



BANTING AND BEST CHILD CARE CENTRE NEWSLETTER December 2024

Centre Update

- ✚ The Winter Celebration will be held on December 6th, 2024, in the Gym at 6:00pm.
- ✚ The AGM will be held on December 17th, 2024, in the Gym at 6:00pm
- ✚ The Centre will be CLOSED on December 25th, 26th and January 1st, 2024.
- ✚ Wishing all our Parents, Board of Directors & Staff Happy Holidays!
- ✚ Reminder to Parents: If you bring any gifts for your child's group or staff, please make sure they are individually packed.
- ✚ Preschoolers at Banting and Best CC site will continue to use Lillio. Pictures of your child's activities, meals and any other information will be sent through Lillio. School-aged groups and Kindergarten groups will post their documentation in the room for the parents to view.
- ✚ Staff at the Centre will continue to follow the Toronto Public Health and Ministry of Education Operational Guidelines.
- ✚ The weather is changing, so 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 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. Please do not bring any breakfast and snacks containing peanuts and tree nuts. Please make sure that all foods have the ingredients list, including any treats in the Loot bag.



Dec 6th – Tahlia
Dec 16th – Zackary
Dec 19th - Henry
Dec 21st – Justice & Zaine

Dec 13th - Brian
Dec 18th – Alex L & Gabriel
Dec 20th – Charles & Victor
Dec 23rd- Silvio

Junior Room

By: Atiya & Milly

As we approach the end of 2024, we reflect on what has been a truly wonderful and eventful year. The children who joined the Junior Room program in September have settled in well, embracing their new routines and experiences.

In October, there were many engaging and fun activities. The children crafted their autumn wreaths in celebration of Thanksgiving. During Halloween, the children designed personalized trick-or-treat bags, baked cupcakes, carved pumpkins, and experimented with pumpkin pulp and seeds—a sensory delight! The highlight was the Halloween costume parade, where the children showcased their costumes while visiting other programs.

November offered many opportunities to connect with nature. On our walks to the school field, the children created piles of leaves, collected their favourite autumn colours, and observed the bustling activity of squirrels gathering acorns. These moments of exploration fostered a deeper appreciation for the changing seasons.

As December approaches, the children prepare for the winter concert. They are busy crafting decorations and rehearsing songs they will perform. We extend our heartfelt thanks to parents for ensuring the children are well-equipped with winter clothing and boots, enabling us to continue our outdoor program seamlessly.

This month, the Junior Room also welcomes two new friends, Isa and Carolyn. At the same time, we say goodbye to Emily and Alvin, wishing them every success and happiness in their future endeavours. Thank you for your continued support in making this year so memorable. We look forward to more wonderful moments together in the New Year to come!

Senior Room

Amy & Raina

Senior room children enjoyed the warm weather during September. They liked going for a walk and observing the change in the leaves. We talked about what process happens in the trees so that the leaves start changing their colours. We made a special collage with different colours to represent the colours of the fall and used materials like felt, construction paper, stamps, and yarn. Children observed how the apples grow on the tree in our playground. As a follow-up activity, children made a 3D apple tree using pompoms, tissue paper, and paint. Then, we turned the 3D apple tree into our family photo tree and put family photos. A special event in our room was for the celebration of the Mid-autumn Festival. There was storytelling, reading books, preparing for Chinese Lantern College, and listening to Chinese festive music. Our dramatic center was transformed many times depending on the interests of the children, like a community kitchen, animal farm, bakery, and an insect observatory. Children used menus, cash registers, money, props, stencils, and specialized books.

October was a busy month in the senior room as all the children were preparing to celebrate Thanksgiving. There were many activities, like making a dramatic center as a Thanksgiving bakery, decorating our pumpkins, and making pumpkin-spiced playdough. Children helped prepare special pumpkin strudel and enjoyed eating it as a part of the afternoon snack. A 3D bakery oven was a lot of fun for the children to decorate and play with. We read many books to learn what people are thankful for and how to be respectful of all the healthy food we enjoy in daycare. Healthy eating habits were also reviewed as children named their favourite fruits and vegetables. We used some toy foods together with real fruits like apples, clementines, cucumbers and carrots to make craft ideas and as paint tools. As the days were getting closer to the end of October, children in the senior room shared their ideas for Halloween. We discussed ways to safely enjoy trick or treat, how to choose better sweets and how to carefully watch how many candies children might have.

In November, children decorated a special 'haunted house' as a continuation of celebrating Halloween. The dramatic center was the children's favourite area to play, so it was transformed into a construction zone so that children could build just like the construction workers who were building our new playground. Children enjoyed putting on different multicultural costumes, the costumes of their favourite characters, and we transformed the dramatic center into a fashion show. Hindu heritage was celebrated in our classroom as we had a teacher talking to children about the many beautiful rituals, clothes and food Hindu people have. We discussed how important it is to respect everyone's family costumes and rituals.

As the winter weather is here and the temperatures are lower, we encourage children to dress warmly for the season and practice independently putting on snow pants, winter jackets, boots, hats, and mittens.

A daycare holiday celebration is planned for the beginning of December, and children in the senior room start to practice two songs, learning the words and the movements to present to their parents. Stay warm, and Happy Holidays!

FDK 103

Bing & Najma

Hi, everyone! Welcome to our FDK before and after school program. A new school year is here. We are very happy to work with our FDK children and their parents.

In September, we had some new friends join our group. To help the children better understand each other, each child made their name tag and decorated it. We displayed these name tags on the wall so that everyone could learn the names of the other friends. We celebrated the Moon Festival together. We learned the Chinese characters and painted the moon using aluminum foil paper. We even made some mooncakes using playdough as gifts shared with our families. We also made crafts for Orange Day and discussed about the lives the Indigenous people lived.

In October, we went to the playground and saw the leaves had changed to different colours. Our children were interested in the leaves. They picked up the leaves with different shapes and colours. We used these leaves to paint a picture on a big white paper. We placed this picture in our cabin area so that everyone could see it. Halloween is at the end of October. Our children were interested in pumpkins. We learned the life cycle of pumpkins from books. We explored different sizes and shapes of pumpkins in the class. Some of our children made a pumpkin name tag, and some of them drew pumpkins on the big brown paper. We touched the dry pumpkin seeds and peeled them so we could know what was inside. That was FUN!

In November, we discussed the meaning of Remembrance Day and learned a poem called " Little Poppy." We used clay to make a poppy and used our hand paint to make a poppy wreath. Through these activities, we understood that we remember those people who fought for us. We started to practice the songs for our winter concert. Our FDK children will do their best and show you during the party.

Winter is coming! This is just a reminder that our children need Winter Jackets, Snow pants, Mittens/Gloves, Snow boots, Hats, and Scarf. Happy Holidays!!

SA 102

Lily & Tharani

We had a wonderful summer and said goodbye to some of our friends, and we welcomed some new friends. In September, the school-age children had so much fun doing activities in the classroom. Their favourite activity was building Lego structures. The children were working together to build a Lego house that had furniture, a playground, a garage, and patios. September 30th was Orange Shirt Day, which is also known as Truth and Reconciliation Day. We discussed Indigenous people. The children created the hand template in orange and wrote messages on it to make a poster. For the healthy eating activity, the children voted to make egg tarts because eggs have nutritional benefits for the body. The children enjoyed fresh baked egg tarts.

In October, it was all about building structures and making air-dry clay characters in the classroom. Most of the boys were building pine plank towers and bridges or followed the booklet to build structures. Some of the girls liked to make air-dry clay characters. They created a flower basket, a little person with two googly eyes, and a bowl. For Halloween activities, two groups of children carved a pumpkin on two sides to join a contest. For science, the children did a volcano slime experiment and a tree bean experiment. It was Thanksgiving and harvest season for apples. The children voted to make apple pie because families had apple pie for Thanksgiving dinner.

In November, it was about making 3D cardboard box structures for our Christmas concert. They made a snowman, a Christmas tree and a gingerbread man's house. They layered up the cardboard box to build the structures and decorated it with pom poms, felt shapes, ornaments and buttons. For healthy eating, the children made oatmeal cookies because it is healthy and also the holiday season.

Christmas is around the corner. We will hold our Christmas concert on Dec 6, and we can't wait to see all the children's wonderful performances. We look forward to having more fun in the classroom during the holidays. We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

SA 104

By: Sajitha & Joanne

After a fun-filled summer, we welcomed more new friends as September began to thrive and learn together. The new school year gave our children the opportunity to meet new friends and look back on their milestones. Our children explored new creative ways to keep themselves busy, such as making their own picture books, diamond bead painting, construction with squigz, vex robotics, k-nex, Legos, and much more. We learned about "Truth and Reconciliation Day" by making an "Orange-T shirt" poster and addressing the history of the Indigenous people of Canada and respect and equality among everyone. Based on the interest of our children, we made a delicious fruit salad by adding our favourite fruits while talking about the nutritious benefits.

October marked the important celebrations such as Thanksgiving, Halloween, & Diwali. As the leaves started to fall, we collected and made a huge leaf pile to jump on, welcoming the fall weather. Our children expanded their artistic creativity by turning leaves into dresses and bugs and colouring them to showcase their skills. We dived into the spirit of Halloween by making a "Haunted Pumpkin Farm" as our extended project. Lots of collaboration and patience went in as each of our children took on tasks to complete together, such as making air dry pumpkins, ghosts, and spider webs, painting, & laying out. During our Halloween party, everyone showcased their talents by dancing and singing. We made a healthy "pizza muffin" to complete the month and shared what we are thankful for with our friends.

In November, we honoured Remembrance Day by making poppies and poppy fields as our extended project. Our children empathized with the history and shared how they respected the soldiers. Dancing grew into a great interest among our children as we danced not only indoors but outdoors as well. Our children participated in many pretend plays such as restaurants, pet salons, hospitals, pottery shops, farms and much more, enhancing their communication and social skills.

As we are looking forward to December, we created paper plate wreaths and Christmas theme paintings and decorated our classroom for the upcoming holidays. Moreover, as our Winter Celebration is approaching, we are eagerly practicing for our dance performance.

We are looking forward to many more adventures and learning opportunities that await us in the coming months. Happy Holidays!

POP – SA

By: Magda & Hamida

Another year is around the corner. Soon, we will be in the year 2025, and they indeed say time flies. The children in our room are always interested in going outdoors to play ball games, like soccer, four square, basketball and volleyball. They are also interested in badminton and other group games like shark attack and octopus. Sometimes, if the weather is not that great, we would go to the gym.

In September, when school started, some of the children sat down to do their homework after snack, others were busy building with Lego, waffle blocks, IO blocks and other building materials.

In October, we celebrated Thanksgiving and Diwali. Most of our children were very excited this month about Cross Country. Most of them got a medal for participation, which motivated them to go to the gym to move their bodies and get healthy. They turned the dramatic centre into a Haunted Hall Restaurant, decorated the restaurant with spooky things, created different coloured ghosts and hung them around. They made jewelry for each other during Halloween.

During November, the children remembered the soldiers who fought in the war for our country. The group made wreaths surrounded by poppy flowers in remembrance of all the fallen soldiers in Flanders Field. In our room, they love to bake, so we've made pizza from scratch by creating the dough and cutting up the toppings. We also made Cinnamon buns by sprinkling cinnamon and warm butter and discussed the benefits of eating cinnamon. We made fruit salad and frozen yogurt as a healthy snack.

Some of the children are now learning about knitting, and we also started to learn to crochet. We started a reading club with the younger group. They would read a short story until they mastered reading the book. Then, they would take it home, read it to their parents and return the book to childcare. Finally, they choose another short story to read to repeat the process.

We are getting ready for our Christmas Concert. We hope to see you all there and have a wonderful winter holiday.

POP – KG

By: Jolentha

The New Year is coming up very quickly. Let's count down together all the things we've done in the past three months.

Starting at the beginning of September, we settled into our new classes with new Juniors in our class. Everyone learned to cooperate and play with each other. During the month, the children were interested in mud play, pretending to make mud pies, cakes and mountains for the ants. As they were digging the grounds, they also discovered insects in the ground, such as a Roly Poly and worms. They brought out magnifying glasses to look at them more closely. They were also not afraid of the insects but treated them with care and gathered food for them. One day, a child brought a magnet outdoors and started to rub the ground because he saw a video of a person rubbing the ground and found little black specs. When they tried it too, they too found those black specs stuck to the magnet. They asked what those specs are, and we learned that the ground has many types of metals and minerals as well. We found out that they were called Iron filaments.

Over the summer break, we had set up a tent inside our dramatic centre. We brought it back in September since the summer children loved to hang out and play inside the tent. It was a great bonding experience with all the children in the tent pretending to have a campout. Sometimes, they just liked bringing toys into the tent to play in that special space.

We started a sign language club back in September. We learned the alphabet signs to our names and also learned new ways to sign the holiday greetings. Building and constructing was a big part of our learning as the Kinder loved to build with all types of blocks. They would build a hideout with big blocks. We brought the big wooden blocks outdoors one day, and the children decided to build a picnic bench and brought dramatic food. They all had their block seats to sit around the table and have a feast. We also started to bring more outdoor construction cars, which they used to place the wooden blocks to transport them across the yard. Another construction they made was a playground, in which they built steps leading to the top, and then they used the triangular blocks at the end to make a slide that goes down.

During October, we celebrated Diwali, and the children learned about what Diwali meant for the Hindu community. It was a Festival of Light and the end of a harvest month. They made Diya, which meant a lamp, and they decorated their Diya with multitudes of colours.

Fall came early as we watched the two trees from our yard turn from green to red, and then we slowly watched them start to dry out and fall to the floor. The children liked walking on top of the dried fallen leaves and listening to the crunching sound that came when walking on top of them. They were curious about the pine trees. "Why don't the leaves fall?" We learned that Pine trees don't have leaves but pine needles, and they were a type of tree called conifers. Pine trees also have a waxy coating, which helps the tree retain water. That is why sometimes when you see a clear syrup-looking liquid coming out of a pine tree, it is known as wax. In November, we've been hard at work practicing our song and dance for our holiday party. The children have been working hard practicing lyrics and dancing to choreography. I hope you all come out and support us on that night. The weather is starting to get colder. Please dress your child/ren in inappropriate attire. Have a safe and wonderful Winter break, and Happy Holidays from us at Prince of Peace Kindergarten group.