



**BANTING AND BEST CHILD CARE CENTRE
NEWSLETTER
April 2023**

Centre Update

- ✚ Wishing All our Parents and Staff a Happy Easter.
- ✚ Centre is CLOSED on Good Friday: April 7th, 2023.
- ✚ Centre is OPEN on Easter Monday: April 10, 2023.
- ✚ We would like to Welcome Ayansa, Vince & Vincey to our Centre.
- ✚ Staff at the Centre will continue to follow the Toronto Public Health and Ministry of Education Operational Guidelines.
- ✚ Preschoolers 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 and Kindergarten groups, the staff will post their documentation in the room.
- ✚ The weather is changing, remember to dress your children appropriately. Please remember to send an extra set 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

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!



April 26^h – Melvin

Junior Room

By: Atiya, Milly & Judy

Spring is in the air, but snow is still on the ground, and we are all looking forward to warmer weather. The children enjoyed the outdoor program during winter. They were able to experience snow in many different forms, whether it was freshly fallen, packed snow or wet snow. They also observed snow melting and turning into ice and how ice turned into water.

This year, Chinese New Year fell in mid January. In the Junior Room program, we had many exciting arts and craft activities related to Chinese culture. Our dramatic center was turned into a Chinese New Year party. To participate, the Junior Room children dressed up in traditional clothing, used chopsticks, woks and gold and red bowls to serve meals during pretend play.

We also had a parent and children dumpling making party. It was a great success. We played oriental music, danced and enjoyed the process of making and eating dumplings. We are very grateful for the parents who took the time away from their busy schedules and attended the event.

In the month of February, the first special event was Groundhog Day. We discussed with the children about groundhogs and their hibernation. We also read books about Groundhog Day and explored the subject of shadows, which relates to early signs of spring.

Valentine's Day was also a big event in February. We had many books in our program, related to emotions and feelings of love. We also made crafts and had a party. We also dedicated this month to Black History where we made a mural painting and read books about people of different colors and Martin Luther King.

Recently, the Junior Room children are interested in self grooming and hair dressing and are also showing interest in medical instruments, tools and blocks and vehicles. The Junior Room would like to welcome new students to the class Doris, Mikayla, Alex, Alfred, and Talitha.

Once again, we are thankful to all the parents for their understanding and cooperation in our program. We are planning exciting programs for Easter and the rest of Spring.

Senior Room Bindu & Raina

2022 flew by so fast and we are in the new year. We would like to welcome all the new children who joined our program. The ground is white and filled with snow. Children loved the snow but are anxiously waiting for the spring to come. They were looking forward to the Groundhog prediction.

In the month of January, we saw many changes in weather. We did many experiments with the snow. We took a bowl of snow inside the room and checked the snow after mealtime time. The children were surprised to see the snow melting so fast in room temperature. We also did a snow volcano with baking soda, vinegar, and food coloring. We also took spray bottles with food coloring to spray on the snow. Children chose their favorite colour to spray on the snow and made different shapes while spraying the food color. In January, we also celebrated the Chinese New Year. We decorated our room with the Chinese New Year crafts. It was the year of the rabbit. They did bunny craft, and we decorated our room. We also had a dumpling workshop with our parents. The children dressed up in their traditional clothes. It was a wonderful day to see all the parents in the room after 2 years! Thank you to all the parents who participated in our dumpling party.

In the month of February, we celebrated black history month. We decided to do an activity with multicultural items. We traced the children's hand in different coloured paper and stapled together to show that we all are one and made a wreath with the handprint. We also celebrated Valentines Day. Children were interested in making bracelets for their parents and bouquets with their handprints. We turned our dramatic centre into a gift shop for Valentines Day. We also celebrated Family Day. We discussed the members of the families and how they are called. Children were interested in dinosaurs and fish. We made jellyfish with beads. Children used scissors to cut the crafts and they started to trace their names. We baked cupcakes for Valentines Day and the children helped to measure the ingredients.

Please check your Hi mama every day. There is information about your child's day. The weather is starting to change, so please dress accordingly. We are looking forward to spring and flowers blooming.

FDK 103

By: Bing & Firdous

Welcome to 2023. After a long pandemic time, we are gradually back to normal life. Firdous will work with Bing in FDK 103 since Jolentha went to POP kindergarten room. Welcome Firdous! We will miss Jolentha!

During the wintertime, our children got a lot of chances to play in the snow. We went to the park to toboggan down the hill. We made snow angels after the heavy snowfall and made snow mans on the snow. We dug snow to make tunnels and made different sized snow man on the logs. There was a favorite festival in January. The Lunar New Year. Most children in our class have families from China. Chinese New Year is an important festival for their families. We set up some different materials to engage the children to explore their culture through participating in these activities. Our children made dragon puppets to play with their friends. They copied the Chinese characters on the red paper to decorate our class and made the red pocket to give good wishes to their parents.

In February, our children made heart cards and wrote messages for everyone they love and care. They liked to play a family game in our house centre. They pretended to cook dinner in the kitchen and took care of a baby in the room. They copied the words of family members and put them on their family trees. FDK children painted cardboard in various colors to make their rainbow tower and drew family pictures on it to show on which floor they lived.

In March, our children were interested in science activities. They filled snow into a tube and brought it in to the class to see how much water there was in the cube when the snow melted. They added food coloring on the surface of the snow to watch the color travel within the snow. They explored magnets to find which objects can be magnets. Some liked to play the magnet maze game in the classroom. We have new friends Caymee and Jayden Chen in the March break week. We did lots of activities together and had lots of fun during the week.

We hope spring will be coming soon, but just kindly remember to please dress your child properly due to the weather conditions. If it snows or the temperature is low, our kids still need snow pants and mittens. Thanks for your cooperation.

SA 102

By: Lily & Tharani

Winter camp was fun! The children made sugar cookies. They used a cookie cutter to make a Christmas tree, gingerbread man, snowflake, and sleigh. After we baked the cookies, the children decorated their cookies with icing and sprinkles. During the winter camp, the children played a variety of cup games such as cup flip, tic tac toe, finding Lego pieces under the cup, a game called "break the ice", stacking up cups with paper challenges and balloon cup games. For sensory activities, the children played slime in the classroom. They loved to squeeze slime through their fingers, pull and poke. They tested how far they could stretch it and had straws to blow the slime bubbles. For cognition, the boys enjoyed building pine plank structures. They built boats, slides, tunnels, and bridges. In addition, they built AMONG US characters with Lego and pretended to play on the structure. For outdoor activities, all the children had fun playing with the snow. They built an igloo, a tunnel, a snow fort and used a scoop to make many snowballs.

In January, we celebrated Chinese New Year. The children made a fish lantern, paper dragons and did spring festival couplets painting. It is the Year of the Rabbit. The children used some lucky money envelopes to build the rabbit's Chinese characters on the window. For treats, the children made rice cake and candied fruits. They decorated rice cakes with Chinese red dates and goji berries. They used strawberries, apples, grapes, and blueberries for candied fruit. For the gross motor, we borrowed a set of wavy tactile paths from the preschool room. The children kept their balance while walking on the surface in different directions and heights and they made more challenges by adding a balance board between the paths. For cognitive reasoning, the children enjoyed playing traditional board games from around the world.

In February, the children were interested in making origami art projects and mosaic art. They made origami flower lanterns, ninja stars, fidget spinners, 3D stars and star spinners. For mosaic art, they used two-sided colorful mosaic squares. They created a cinnamon roll dog, the Dumb elephant, and silly emoji. On Valentine's Day, all the children made heart shaped cookies. They used a cookie cutter to shape out the heart shapes. The children decorated their cookies with icing and sprinkles. For sensory purposes, the children played with water beads. They used wooden sticks as chopsticks to transfer water beads into a bowl. They used a funnel to fill up the balloon with water to make a sensory balloon. For cognition, the boys enjoyed building 3D structures using original polydron sets. They connected the pieces and created shapes such as pyramids, cubes, and prisms. They connected those shapes to create a dumbbell and tower.

In March, the children played a variety of math games in the classroom. They explored tangram games to build shapes, planes, and numbers. They did a sliding number game, a magic triangle, and a square math game. When March Break came, the children were busy with plenty of activities. We went to the gym for gross motor skills. The children played basketball, scooter board, skipping rope, limbo, badminton, and a game called "octopus". They participated in a variety of art such as scratch art, canvas art, perler bead art, twisty balloon, and model magic clay art. For cognitive purposes, the children played multiplication bingo, 3D pattern, Monopoly and Bolkus. For a special activity, we watched a movie called "E.T."

It is almost springtime and the children planted tomato seeds in the pot and look forward to seeing them grow!

SA 104

By: Monica & Dilshani

Over the past few months, we have truly experienced weather expected of being in Canada. We turned snow into our advantage as nature and the environment is another teacher to learn from. We would like to extend a friendly welcome to Justin for the period of March break.

The weather changed but we haven't forgotten how to play in snow. Buckets, shovels, and snow moulds were tools in which we created representations of communities, snow castles, tunnels, and snow people. Even in the snow, we still enjoyed activities like soccer, frisbee toss and we always kept our safety the priority, making sure that we were never put in danger of ice or cold.

Our group showed lots of continued interest in board games and card games as we were greatly immersed in Connect Four, UNO Flip and Cheat. Heart Attack and Trouble were games where we learned about luck while games like Battleship and Headband required more thinking and concentration. Rules and sportsmanship were also relearned as we had to remember the most important part to remember is having friends to play games with.

We took a break from melting beads and the children used other medias of creation. We learned how to braid paper, paint with salt and beading. Writing invisible messages, painting with scents, creating 3D representations using magic model clay, and making clear slime were some examples of what we had done during March Break.

Our cooking club showed a lot of interest as we continued to make yummy delights such as chocolate chip cookies, Rice Krispie treats, avocado dip, and ice cream. Our children continued to learn about the importance of having good, healthy eating habits as well as learning that treats can be enjoyed in moderation.

Now we are looking forward to Spring as we have started a new interest of growth and gardening. We have already started germinating plants and learning about the process of propagating plants. As we are transitioning to warmer temperatures, please ensure that your children have the appropriate clothing as well as spare clothing.

POP - SA

By: Magda & Hamida

We at Prince of Peace would like to welcome Kobe and Rita back and would also like to welcome Hugo and Hazel to our room. We still have too much snow on the ground even in the middle of March! The children like to go tobogganing, make snowmen and build forts and lie down on the snow to make angels.

In January, we celebrated the New Year as well as the Chinese New Year. In February, we celebrated Black History Month, and the children did research and discussed different black leaders including Martin Luther King Jr., Barack Obama and other men and women activists and posted their pictures in the Drama Centre. We also celebrated Valentine Day, Family Day, and Bullying Day, also known as Pink Day, because everyone wears pink colored shirts. We also made sugar, chocolate, and heart shaped cookies.

In March, the children wanted to turn the Drama Centre into a Science Lab. We started with setting a water tornado experiment. Most of the children joined in this activity and many suggested different ingredients to mix in the water to see what happens. One child said, 'can we put water beads?' When he tried to put the beads in the bottle with his hand, they flew all over the table and none got into the bottle. Another child said, "we can use a funnel to put the beads in the bottle." Other children suggested adding food color, soap, or glitter to the water in the bottle to better see how the tornado is forming. The children helped each other to decorate two big posters for the Lab. The next day the children decided to do an inventory of the Science Lab, cleaning it and organizing it. They pretended that the health inspector was coming to check on their Lab. They cooperated to make a list of the different jobs to be done and assigning them among each other. They put sets of Lab equipment, shells and kept themselves busy looking at different things through a magnifying glass. They also did an experiment with balloons by rubbing them on their heads. One child said, "look the hair on my head is stuck to the balloon!"

During the March break, the children wanted to do baking. So, we made cinnamon buns, sugar cookies and pizzas from scratch. The children made the dough for the pizzas in one day and on the second day, they cut the cheese and pepperoni and shaped the dough. They helped each other by putting the toppings on the shaped dough. Later, we baked the pizzas and when it was done, they enjoyed eating them at snack time as we played a game of 'Guess what's inside the bag'.

The children also created different shapes using Hama beads such as puppy dogs, stars, egg-shaped key chains, colorful heart shapes and many more creations. They liked to play different games like Monopoly where they enjoyed buying and selling houses and hotels. They made sure to own a place so they could rent it to other children and make more money. Another game is the Life Game where they spend a long time playing and conversing with each other and helping each other.

We have a few 150 - piece puzzles in our Room. One child sat one day in the Room and started to do these puzzles. When it was time for lunch, he ate and then went back to do a 300 - piece puzzle! The children created musical puppets show with musical instruments and dance which included the KG Room. They made different puppets and streamers and had lots of fun playing the instruments and dancing.

Even though it is March, it is still cold, so parents please have the children dressed warmly and according to the weather.

POP – KG

By: Manouri & Jolentha

POP Kindergarten has been busy with activities and festivals since the New Year began. Helia joined the kindergarten program. We welcomed her and the children are happy to have a new friend. Everyone was anxiously waiting for the Groundhog predictions this year. It seems we will have six more weeks of winter. We are looking forward to seeing the flowers blooming and birds flying even though we had lots of fun with the snow.

In the month of January, we celebrated Chinese New Year. We spoke about traditions and the culture. It is the year of Rabbit and we discussed what it resembles in the Chinese zodiac symbol. We also made different crafts. Children were interested in Pokémon characters. We made a list of the characters and coloured some Pokémon characters. Different modes of transport were an interesting topic. Children discussed the various types of transport and how they come to the daycare. We made a train with recycled boxes.

Valentine's day is always special and fun for all of us. We spoke about the importance of love and caring for each other. We made cards and made many crafts. The children created a puzzle with the heart shape. They cut it out and wrote their names. They even made cards in the afterschool program for their schoolteachers. For Family Day, we made a family tree. Children shared stories about their families, who are in their family and the importance of respecting elders. We turned our dramatic centre to a doctor's clinic where they took different roles and spoke about taking care of each of each other. We did various science experiments. A popular one was how does sound travel. We made a yarn cup and learned that sound travels from the cup to the string and into the other person's ear.

In March we discussed the importance of food. We made a list of junk food and healthy food. Our dramatic centre became a restaurant. Children made a list of food that is sold and made a price list. Some of the children were interested in board and card games. Connect Four was a popular game which tested their patience. During the March break we joined the School Age group to make pizza and cookies. Children had lots of fun measuring the ingredients and making their own pizza. We also went tobogganing on the hills behind the school.

It is still cold even though it is spring. Please dress your children according to the weather.