your children's outdoor gears are all waterproof (mittens, jacket, boots). Please be sure all clothing and materials from home are marked with your child's name. This helps us stay organized, insures your personal items get back to you and that there is no confusion with which items belongs to which child.

Lastly, in these unprecedented times, we are all taking steps to keep each other and our communities healthy and safe. We are all in this together!

FDK 103

By: Jolentha & Bing

Welcome to December, can you believe it, in just a few weeks it will be Christmas and the New Year of 2021. Since coming back into the school year, we welcomed new children into our classroom and said Good-bye to our Prince of Peace friends from the Summer. There are so many memorable moments in the FDK Classroom, let us just highlight some of the best moments. Here is a little recap starting from September.

Our FDK Children were busy at building all the time in the room. Building with Linking Cubes, Lego, Duplo, and Make-Do with Cardboard. The teachers have been observing the children building and constructing with the cardboard. They started to collect boxes until they had enough for each child. We wrote on the blackboard with the Challenge: "What Can We Make with The Boxes?". The FDK children started to come up with ideas of Unicorns, Caticorns, Police Car Station, Police Car, Police Shark, Police Boat/ Shovel. During this project, the children got to learn to use the Make-Do Tools, such as the Saw, Screwdriver, Bolts, and Hole Puncher. The children were always very responsible using the tools.

From this Project we found that the children liked to create something from nothing. We set out on another project, by providing the children a bag of mysterious items and marked the bag with a question mark. They were excited to create but were more excited about opening the mystery bag, of course. Inside the children would find pieces of random materials. The challenge was to make something out of the materials provided. The process of watching them make these arts and having them describe what they made was so interesting to hear. For example, there was just a picture with just circles, the teacher asked, "what is your picture about?". They described their picture as, "It was a game on the phone, where the balls bounced everywhere." It is amazing how the children use their imagination!

Fall has come, the leaves have changed colour, and the leaves started falling off the trees. We got to do some gardening and learning of what happens to the plants when the weather starts to get cold. We made art with the leaves; they pieced the leaves in a circle formation. One child describes it as he was making a flower. Soon, the other children started to make bunches and bunches of flowers for everyone.

Halloween, time to go and trick or treat but not for our children this year, unfortunately. The teachers thought it would be fun if we made a Halloween scavenger hunt in the room. We set up the room and hid ghosts around the room. The children had to go around the room counting the different color ghosts that were hiding. A wall of mixed-up Haunted Houses with one, two, or three colored windows. There were pumpkins trying to escape and not turn into pumpkin pies as well. The FDK children had a blast going around the room trying to find and count.

In the beginning of November, the children were still very interested in games of search and find. Outdoors, we drew pictures of fire on the floor and challenged the children to find all of them to put it out. We gave them spray bottles, buckets of water and broom sticks to wipe.

There was one afternoon when we were drawing and then one child says, "Let's make a treasure map." From there we thought about making a treasure hunt. The teachers worked on puzzles and gross motor actions to go with this treasure hunt for weeks. During the P.A. Day we got to finally test out our Treasure Hunt Adventure. Here the children had to solve math puzzles to find the key to unlock the next level of the games. They learned about different types of locks during this process, key locks, combination locks, locks with letters and numbers. In the end they have found the Pirates Loot/Treasure. It was a long process, but the children had fun on the adventure. Now the children are still interested in making treasure maps. They have also started to plan their own adventure and drawing up a plan with the help of the teachers. Just a reminder as well Winter is here. Please make sure your child dresses appropriately and warm. Please provide them with: Winter Hat, Mittens/Gloves, Scarf, Boots, Snow Pants, and Winter Jacket. We will be spending time outdoors. I wonder what kind of adventures we will have next. Until next time keep safe and healthy!

SA 102

By: Lily & Tharani

Welcome back, everyone! After six months, we finally restarted our school-age program on September 14!

In the month of September, the children were interested in Perler beads, origami, and cup building. The children had different interests. One group enjoyed making big masterpieces of Pokémon characters with Perler beads. Another group of children enjoyed origami. They used origami paper to create different things, such as Ninja Star, Pokémon balls, Pokémon bookmarks, and more. The last group of children enjoyed cup building. They used three different types of cups to build structures. They even had competitions to see who could build the tallest structure!

Moving onto the month of October, the children were interested in using popsicle sticks to make different structures like catapults, launchers, boats, and more, with each of them designing their own popsicle stick structure. With the catapults, they launched pom poms from it. For the launcher, they used Q-tips to shoot and see how far each Q-tip could go. Also, they played with the boats they created in a tub of water. The children explored some sensory activities too. They made different types of slimes: regular, fluffy, and clear. To the slime, they added materials to create different textures of slime. Slime is a sensory experience for kids since there are unique textures from different types of slimes. Moreover, two of the older children had a Tie Dye experiment. They brought their own T-shirts and tested on fabric and nylon with food coloring. They were surprised to see the patterns they created.

In the month of November, Perler beads and paper planes were the two big hits with the school-agers. The two older children knew a video game called 'Among Us'. So, they made Perler bead characters from the game. Next, the children had the option to pick some designs from a book called 'Paper Planes'. With the help of the book, they chose the plane they wanted to create and followed the instructions. They folded paper to make different types of planes. After they were done creating their planes, they brought them outside and flew them. They loved to see the wind blow their planes up and down. To make the experience more fun, they had a competition of whose plane could fly the highest. Overall, the children really enjoyed the two activities.

December is around the corner. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Let us hope 2021 will be better than 2020 was! We hope everyone has a good year and stay healthy!

SA 104

By: Stacey & Raina

We have a new friend in the classroom; The School age room 104 class welcomes Grace to the centre! Children have been interested in sensory activities and been enjoying their individual sensory bins filled with everything from water and soap, to food coloring, shaving cream, water beads, ice, and plastic animals. This year, we were lucky to have nice weather, reaching up to 23 degrees! Throughout the fall, children enjoyed nature walks, examining the changing colors on the trees, and enjoyed jumping in the crunchy fall leaves. Children enjoyed jumping rope, hula hooping, playing catch and doing cartwheels on the field. We also enjoyed playing ball tag outside. Children noticed that some tree's leaves did not change color and that these trees did not lose their leaves. We also learned about Evergreen trees.

In October we celebrated Thanksgiving here in room 104. Children painted fall trees and made Thanksgiving handprint turkey cards. We baked apple turnovers which children enjoyed with warm apple cider, while watching a Garfield Thanksgiving special. Next, we celebrated Halloween by dressing up, playing games and dancing to spooky Halloween music. Children came dressed as witches, Captain America, and firefighters. Children enjoyed taking pictures in front of our haunted house and creating Halloween crafts.

We learned about Orange Shirt Day, as we showed our support by wearing orange. Children also created dream catchers and read a story called "When We Were Alone" that is about a little girl who notices her grandmother's long, beautiful hair and begins asking her questions. She wonders why her grandma spends a lot of time with her brother. In the story, the little girl learns about residential schools and learns why her grandmother speaks another language. Children learned that every child matter, including the many Indigenous children who were taken away from their families.

In November, we also celebrated Remembrance Day by showing our support to the fallen soldiers, and those still fighting, by helping to create poppies to decorate our door. We are now gearing up for the holidays and upcoming year! Unfortunately, there is no Christmas concert this year due to Covid, but we hope that we will make up for it next year. We look forward to the Christmas break and will still enjoy this holiday season as much as we can and enjoy the snow and festivities. It has been a long and unexpected year and we thank you for your continuous support with all the changes we have endured. We hope that you are all staying happy, healthy, and safe during these difficult times.

Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Hanukkah, Seasons Greetings, and we wish everyone a Happy New Year!

POP - SA

By: Magda & Hamida

It has been 3 months since the school has reopened and we have been constantly learning new ways to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic by keeping ourselves safe. Teachers are following the necessary precautions such as cleaning and sanitizing all the equipment to keep the environment and toys safe. We remind each other not to indulge in any conversation with their peers or teachers to avoid the spread of germs while eating. If we were to go back in time before COVID-19 started, we used to encourage the children to chew their food slowly and enjoy talking to each other and the teacher would enjoy listening to the children's different stories.

In the month of September and October, the children at POP had fun learning about the fall and exploring the changing of color. We celebrated Thanksgiving and every day we discussed how we should thank God for the safe environment we are in. Also, they were taught how to be careful by following the new rules and instructions that the principal announces every day regarding social distancing. We celebrated Halloween in our Room only and this year was very different. The children did not go trick or treating outdoor like they used to. The children understand that this is done for their own safety. The children liked exploring with science experiments. They asked me for different materials to experiment with such as vinegar, soda, soap, salt, sugar, food color, eggs, balloons, etc. They made different colored crystals from salt and sugar. They asked to plant plum and apple seeds which we did. They are watering them and checking on them every day. We also made butter from 35% milk and ricotta cheese from regular milk. Children used individual bowls and spoons to do this experiment.

We go outdoors every day and enjoyed different and safe activities such as: having a race around the field from one fence to the other fence, using hula hoops for twisting exercise and for racing while rolling them along. The children also played volleyball, badminton, 4 squares and many other games.

When we are indoors, the children like to do homework first. After, they go play games such as Lego and Jenga. The Jenga game allows them to think of ways to make the buildings they construct strong enough so that they will not fall even when they take out some of the pieces. It also teaches them to be patient. For crafts, the children kept busy by shaping clay into the forms of fruits, vegetables, flowers, roses, mermaid dolls and baskets. Winter is here now, so please make sure that your child has a snow suit, gloves/mittens, hats and boots so that the children are properly dressed for outdoor activities.

Be safe everyone.

POP – KG

By: Angela

We had a busy few months in our program! We celebrated Halloween COVID-style this year – although we could not have a Halloween Party, we did have a costume party where we designed costumes for baby dolls, carved a class pumpkin, and had a Halloween scavenger candy hunt around the classroom.

We also watched a video for Remembrance Day to see what war looked like to animals and talked about why the soldiers went to war. We came together to make a list of things that we want to thank the soldiers for, and children made poppy crafts. Abby was thankful for Angela and all her friends. Eddie was thankful for Ms. Hickey Zuech, his toys, and for lights.

Abby and Eddie were very engaged in storytelling. We used this as an opportunity to make Shadow Puppets. Abby performed her own rendition of Cinderella. Eddie performed his made-up story about animals and ghosts being friends. We have started our monthly club “Puppet Club” based on this interest – we set up our DIY Flashlight Puppet Theatre for children to tell their own stories.

We started a Pumpkin Decay observation experiment on Halloween and have been following its progress for a month. Throughout the month we have had group discussions, drew pictures, and pointed out changes. We learned the parts of the pumpkin (stem, seed, skin, guts), the life cycle of a pumpkin (seed – green pumpkin – orange pumpkin – black pumpkin), new vocabulary words “ripe” / “unripe”, what pumpkins need to grow, and what happens if pumpkins do not get water and sunlight. We are ending this project on Nov. 30th! Unfortunately, there will be no Christmas concert this year due to COVID, but we will continue to do more winter themed and Christmas themed crafts and activities for the upcoming months. The weather is starting to get colder, so just a friendly reminder to dress your child up appropriately for the weather and continue to practice hand washing and hygiene.

Stay safe!