



BANTING AND BEST CHILD CARE CENTRE NEWSLETTER December 2021

Centre Update

- ✚ Annual Christmas Party- due to the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions we will not be holding our annual Christmas party this year. However, the children will get an opportunity to participate in various holiday activities in the own room.
- ✚ Reminder to all the parents- We will not be accepting any treats to share during the Christmas season, as we are following Toronto Public Health Guidelines. If you are planning to bring in a gift 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 27th, 28th and 31st, 2021
- ✚ We wish Juan all the best as he leaves the Centre, we will miss him.
- ✚ Staff at the Centre continue to follow the Toronto Public Health and Ministry of Education Operational Guidelines.
- ✚ Preschoolers and Kindergarten groups at Banting and Best CC site will continue to use HIMAMA. Pictures of the activities that your child participates in, meals and any other information will be sent through HIMAMA. For School Age groups and Kindergarten groups (at Prince of Peace), the staff will email the children's activities and documentations to parents through email.
- ✚ Spots are available in all the rooms at both Banting and Best and at our Satellite program at Prince of Peace.
- ✚ As the weather is getting colder, remember to dress your children appropriately. Please make sure that they have: Snow pants, jackets, scarf, water proof mittens, hats & boots, and **extra sets of clothes in case they get wet while playing.**

E-mail: bantingandbestcc@gmail.com

Dear Parents: Please feel free to e-mail us if you have any questions and concerns. The Centre is a PEANUT FREE environment. Please do not bring any breakfast and snacks containing peanuts and tree nuts. We are NO LONGER accepting Birthday Cakes. If you would like to share something with your child's group, please bring in fruit or loot bags. Let us continue to keep our children safe!



Dec 2 - Jillian

Dec 5 -Juan

Dec 6 - George & Tahlia

Dec 17 - Dyson & Jenny

Dec 18 - Gabriel

Dec 13- Brandon

JR ROOM

By: Lisa

Fall is upon us, and the cold weather is here. We would like to welcome our new friends, Spencer, Ethan Z., Ethan C., Silas, Christian, and Tristan.

The children were excited about Halloween. To extend their knowledge and explore their interest of the holiday, we carved a pumpkin and had a fun dress up party.

In the month of November, the children have been interested in the season changes. We have been out for walks to observe and collect leaves for our room. We did leaf rubbings and explored the different types of leaves in our neighbourhood.

With the cold weather rapidly approaching us, we ask parents to please bring in warmer clothing for your child/ren. Please help us label your child's items if possible.

We would like to extend a big thank you to the parents for your co-operation and your patience during this time. We look forward to seeing you this "Winter" season.

FDK 103

By: Jolentha & Bing

We are already in the month of December; can you believe that? I remember just the start of September, when we were meeting all our new FDK children. Dropping them off to school for the first time for some and the 2nd year for others. Now we have confident young Kindergarteners going to school and exploring new things at school and at the daycare.

At the beginning of September, the FDK children were mostly interested in sensory play. One example was engaging in individual water bins. Each bin included cups, scoops, eye droppers and funnels for them to experiment with how water flows. We changed it up as well by adding marble run pieces. With that, the children were able to build and construct what we called a water slide. We also added some water beads to the combo. The water beads never last long and they always love to squish them. Sometimes we would add slime water. It's a special powder that we just add on top of the water to make it change to a slimy texture. The children are always amazed at how this powder can change the water into slime water. Another sensory activity the children were interested in was home made playdough and Crayola Model Magic. They especially loved the texture of the Crayola Model Magic; it was stretchy like slime but doesn't have the texture of slime. They were into stretching them into noodles and making noodle soup, spaghetti, and snakes.

September weather was nice and mild outdoors. We spent time together learning to cooperate and taking turns by playing board games. The game "Sneaky Snacky Squirrel" was perfect for September when all the animals start to gather food for winter. The game taught us to take turns, wait for our turn, cope with defeats when the wind blew all our acorns away, or when someone wins the game by collecting all the different coloured acorns.

We tested out our skills with the game "Shaky Shark" in which we had to collect all our coloured items before the shark's jaw chomps down on all the treasure in its mouth. The children were most excited for that part.

On November 4th, we celebrated Diwali, The Festival of Light. We used air dry clay to make Dias, a candle holder with colourful prints. We learned about Rangoli, a patterned art piece in a circle form. November 11th was Remembrance Day, we discussed about what the poppy stands for and why we wear it on this special occasion every year.

The leaves have fallen off the trees and the children are observing the change in the weather. Before winter comes, we had so much fun gathering the fallen leaves and making them into a leaf pile to jump in. They also collected leaves to make leaf art.

The children have started to move away from sensory play and have started to explore more of the other activities in the room. We've got some engineers and builders in this classroom. They always amaze us of how they think, build and explore with tools in different ways. We've seen them build a crane, scooter, windmill, samurai hat or even just exploring with using tools. Slowly but surely the children are learning and growing each day. They amaze the both of us teachers with their creativity and imagination.

Winter is approaching. Thank you to all the parents who have started to bring winter hats, mitts, and scarves for your child/ren. When we start to see the first snow fall, please provide your child with snow pants and winter boots please. As always, feel free to contact or e-mail us through the Himama App. We hope you all have a safe and wonderful holiday.

SA 102

By: Lily & Tharani

The new school year has begun. This year more students have come back to school for in person learning.

In the month of September, the children enjoyed many outdoor activities, as the weather was nice. On the school pavement, they participated in motor games like Badminton, Ribbon dance, Cup walking stilts, Skip ball, and more. Also, they played a group basketball game, which they liked. In the classroom, the children enjoyed playing with Lego. They created a Lego city from the game called "AMONG US". In addition, they used mini-Lego to build 3D dogs, cats, and fire trucks.

Moving onto the month of October, the children enjoyed playing with auto toy cars. They built toy car tracks by following the instructions on the cover. They also created different shapes of track too. Afterward, they tested the red toy car on the tracks. The children also built a cardboard box house. First, they built a small house to play. After, they got more boxes and decided to extend the house to make it bigger. On Halloween, the children carved small pumpkins. They cut out the top of pumpkin and pulled out pumpkin guts filled with seeds from the inside of the pumpkin. After that they used markers to draw eyes, nose, and teeth on the pumpkin. They poked holes around the design and cut out pieces carefully.

In November, the children explored some art activities in the classroom. They did puzzle art, origami Ninja star, scratch art, paper roll gun, painting, and perler beads. For outdoor time, the children enjoyed playing a 4 square basketball game. They followed the rules and participated in the game.

Christmas is around the corner. We look forward to having more fun in the classroom during the holidays. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Years!

SA 104

By: Monica & Raina

With the beginning of the new school year, we would like to welcome all the new children and children re-entering the School Age program. A warm welcome or welcome back to SA104, Preston, Winston, Anders, Kevin Z., Jaymie, Tahlia, Carina, Jenny, Brandon, Dyson, and Alex. The children have gracefully settled into school and the school age program after the summer.

Our children have been interested in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities over the past few months. Their imaginations brought life into their play as they began to experiment with K'Nex. At first, they created using the instruction manual as they showed interest in some of the structures but later started to make items on their own. With their new creations, they began to experiment with their own ideas along with new props. Cars, magnet detectors, helicopters, windmills were created out of tinkering with K'nex pieces.

As the cold weather began to leave us, we started spending a longer time outside. The children began to use the nature around them as part of their play. Buckets and shovels were used to hold and collect rocks, sticks and grass. We were suddenly in an imaginary campsite where we started to prepare a fire using sticks. Children became gatherers for materials while others became diggers to prepare the campsite. Toys that were not normally meant to hold items were given new purpose as the children transformed walking steps and frisbees into plates and buckets. Large holes were dug using shovels as well as sticks and rocks. Children also became collectors as they began to hold an interest in the different shapes and colours of rocks or sticks. We began to question about the differences in rocks as we researched the topic of erosion and how the weathering creates the breakdown of rocks.

The colours of Summer changed into Autumn, the children began to collect leaves and dance with the wind. We brought paper bags outside to collect items to go back and forth from the outside to the classroom. Children became more interested in the changes of the season as colder temperatures as we saw less animals, bugs, and less daylight outside. We witnessed the changes and discussed the importance of daylight savings time as we moved into shorter days.

As we move into Winter, we would like to thank families for keeping up with the weather and dressing children accordingly. Please ensure that children have the appropriate clothing for the weather such as jackets, snow pants, gloves, neck-warmers, and winter hats as we will still be spending time outside for outdoor play. Thank you for your continued efforts and support as we are starting to enter colder temperatures. We wish everyone a safe, healthy entrance into the winter season and the upcoming holidays.

POP - SA

By: Magda, Moon & Hamida

At POP SA we welcomed Vince, Evan, Rachel, Gabriel, Marcus, Zyden and George. We also welcome back Ryan and Chloe to our program. We now have a new teacher, whose name is Moon, and has various talent such as dance & yoga. She joined us at the end of September. She teaches different kinds of dance. She teaches Yoga as well. We are happy to have Moon with us in our Room.

The children were interested in the fall colours. When we went outdoors, they were very interested to collect different tree leaves and bring them to the Room. They used them to make different craft activities. One activity was a poster that presented the different leaves and what the children wrote about them. On the first day of October, the children started talking and doing crafts about Halloween. On the Friday before the Halloween, the children came to the Room dressed as princesses, superheroes, power rangers and more. Each child took a guess as to what the other children were impersonating which was a lot of fun. We also celebrated Thanksgiving and thanked God that the children and their families were safe and healthy.

In November we remembered those who fought for freedom a long time ago. The children created soldiers and different poppies. Every day we went outdoors and played different games and activities such as having a run and skipping races in which the children were very competitive and liked very much. In group games, the children took care not to touch others. Moon, our new teacher, started teaching the children Yoga twice a week. The lesson took place outdoors in the fresh air. She taught them simple steps. They began by learning how to stretch like a tree. Every day the children learned new steps. They also counted how long they were standing on one foot with Moon. We are going to start doing Yoga indoors as well and Moon will teach us different dances. Winter is here. Parents, please dress your children accordingly: Snow suits, gloves/mittens, winter hats and good warm boots so that the children will be ready to play outdoors in the snow.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

POP – KG

By: Angela & Firdous

We have come a long way since September! We have settled into a routine and the children have been keeping up very well with our social distancing and handwashing protocols.

In October, we had a lovely treat where we had a virtual visit from Hyla Modanese at North Toronto Cat Rescue and Underdog Railroad. We were able to ask her questions about what her job is, how she protects animals, and why it is important to protect animals, and the children were very excited to meet her rescue dog and rescue cat, Bynx and Romeo! We used this as an opportunity to talk about our role in making sure nature is safe.

We celebrated Halloween in our class COVID-style! Although we could not celebrate with a Halloween party, we all dressed up and went trick or treating at Firdous' table for the occasion. We did lots of Halloween crafts where we made pumpkins, zombies, mummies, witches, and more! We also got to show off our costumes to the B&B Kindergarten group in Jolentha's class outdoors (while maintaining social distancing), and the children were excited to guess the other's costumes and tell others about their own.

Lately, the children have really been enjoying playing large group games like Twister, Red Light Green Light, and Exercise Counting. They have been very mindful of making sure all children have a part to play so that nobody is left out. The children have taken more of a leadership role in the social process, as they create their own games and rules instead of asking the teacher to facilitate a game. We will continue fostering opportunities for social interaction, leadership, and a sense of community in the months to come. Unfortunately, we are not able to have a Christmas concert again this year, but we will be doing plenty of Christmas activities to celebrate! Now that the weather is getting colder, please remember to dress your children accordingly – hats, gloves, scarves, boots, snow pants and winter jackets. Please also continue to practice proper hand hygiene.