



**BANTING AND BEST CHILD CARE CENTRE
NEWSLETTER
March 2022**

Centre Update

- ✦ We would like to welcome all our Board Members for 2022-2023.
- ✦ Thank you to all the parents who attended the AGM and Congratulations to all the Raffle winners.
- ✦ We would like to welcome Allen, Alyssa, and welcome back Brandon.
- ✦ Staffs at the Centre will 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.

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!



**March 10th - Jaxon
March 17th - Jaydon & Terrence
March 26th - Scarlett
March 30th - Preston**

JR ROOM

By: Atiya

During this time of the year, we look forward to the transitioning of winter to warmer weather. When the snow melts, new buds will appear on trees, and when the air of spring will be in the air. The Junior Room would like to welcome Ashley, Allen, and Alyssa.

Along with very cold days, there has been a lot of snow this winter. Despite this, the children were still able to participate in outdoor programs where they shoveled snow, went sleigh riding, made snow angels, built snow forts, and made observations in the snow of different footprints from various animals. There is no doubt that the Junior room students had lots of fun this winter. The children also discovered how water freezes into ice and when they hold ice in their hands, how it melts into water.

In January, the Junior room students read many books about snow and winter and participated in science experiments with snow and ice. They did winter crafts where they created snowflakes out of doilies and used playdough and Crayola play snow to create various snow structures like igloos and snowmen.

In February we celebrated Chinese New Year. The children showed interest in making paintings using gold and silver glitter and red and yellow paints. This activity helped enhance the children's fine motor skills by using scissors to cut paper lanterns. Children wore their traditional clothes and we had Milly Lin (RECE) as a guest speaker to give a presentation to teach the children Chinese words, related to Chinese New Year.

After Chinese New Year, we celebrated Valentine's Day. We read books related to feelings and emotions and let children express their feelings about each other as well as their families. The children learned the names and shapes related to Valentine's Day and used their knowledge to do related crafts and activities. Following this, we learned about the human body and its various parts. We did a body tracing activity where the Children learned to identify their body parts and what function they serve. As they get older, they are being encouraged to play various lotto games that teach them to recognize numbers, shapes, and colors as well as images which helps promote more cognition and critical thinking.

We would like to thank the parents for providing waterproof snow gear with extra gloves, mittens, socks, pants, and tops. Having these items available allowed us to enhance and encourage our outdoor winter programs.

We look forward to longer days and lots of sunshine and hopefully soon, a pleasant and budding spring.

FDK 103

By: Jolentha & Bing

Welcome 2022, welcome winter, and hopefully welcome spring soon. “Cross fingers”, according to Wiarion Willie the ground hog did not see his shadow, which means its going to be an early spring! Let’s look forward to seeing leaves budding and flowers blooming.

While we wait for that to happen, let’s take some time and look back on the last few months in our Kindergarten room. December, we did not get to see much snow on the ground, but we still were able to enjoy the outdoors. Running, jumping, kicking balls, and doing art. This month we were so fortunate to have received an abundance of new toys that the children got to explore. Our children are always busy builders. We built individual gingerbread houses. They got to squeeze/pipe the icing to make sure the walls and structures were strongly holding, then they decorated their houses with gumdrops and candies. This activity sparked an interest in drawing a giant mural. The children created a community just like the gingerbread houses. They talked about connecting buildings and who lived on which floor.

To continue with our village building the FDK moved from drawings, to creating villages out of Lego. All the children had different ideas, some made two story buildings that stacked, others made maze like rooms, such as a top-down view of the inside of a house. Instead of using Lego we had choices of Duplo blocks, snap bricks, straw connectors and more. In our village we had an aquarium, beach, garden, and a park.

January was cut short due to the mandatory stay at home for our school friends. We got to return and continue where we left during the winter holiday. Finally, snow and lots of it covering the ground. For days we worked on building a house/igloo in the snow. We got the wagon for transporting the snow from one area to another. We also added spray bottles, squirt bottles, water colour pallets and brushes. The snow in the end was a colourful rainbow. It was just like our gingerbread houses but with snow.

There was one day the snow had settled and it was as high as some of the children’s hip height. We decided to take the shovels and started to dig underground tunnels. It was a maze to navigate an entrance and an exit.

Of course, what is a snow day without taking a visit to our local toboggin hill. It was a blast to go zooming down those hills.

In February the FDK children are very much still interested in building communities using Lego. They kept breaking the old and reinventing the new.

Dinosaurs is very much another favourite theme in this class. They used Tangrams to build colourful Ankylosaurus and Stegosaurus. Tangrams are random shapes that could be put together to form a picture.

We’re looking forward to the March Break. Please remember to dress accordingly to the weather. Let’s continue to learn and grow together in the FDK room.
Stay Safe.

SA 102

By: Lily & Tharani

In December, we celebrated Christmas. The school agers did some art activities for Christmas. They used colored paper to create Christmas ornaments and they created their own designs for Christmas cards. They made a snowman and reindeer necklace and created a mosaic of Santa Claus. The center had ordered some new toys for our room, and we received a Deluxe Lab Set. The children looked through the booklet to find the experiment they liked to do, then the teacher prepared the material for them. The children performed a baking soda and vinegar experiment and an ice cube, salt, and string experiment. They were excited to see the balloon become bigger and bigger, and they could pick up an ice cube using the string. During winter break week, the children explored more new board games such as "Hungry, Hungry Hippo", "The Game of Life", "Spot It", "Foosketball". They also enjoyed making 3D perler beaded, Rubik's cube and strawberry Hello Kitty.

In January, the children were really engaged to build VEX ROBOTIC and VEX ROBOTIC HEXBUG toys. With VEX ROBOTIC, they built a robotic pinch and a robotic monkey. After the teacher downloaded the app, they could control the robot using the tablet. With HEXBUG, they built a Crane, Backhoe and Dump truck. As the snow season arrived, the children enjoyed playing outdoors. One day, they found some icicle sticks and they brought them into the classroom. They decided to do a food coloring experiment. By using the lab set, they did a color mixing and firework in a flask experiment. Also, they used a telescope to observe different objects. They observed a petal from a plant, a dry leaf, and seashell. After the big snowstorm, the children got some snow from out of the window, they added food coloring into the snow and made small snowballs and threw them out of the window.

In February, we celebrated Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day. To celebrate Chinese New Year, the school agers did some craft activities. They used black and golden paints to write spring festival couplets and made firecrackers. It is the year of the tiger, and the children discussed their Chinese zodiac symbol. On February 1, it was the first day of spring on Chinese calendar. The school agers planted fresh garlic bulbs in the water. They checked their garlic bulbs every day to see how tall they grew. This activity was so fun that the children wanted to do more planting. The teacher planned to grow sunflower seeds in spring. Some children joined the activity. The next day, one child went to check; he opened his container and said, "Look, the seeds are already sprouted!" For Valentine's Day, the children made tissue paper roses for their moms.

SA 104

By: Monica & Raina

Wishing all families, a gracious and easy transition into the new year with us. We bid a farewell to Jaymie, who some of the children will continue to see regularly throughout school. We are also welcoming back Brandon who had taken a break and will continue the Before and After School Age program in 104 with us.

After a long winter break, the children were excited to see each other again. At the start of the year, we had a grand snowfall which created large mountains for the children to explore. Imagination began to spring into their minds. Snow forts, snow mountains, igloos, snowballs, snowmen were just some of which was created in their outdoor play. They utilized the large and small shovels which encouraged them to build their muscles and their imaginative thinking. Building with snow became as enjoyable as breaking the snow into pieces.

Christmas, New Year, Valentine's Day, Chinese New Year, and many Birthdays made the children celebrate the idea of special events. We continued to see children's interest in the calendar days of the year. Many children recognized the idea of how the days transpired into weeks and then into months and began to idealize seasons and how we are a small part of the solar system. Planets, stars, galaxies became a conversation topic in which children began to access books for information. They shared information frequently from reading as well as outside resources and known facts.

UNO, Don't Break the Ice, Spot It, Trouble, Hungry Hungry Hippos, and Sorry are just a few of the board games that the children happily participated in. They saw each other as equal competitors as rules were in place for the games and they relied on being able to follow the rules to plan their victory. The children showed lots of admirable sportsmanship as they continued to play with each other for days on end.

Thank you again, families, of SA104 for keeping the children adequately dressed for the cold weather. Children came with appropriate dressing everyday in which they were able to sustain their interest in outdoor play. We are hopeful in welcoming a warm spring weather with open arms as the children are beginning to show interest in insects and the transformative nature of plants.

POP - SA

By: Magda, Moon & Hamida

Can you believe we are almost two months in the year 2022! We are all well and safe.

Children were happy to see each other after the winter break. They talked about their Christmas gifts and what they did during the break with each other.

In the month of February, we celebrated Chinese New Year. The children decorated the classroom with varieties of Chinese decorations. They learned how to write and speak simple greetings words in Chinese. For craft they did firecrackers and made different Chinese envelopes in different sizes using special red paper. They also made Chinese lanterns.

We also celebrated Valentine Day. The children made beautiful cards to share with their family and friends. We decorated the room with flowers of different sizes and colors, as well as pink and red hearts. The children created a poster for our Dramatic Centre. The children in our room have always been busy with creative craft and continue to asking for different ingredients to make silly putty or playdough. They also created people and objects from clay.

We got new musical instruments, toys and games. The children have been cooperating and sharing the new toys among themselves. They enjoyed playing the new games and asked for teachers help when needed. Children have been spending time interacting with each other while exploring the new materials in our program. We had discussions about physical distancing and COVID rules when they play with their peers. IO blocks were one of their favorite materials to use in the classroom. They created different structures with it. The children have also shown great interest in science experiments with our new Deluxe Lab set.

Our winter this year came with lots of snow, which on the positive side gave children the opportunity to enjoy tobogganing on both the small and big hills, we had a race running to the big hill. They also worked together to build snowmen and snow angels. We went outdoor every day except when it was raining, icy or when a cold alert was issued. While outside we participated in different group games, used different equipment, enjoyed the fresh air with different exercises.

Parents, please make sure that your child has everything they would need to dress appropriately for the outdoor play as this is for his/her/their protection: Items like snow pants, warm padded gloves and snow boots are essential. March is coming soon and hopefully warmer weather so that we will can spending more time outdoors. Thank you and be safe everyone.

POP – KG

By: Angela & Firdous

It has been a busy few months in the POP KG daycare program and our class is getting even bigger! We would like to welcome Charles to our program, and a warm welcome back to Lucas.

For Valentine's Day we worked on a big group project to talk about the word "Love". The children worked in teams to draw pictures and write things to represent their ideas of the word "love" – some of the children wrote each other's names, drew pictures of one another, and even drew pictures of their teachers.

We had our Kinder Awards, where each child was rewarded and recognized for something important that they contribute to our class every day. The children had a blast walking down our "Runway" carpet, and children acknowledged one another for their efforts by voting on who should win each category. We created streamers to cheer for our friends as they walked. The children took home some shiny medals and awards signed by Angela and Ellen. They were very excited to bring their awards home to show their families!

We also had an "All About Me" unit, where we explored our characteristics that makes us different, special, and unique. We did a body tracing partner activity called our "Xray Portrait", where children traced their partner's silhouettes and filled their "X-rays" with different drawings and words that made up their identities. We used this as an opportunity to introduce the multicultural art materials, encouraging children to be receptive and mindful about how they may look different from others – and that we should still treat everyone with kindness and respect.

Just a reminder to families to please pack extra sweaters and pants for your child – as the windows need to be open in the classroom for ventilation reasons, it can get quite chilly in the class. It is important children are dressed up with layers at this time. Looking forward to the March break!