



BANTING AND BEST CHILD CARE CENTRE NEWSLETTER December 2023

Centre Update

- ✚ The Christmas party will be held on December 8, 2023 in the Gym at 6:00 pm
- ✚ The AGM will be held on December 13, 2023 in the Gym at 6:00 pm.
- ✚ The Centre will be closed on December 25th, 26th, 2023 and January 1st, 2024.
- ✚ Wishing all our Parents and Staff a Wonderful Season!
- ✚ Reminder to Parents: If you are bringing any gifts for your child's group or staff, please make sure that they are individually packed.
- ✚ We would like to welcome Nashmia & Nathan and welcome back Alaina to our Centre.
- ✚ Staff at the Centre will continue to follow the Toronto Public Health and Ministry of Education Operational Guidelines.
- ✚ Preschoolers and Kindergarten groups at the Banting and Best CC site will continue to use LILLIO. Pictures of the activities that your child participates in, meals and any other information will be sent through LILLIO. 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 gets 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 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 or 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 being so understanding!



Dec 6th - George & Tahlia
Dec 18th - Gabriel, William L, Alex
Dec 20th - Olivia & Saiyin
Dec 23rd - Silvio

Dec 9th - Owen O & Ryan
Dec 19th - Henry & Dharnik
Dec 21st - Alfred & Justice

Junior Room

By: Atiya & Milly

It is hard to believe that we are almost at the end of 2023. At the start of the school year, most of the Junior Room children moved on to join the Senior Room and kindergarten. We welcome all the new children who joined the Junior room. The new children are adjusting well in the program; however, some still get separation anxiety. We hope that they will soon be able to settle into the program and routine.

We had a beautiful autumn this season. We are fortunate to have an apple tree and flower patch growing next to our playground fence, as we use these sites to incorporate workshops and education about nature and science. Apples fall from the tree and the children observe ants and bees as well as other creatures feasting on fruit. Birds such as robins, chickadees and cardinals also come, and squirrels and rabbits also take their fair share of the apples. The tree provides a source of knowledge to the children and a starting point to understand the life cycle of an apple and the importance of pollination.

There were two special events in October. The first was 'Thanksgiving Harvest', during which the children participated in food-related activities, incorporating sensory play. They tasted, smelled, and touched various vegetables and learned new vocabulary regarding different types of fall harvest items, such as carrots and apples. They were also able to express which fruits and vegetables were their favorite. Halloween was another exciting event for the children. This is the time of the year when children can dress up in their favorite costumes. Most of the children participated in the costume party. The children selected their favorite balloon colours and once they were blown, we decorated the room with them. It was a fun event, and we would like to thank all the families for providing special (non-edible) Halloween treats for the children.

In the current month of November, the children are having a wonderful time in the dramatic center and are playing with dolls, which include babies and infants in our nursing setting. We also had a doctor's clinic set up in the dramatic center, where children play with various medical instruments, using disposable gloves, and real Band-Aids. Incorporating these items into play provides the children with a hands-on experience and brings them closer to learning new skills.

December is the most wonderful month of the year. The entire month is filled with joy and celebrations. We are looking forward to celebrating the month with new songs and craft activities. The children will be practicing songs for the winter holiday concert, so stay tuned for that.

The Junior Room would like to welcome new children, Jialin and Herry. We are very grateful to all the Junior Room parents and appreciate their cooperation and understanding.

Happy Holidays!

Senior Room

Bindu & Raina

Autumn is here and in the Senior room, all the children embraced the seasonal weather and colours. We explored the ways and times when leaves change their colours and fall from the trees. During our nature walks we played with the leaves, making piles and running through the dried leaves on the ground. We also used the fall leaves in our outdoor kitchen, filling up our plates and pots with leaves pretending to cook with them. We made some collages with fall-coloured leaves, small rocks, branches and sticks. At the end of September, we recognized and respected the Day of Reconciliation by dressing up in orange clothes, making a special collage with indigenous textiles, papers, and feathers and decorating our own orange shirt, using the "Every Child Matter" sign. We talked about the feelings and emotions everyone was having that day.

An exciting time during October was celebrating Thanksgiving Day. Our children participated in carving a pumpkin which this year had orange and green colours. We talked about different multicultural skin colours of people just like the pumpkins had different colours. The children chose a kitty face for our pumpkin. We discussed what kind of vegetables and fruits we could have during the fall season and we baked sweet pumpkin bites for our Thanksgiving party. As part of further enjoying the season we turned our dramatic centre into a camping site and set up a pretend campfire, using wooden logs, and night lamps and making roasted mash mellowes.

In recognition of Remembrance Day, the children in the senior room made their poppies, wreaths and a poppy field collage using paint, crayons, and construction paper. A minute of silence was part morning routine. An explanation of the representation of Remembrance Day was held by the teachers and all children's questions were discussed. Our children played different roles during our community helpers' week, some were firefighters, post office workers, doctors and policemen which was the most popular role. We talked about how important the jobs of community workers are for the safety and well-being of our community. Children enjoyed dressing up in different costumes and having important jobs for the day.

As an ongoing practice in the senior room, we continue to review and practice a proper handwashing routine as well as naming all the vegetables, fruits, grains and meats during our lunch and snack time. Drinking water is encouraged daily. As the weather changed and getting colder, the children in the senior room started to dress up with snow pants, warm jackets, hats and mittens. Teachers explained how important it is to dress up properly for the season so that the children can continue to have fun outdoors.

We are excited for the winter season and to celebrate all the holidays and special days during the upcoming months, especially the Christmas concert which this year will be in person. Children in the senior room are working hard on practicing their songs for the concert and preparing their costumes.

Have a wonderful Season!

FDK 103

By: Bing & Najma

Hi, everyone! Welcome to FDK 103. It is a new school year now. We have a lot of new friends and some old friends in our class. I hope everyone will have fun in the class.

In September, most of our children met their friends through different activities. They played some games together during the outdoor play times. They built robots with linking cubes and made houses with Lego blocks. They played with toy cars on the road mat and took turns moving their cars around the mat. They learned Chinese characters of the Mid-Autumn Festival with Bing and made moon cakes with playdough. They explored the apple's life by observing apple trees and apples. They did a graph to see which colour of apples was their favorite one.

In October, FDK children enjoyed the activities to celebrate the Thanksgiving. They made hand-painted turkeys and displayed them on our art board. Our SK children wrote some messages on the paper to tell their friends what they were thankful for. They liked using beads and pipe cleaners to make corn and drew a tree with different colours and leaves on it. Halloween is here. FDK children wrote their names on pumpkins and cut them out to make puzzles. They made ghosts with cotton balls on brown paper. They wore their favorite costumes on Halloween day.

In November, FDK children made poppies using playdough and cut out red handprints to make a poppy wreath. The teacher helped them put their wreath on our art board to show everyone in our class. We also spoke about a soldier who gave their life to save their country. They were interested in the structure of the class. They built a tower with marble run and took turns to let their marbles go down the tower. They shared ideas to make transformers using linking cubes. They even used domino cards to build a tower. We also celebrated Thanksgiving by discussing about giving thanks to the farmers and sharing food. Through these activities, their social skills, creativity skills, gross motor skills and fine motor skills were improved.

Winter is coming. Please remind our children to wear their winter hats, scarves, and gloves and prepare winter jackets, snow pants, and snow boots when the temperature drops down.

Children are busy preparing for the Winter Concert. Please come and enjoy their hard work!

Have a safe winter!

SA 102

By: Lily & Tharani

In September, the school-age children had so much fun doing activities in the classroom. The children played a new flip bottle challenge game. According to the game, the children had to pick a challenge card and try to land the bottle successfully. It is the season of Autumn, the children did foil leaf art and mosaic leaf art. They used Sharpie to trace the leaves on the tin foil paper, traced two leaves on the green paper, cut them out, glued the leaves on the black paper, and pasted mosaic pieces around the leaves. Also, the children enjoyed chart art and tape resist art for chalk art, the children used different colours of chalk to do the layer and used their fingers to blend colours in. For tape resist art, the children created a design with tape, added chalk into open spaces, and removed the tape after finishing.

In October, the children did some Halloween activities in the classroom. They were making stained glass lanterns, and tissue paper trick-treat baskets. and Halloween wooden plank art. For stained glass lanterns, they laid out the blank stained-glass lanterns onto a flat surface, cut out sections of coloured tissue paper to glue under the designs and folded in the lantern along the pre-scored creases to make the lantern three dimensions. For wooden planks, they used different colours of markers to make designs on them. For the tissue paper basket, they blew a balloon according to the size they wanted, tied the top with a knot, and layered glue and tissue paper on the balloon. The next day, they cut off the top of the balloon, and they got a basket to use for trick-treating. For science, the children did a science experiment called "Not so spooky ghost" in the classroom. First, each of them got a balloon to draw a spooky face on it, then they added baking soda inside the balloon and attached the balloon to the bottle that had vinegar in it. After that, they lifted the balloon and poured baking soda into vinegar. They were excited to see the balloon blow up bigger and bigger. On Halloween day, the children were making Halloween sugar cookies. First, they took turns measuring ingredients in the bowl, and then they used their hands to form it into dough. After that, they used a cookie cutter to shape out the bat, moon, pumpkin and witch. Then, we baked the cookies in the oven. We made white, pink and green icing using icing sugar and milk combined. The children then decorated the cookies with icing and Halloween sprinkles.

In November, during outdoor time, the children were building leaf piles. They collected the leaves by their hands or used their jackets to wrap up leaves and pile them together into a big pile. We got two sets of new games called Kanoodles and KerPlunk. For Kanoodles, they constructed caboodles of 2D and 3D puzzles with brain-twisting solitaire games. They picked a puzzle from the book, set up the challenge, and then placed the remaining pieces to solve the puzzle. For Kerplunk, they set up the structure and got turns to stick coloured sticks into holes to build a web, then they put 30 marbles on top of the web. Every child took turns removing a single straw from the tube while trying to minimize the number of marbles that fell through the web and into their tray.

We will hold our Christmas concert in December, we can't wait to see all the children's wonderful performances.

Season Greetings!

SA 104

By: Sajitha, Dilshani & Firdous

September marked the beginning of an exciting new school year. We were thrilled to welcome both familiar and new faces to add more energy to our vibrant classroom. Although we had to say goodbye to the fun-filled summer, we were excited and ready for new changes. The children settled into their routines, building friendships, and eagerly exploring the world of learning together. We learned about new card games by understanding and following rules, even being able to teach others. Our children also had opportunities to expand their curiosity and independence through participating in sensory activities such as modelling clay, making their slime, moon sand, cornstarch goop, and play dough. To add sweetness to September, we created delicious cake pops, spreading the joy of cooking and sharing. As part of a heartwarming farewell gesture, the children also helped prepare cupcakes to say goodbye to our teacher Monica.

As we embraced the fall season in October, we also prepared for the changes it brings. We welcomed the new teacher and dedicated our time to getting to know each other better. October brought us a variety of colours to be creative with nature's palette whether it's observing the changing leaves, making a big leaf pile and jumping in, or even creating a nature collage using the gifts of nature. Our children fostered creativity and self-expression through karaoke and dancing to different music which helped us explore music in different cultures. In the spirit of gratitude and giving, we dedicated time to Thanksgiving celebrations. We delved into the history of Thanksgiving, learning about its origins and the importance of coming together to give thanks. The children engaged in various activities, including crafting heartfelt Thanksgiving cards to express gratitude to their loved ones. On the other hand, we had a Spooktacular time during our Halloween movie afternoon, an evening filled with laughter & variety of costumes.

In November, we took a moment to reflect on Remembrance Day, reciting the poem "In Flanders Field" to honour and remember those who have served our country. Our children also made poppies as a commemoration to keep in the classroom. The month was also marked by the celebration of Diwali, where we learned about diverse cultures and traditions.

Our classroom embraced cooperative games using stacking cups for various games which encouraged healthy competition, teamwork, and even extension of the game with different ideas to play. Additionally, we reminded ourselves of the topic of healthy food and reflected on the food pyramid by finding food items from flyers and pasting them on the appropriate food groups. Furthermore, we also focused on the importance of mental health awareness, incorporating discussions about well-being into our routine.

As we move into December, we are excited about the upcoming holiday season, and the continued growth and learning of our children. Our children are actively practicing and getting ready to showcase their talents at our in-person Christmas concert this year.

Have a safe winter! Happy Holidays!

POP - SA

By: Magda & Hamida

It is true what they say "Time flies". At Prince of Peace, we have many children who are very active and like to play games of different sports like Soccer, Basketball, 4 Square and many more. In September the weather was great. We went outdoors every day in the morning and also after school. We also did our exercise routine. Some children enjoy digging for worms, observing the leaves changing colour and collecting some leaves to compare. In the Drama Centre at the beginning of the school year, the children organized 2 classes: Math and Social Study. Most of the younger ones cooperated with the 2 teachers and followed instructions, answered questions and did homework like a real classroom. After that when the young children got tired of doing homework the teacher changed the classroom to a Dance Studio. Now it was turned into a Gymnastics studio.

We have a few children who like to build with Lego different kinds of expensive cars like Lamborghini, Tesla and Ferrari. They also built a car dealership and a garage to put cars in it. The children also built airplanes and airports. They also built a big house using large and small boxes.

In October we celebrated Thanksgiving and Halloween. They decorated Trick or Treat bags and filled them with treats. A few children were interested in doing a word search activity. They organized a competition to see who was going to finish all the word searches first. Older children helped the younger ones. We discussed how blessed we are with what we have as we discussed Thanksgiving.

In November we discussed those who fought for us a while ago. We have a new game called Port Perry Opoly. The children are very excited about it. They all wanted to be rich and borrow money from the Bank to buy a property, a house or a hotel so they could rent the rooms to other children and get rich.

In Science, the children performed several experiments. The last one was of special interest to the children; it was called the Apple Oxidation experiment. The children cut an apple in 5 wedges. Then they put one wedge in water, a second in vinegar, a third covered in sugar, a fourth covered in salt and the last one left exposed to air. The wedges were left for 5 days before they were examined. Two children wrote a report about the conditions of the apple wedges on day 4 and day 5 in comparison to their condition on day 1.

We started to prepare for our Christmas Concert. The children chose two Christmas songs and they are doing great. Hope to see you all there. Have a safe Holiday!

POP – KG

By: Jolentha

Sleigh Bells Ring, are you listening? That sound is just around the corner, winter will be here as we read this paragraph. Let's turn back time just as we turned back our clocks in November to the first day of school.

During the first week of school, everyone was excited about coming to their new class and new environment. There was an activity that the children enjoyed doing indoors and outdoors. It was a connecting toy with wheels. Every day the children would make different types of vehicles. Some were long like an eighteen-wheeler, others stretched like a fire ladder up to the top shelf. All in all, the children were excited to build different vehicles each day.

Outdoors we can see that the leaves have started to change colour and some of the leaves have started to fall. When outdoors the children also took part in playing fire fighters. They would huddle and have team discussions grab the hose-like toy and run to wherever they needed to put out fires.

Sensory play was a staple for our Kindergarten group. They would be asked to make slime, mould with plasticine, and make potions from coloured water piping into beakers. There was one day when the children used plasticine clay and made food products. They took some green plasticine and created a tree-like figure, they called it broccoli. Then they used other plasticine to create a layer. They were making hamburger cakes, they brought out a mixing machine toy and pretended to mix the ingredients to make more cake.

We can see that the leaves have started to change colour and some have started to fall. When outdoors the children also took part in playing fire fighters. They would huddle and have team discussions grab the hose-like toy and run to wherever they needed to put out fires.

Our outdoor play area is surrounded by very fortunate nature, we got to watch daily how the trees changed and how some trees did not lose any leaves. We learned about Pine trees all year round but found pine cones on the floor. We noticed the squirrels were eating the pine nuts and dropping the pine cones all over the floor. The children also decided to make potions outdoors, they used shovels to scoop soil up and gathered leaves and pine needles. Then they would take a bowling pin and smash the ingredients together. The creativity and inventions they do surprise me every day.

Let us continue to learn and grow together. Our Winter Concert is coming up, the children have been practicing hard for this performance. I hope to see all the families come out and support our children.

Have a safe and wonderful Winter!