



## BANTING AND BEST CHILD CARE CENTRE NEWSLETTER December 2022

### Centre Update

- ✦ The Christmas party will be held in each room among their group, and they will be participating in various activities.
- ✦ The Centre will be closed on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023.
- ✦ Reminder to Parents: If you are bringing any gifts to your child's group or staff, please make sure that they are individually packed.
- ✦ We would like to welcome Xavi, Jason, Kovan, Calvin, Ian, and welcome back Julianna to our Centre.
- ✦ It is sad to share that Angela (POP KG) has left the Centre. We wish her all the best. Jolenta will now be in POP KG.
- ✦ Staff 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 documentation to parents through email.
- ✦ As the weather is getting colder, remember to dress your children appropriately. Please make sure that they have: Snow pants, jackets, scarf, waterproof mittens, hats & boots, and extra sets of clothes
- ✦ Limited 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](mailto: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. We are NO LONGER accepting Birthday Cakes, along with Loot bags. This is due to COVID-19, as we are limiting things that are coming from homes. This is to ensure that all children and staff are safe. Thank you for your understanding!



Dec 6<sup>th</sup> - George & Tahlia  
Dec 17<sup>th</sup> - Jenny  
Dec 19<sup>th</sup> - Henry

Dec 9<sup>th</sup> - Owen O & Ryan  
Dec 18<sup>th</sup> - Gabriel & William L  
Dec 21<sup>st</sup> - Alfred

# Junior Room

## By: Atiya, Milly & Judy

The colder weather is approaching, along with the snow and winter festivities. We began the year with only five children in the Junior Room and the number of children increased very quickly, and now our room is almost full. The Junior Room welcomes Jelene, Ivy, Austin, Vera, Ashmita and Jedidah.

The autumn season had been pleasant, and as a result, our children had the opportunity to enjoy and enhance their gross motor skills with different fall activities. We went on neighborhood walks, where the children experienced and observed the changing fall colors. They watched the leaves on the trees transition, grow bare and eventually form piles on the ground. They saw squirrels collecting nuts and birds form their nests.

We are fortunate to have a fully blossomed apple tree in our outdoor play area. Our children observed the first stages of how apples grow; starting out small and green and gradually forming into a larger, bright red color, eventually falling on the ground where small animals feasted on them as well as ants and different insects.

The children were very interested in the subject of fruit and fruit related activities. Some children said their favorite fruit was watermelon so we made various crafts related to watermelon and read books related to it. The children also explored the taste and texture of kiwi fruits, oranges, bananas, peaches, and plums and compared the different sizes of fruits and their seeds.

In October, the children were keen on learning about seasonal produce, such as pumpkins and different kinds of squash. We brought various kinds and sizes of produce in the room, and we cut them to reveal the seeds and pulp.

We read pumpkin related books and made crafts. They enjoyed participating in the Halloween party where they dressed up in costumes, enhanced their vocabulary related to the theme and sang different Halloween songs.

In addition to this, the children loved playing in the dramatic center where they participated in pretend cooking and housekeeping. We extended the idea of this play to baking and celebrating a birthday party. The children also enjoyed different construction toys and incorporated this play in the dramatic center as well.

We would like to take the time to thank the parents who helped us celebrate the Halloween party. We are very grateful to them for their cooperation.

Most children already have snow pants, hats, waterproof gloves, and boots, however, please ensure that your child has extra long sleeve shirts, pants and socks. Happy Holidays!

# Senior Room

## Bindu & Raina

Winter has arrived with the cold weather upon us. Fall season flew by us. Soon it will be Christmas and we will be welcoming 2023!

In the month of September, children were interested in cars, Legos, animals, and crafts. They built different structures and vehicles with Lego pieces, and they built a zoo with Duplo blocks and added some people and animals to the structure. We turned our dramatic centre into a restaurant, we discussed about the healthy food and junk food, we posted the multi-cultural food, good eating habits and shared our thoughts about eating healthy food at home.

Fall season started and the colors of the leaves started to change. Children wanted to go for a nature walk to see the different colors of leaves on the trees. They observed the color change and the bare branches on the trees as the leaves started to fall.

In the month of October, children were interested in fall leaves craft. We did fall trees using the arm as a trunk and handprints as leaves. Children used the colors they observed during their walks to paint- red, orange, yellow, brown, green used for painting.

Halloween crept upon us. The dramatic centre was turned into a haunted house. The children were interested in making crafts like handprint spiders cotton ghosts. On Halloween day the children came dressed in their costumes and we had some treats to celebrate.

In the month of November, we remembered the dead soldiers who sacrificed their life for the country during the war. We made a "Remembrance Day" wreath with handprints and poppy flowers. The first set of snow fell in November. The children enjoyed and played in the snow. The children were also interested in colors. We did a science experiment with food coloring, baking soda and vinegar. Children mixed some color and observed the changes when colors are mixed. We did ice cube painting and they observed and felt the cold and melting time.

Christmas is almost here and we are preparing various Christmas crafts to take home for the tree and we have started to sing and listen to Christmas songs.

Please make sure your child is dressed according to the weather for outdoor play. Please make sure that they have a winter hat, waterproof mittens, snow pants and boots and remember to label your child's items.

Have a safe and wonderful winter holiday.

# FDK 103

## By: Jolentha & Bing

From the first day of school till now we are in December. We've almost gone through 2 seasons, Fall and now onto Winter. It's been a pleasure and an experience working with the FDK 103 children these past three months. Read all about me as we recap all our memories since September.

In September, it was an adjustment for some of my friends who were starting school for the first time. Meeting our new teachers and new friends in school and getting into a routine of school schedules. After school, the children were free to explore and learn through their play. During this month, the children were very interested in puzzles. They loved dumping the pieces and trying to figure out where each piece fits back together. We went from small table puzzles to big floor puzzles. They especially loved floor puzzles; the pieces were bigger, and the number of pieces also grew making it a more challenging puzzle for them. We taught them a technique to start by finding the 4 corner pieces and edges. It was a lot easier to find the edged pieces to start. After weeks of puzzles, we moved onto Alphabets and the FDK children were also excited to explore with Alphabets. The FDK read books such as Chicka, Chicka, Boom Boom, Mixed up Alphabets, and Alphabets. . What they enjoyed the most was inside the sensory table, covered in pasta and alphabet letters. They had found the hidden alphabets in the pasta and matched it to the alpha card index. As they got better in the coming months, they have now started to find that alphabets are everywhere around us. The children started taking the pointer sticks and going through the classroom finding letters that were also in their names. We made games about rolling the alpha dice and looking for things that start with that letter or finding the letter in the room.

On to October, WOOOO! Fall was in full swing, and Halloween was just around the corner as well. We watched as the summer months were disappearing and found the weather starting to get a bit colder. In the classroom we did a lot of construction play, building and creating.

We painted pictures about fall leaves. We went on nature walks to see all the changes that were happening to the trees. We noticed some trees were still green, while others have changed to red, brown, and yellow. We packed our rakes and shovels into our wagon and went out to make leaf piles. The children raked and made mountains of leaf piles, jumping, and throwing them up in the air. It was so much fun. We also took a mini walk in between some dense forest trees. The children thought it was magical to step into the tall pine trees and immersing back out to the grassy field. We talked about safety in walking and not running when we were inside the dense trees.

As Halloween got closer, Jojo had brought some gourds and pumpkins from the supermarket. The schoolteacher went to the farm and had brought back a massive pumpkin as well. With spectacular co-ordination, we were able to display all four pumpkins from different sizes at the science table. We also displayed books about pumpkins and Jack-o-Lantern, a puzzle about pumpkins from seedling to sprouting, and onto the final stages of Jack-o-Lantern. The children enjoyed the festivity for this month, dressing up for school and going out trick-or-treating.

November, a time for Remembrance, we made poppies by cutting out paper flowers and pressing on red plasticine onto the cut-out flower. This month the children were interested in animals. This included animals from the forest, jungle, arctic and the ocean. We changed our science table into a lesson about hibernation, displayed books about animals in winter and where they go home to sleep during the winter months. We learned that some animals hibernate, some adapt to the winter weather, and some migrate to another place. That is all for now and we'll continue to learn and grow together for the next coming months. Remember to dress appropriately and warmly for the coming months. The Winter holidays are approaching us as well. Have a safe and wonderful holiday, till next time.

# SA 102

## By: Lily & Tharani

Welcome back everyone! After two and a half years, school resumed, and we had 22 children join our after-school program. In September, the school aged children had so much fun doing activities in the classroom. They used a hammer and chisel from a kit to dig and find the Stegosaurus bones. The children cooperated with others to dig out the bones and connected them to build a Stegosaurus. The children also enjoyed doing puzzles. They did the unicorn puzzle, under the sea puzzle, and rain forest puzzle. For art, they decorated pencil cases using different colors of fabric paints to write their names, created a panda and bamboo, and swirl art. For cognitive purposes, we got mega pop & twist tubes. Children also connected four tubes to make a long one, and they popped and twisted tubes to make shapes and sounds while the two children were testing how the sound traveled from the tubes. The teacher found an interesting game online called blind game in which the players covered their eyes and scooped cotton balls into the bowl. After they finished, they counted how many cotton balls they scooped. They loved it so much that they continued to play this game the next day. For science, the children did a crystal tree experiment. They followed the instructions to install the tree and added in the crystal solution to the plastic dish. They were amazed to see crystals growing on the paper tree the next day.

In October, we celebrated Halloween. The children played a pumpkin game in which they drew any shape that they wanted for the pumpkin. They took turns to roll the dice and draw the eyes, nose, mouth, and any accessory for the pumpkin. They turned their pumpkin to Among Us characters. For their art, the children made a balloon Mache. They blew the balloon according to the size they wanted, covered the entire balloon with glue, and stuck on newspaper strips. The next day, they popped the balloon to get a Mache and painted it to a monster. For the Halloween party, the children decorated a 3D cardboard box pumpkin pinata using orange crepe paper to cover the structure. They made one side a cat with triangular eyes and whiskers, and the other side a witch that had green yarn hair. On Halloween day, the children carved a pumpkin. They discussed their design for the pumpkin and used markers to plan it out. They took turns to carve the pumpkin following the design. In addition, we made chocolate chip muffins for the party. They followed the recipe to measure all the ingredients and took turns doing the work. Afterwards, they used a baseball bat and hit the pinata to release the chocolate from inside. Finally, they enjoyed fresh baked muffins, clementines and chocolate for the party.

In November, the children enjoyed doing some gross motor activities outdoors. They connected rubber bands to make a long string and played Limbo, hurdle race, and Chinese rubber band skipping. Also, the children used a long skipping rope to play a skipping and step on the snake game. In the classroom, the children did a candy crystal experiment. They took turns measuring two tablespoons of sugar water into their bowls. They also used salt instead of sugar to compare the results. After four days, they tasted candy crystals. On PA Day, we went tobogganing in the backfield. The children had so much fun going down the hill with a sliding sheet. Some children were making a giant snowball by rolling snow all around the field. Indoors we played spot it, Chinese checker, 3D patterns, and hungry hippo board games. Some Children did tattoo art, felt pillows, and modeling clay animals.

As the weather gets colder, please dress up your children according to the weather as we are going out every day. Season's Greetings and have a safe holiday!

## **SA 104**

### **By: Monica & Hong**

Autumn has ended and Winter is on its way. Our time in the program have been a joyous one in which we have taken the time to foster new and existing relationships. We grew with our friendships and are continuing to learn more about ourselves.

Our cooking/creation Wednesdays were a hit as we first engaged the idea of classifying what we knew as healthy and not so healthy foods. We meticulously pondered what we knew as healthy and why we need to develop healthy eating habits while we are young. To support this, we had an idea and made healthy versions of our favorite foods. We began to bring ideas out such as fries, pizza, and smoothies. We learned the process and ingredients that we brought were healthy as we prepared them ourselves.

Melting beads has been a large interest in our group as we began to build and use our imagination to create patterns and pictures of interest. We also began to create 3D items as we first started with an Among Us figure and then created a 3D camera. This led to our understanding of what creates depth and perspective in pictures as we also made 2D items look like 3D. We became more competent and curious about what else we could create and so we started to pick up ideas in origami. Birds, envelopes, cranes, frogs, boats, kites, and paper airplanes were learned through a book and cooperation with children teaching each other.

With the first sight of snow, children immediately were drawn into building snowballs outside. They banded together and worked in groups while delegating each other roles to ensure that duties would get completed. Shovels, buckets, and sifters were used to shape snow into the way of the children's minds. As more snow is expected to fall, we wish to ensure that all children can meet the requirements of outdoor play. Please ensure that they are bringing snowpants, gloves, hats, and neck warmers as we are expecting a drop in temperature later into the holidays.

We wish to thank all families for your cooperation and participation. Happy Holidays!

# **POP - SA**

**By: Magda & Hamida**

It has been 3 months already since the beginning of our school year and Christmas is around the corner.

In our POP SA Room, we welcomed back Juliana, and we said goodbye to Cecilia who has been with for a long time.

The children observed the leaves changing their green color to beautiful shades of gold and crimson before falling. They enjoyed going outdoors, collecting lots of the multicolor leaves to play with, making a big hill out of them to hide behind and then jumping over the piles of leaves.

We made pizza from scratch. The children shaped and created their own pizzas and put their favorite topping on them. Some of the children only liked sauce and cheese, while others preferred to add pepperoni as well. They truly enjoyed eating their hand-made pizzas.

Children were interested in designing clothes. They used pieces of felt material to design small size skirts and dresses. They first drew the design on construction paper using a pencil and ruler. Then, they would use the drawing to cut felt material and finally sew the pieces together. They also made pillows.

In October, the children celebrated their favorite event, Halloween. They started talking about it from the beginning of the month. They carved a pumpkin, toasted the seeds, and made sugar and chocolate cookies. We had a party, and the children enjoyed the goodies they prepared.

In November, we talked about Remembrance Day and the brave people who fought for us a long time ago. The children created shields and armors pretending to protect themselves with them.

The children enjoyed making silly putty. They mixed glue and baking soda with the color they liked and then they added contact lens solution. Sometimes they added glitter to the mix. They also like to shape different things with model magic clay to create pots, pans, and beautiful flowers.

The weather is getting colder, so please remember to make sure that your children are dressed properly for the weather. Season Greetings to you all!

# POP – KG

## By: Angela

Winter is approaching in the POP KG Program! With the weather getting colder, please ensure that children are dressed appropriately – winter coats, boots, scarves, gloves, and hats are required for outdoor play.

We have recently added some new dramatic play toys to our dramatic play area – including a doctors set, a construction set, as well as a new kitchen set. The children enjoyed roleplaying as doctors and patients, recreating some of their own familiar experiences at doctor offices. We rearranged the chairs to resemble a doctor office and used the toy babies to administer pretend needles and spoon feed them medicine. We used this as a teachable moment to show children where their veins are located, and how veins can look different depending on a person's skin color.

The children have been very interested in trains. They used the scooter boards and ropes to create a train of their own and took turns pulling each other on the scooters. Some even had the idea of connecting the boards to a cart to make a multi-cart train! We channeled our creativity and curiosity into making our own TTC trains out of cardboard boxes. We searched up different pictures of TTC trains and had a group discussion about the different parts we saw. The children contributed their own stories about the kinds of trains they want on before. We came together to make a giant blueprint of the things that we wanted to add to our trains based on our discussion. Children recreated their blueprints using 3D recyclable materials. It was a great opportunity for team building, as children learned to share materials, ask permission to alter each other's work, and share their ideas. The boys and girls split up into teams to create their own trains. They loved sitting inside and putting the toy babies inside to pull them around the class like a real TTC train!

The children also enjoyed some time with Manouri making slime, doing lots of Halloween crafts, and many dinosaurs themed activities. We also had a special birthday themed activity where we decorated our own cupcakes. Each child made their own icing with powdered sugar, water, and food colouring to frost their cupcakes and decorated with sprinkles. The children were very excited to decorate their own cupcake to eat as dessert for snack time, as well as take some cupcakes home for their families!

I will be leaving the centre and Jolentha, will be taking over the POP KG program. It has been a pleasure working here. I have so many great memories! I wish all families the best of luck in the future, and warmly thank you all for allowing me to be such an important part of your child's life! Please make sure to have all the winter gear and wishing you all Happy Holidays!