



**BANTING AND BEST CHILD CARE CENTRE
NEWSLETTER
April 2025**

Centre Update

- ❖ Wishing All our Families and Educators a Happy Easter.
- ❖ Centre is **CLOSED** on Good Friday, April 18th, 2025
- ❖ Centre is **OPEN** on Easter Monday: April 21,2025. Educators have planned various fun activities for the day.
- ❖ Preschoolers at Banting and Best CC site will continue use Lillio. Pictures of the activities that your child participates in, 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.
- ❖ Educators 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 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. Please make sure that all foods have the ingredients list including any treats in the Loot bag.



April 1st – Sundaye
April 5th – Joshua
April 12th – Youqi
April 22nd – Irashwa

April 4th – Carina
April 9th – Olivia B
April 20th - Michael
April 26th –Ethan C, Jessica & Melvin

Junior Room

By: Atiya, Milly & Joanne

2025 marks the beginning of a new year for the junior room, filled with exciting opportunities for growth, learning, and celebration. As we enter this fresh year, we look forward to new adventures, creative projects, and deepening our connections with the children and their families. It's a year to explore, discover, and build upon the foundations we've already established.

In January, we kicked off the year by celebrating Chinese New Year. We invited the parents to join us in making dumplings in the Junior room. The event was a great success, and we deeply appreciate all the parents who took time out of their busy schedules to join us and support the program. The children were fully engaged and excited about the opportunity to make dumplings and work alongside their families.

February was dedicated to celebrating Black History Month. One of the highlights was learning about Garrett Morgan's invention of the traffic light. The children were eager to understand its purpose and shared their knowledge and thoughts about traffic lights. Additionally, we celebrated Valentine's Day by stamping heart-shaped designs and decorating them with different sizes of stickers, allowing the children to express their creativity and love.

In March, we had the pleasure of inviting a special guest, one of our Educators Raina to join us in celebrating Baba Marta Day in the junior room. The children were excited to learn about this tradition, and we even had a small dance to mark the occasion. March also brought St. Patrick's Day, and the children had a wonderful time decorating their clover hats. They were thrilled to wear their hats and proudly show them off to their friends.

Throughout these months, we were also delighted to celebrate the birthdays of some of our junior preschoolers! A big "Happy Birthday" to Giselle, Audrey, and all the other children who celebrated their special day! Enjoy the Spring Season!

Senior Room

Amy & Raina

The children in the senior room enjoyed the winter months and the snow we had this year. We talked about ways to be safe and warm and what kind of clothes we need for the season.

During the first month of the year, children were excited to celebrate New Year by preparing paper hats, drawing fireworks using crayons and chalk. Another very special celebration during January was Chinese New Year. We had a party with parents who helped our children prepare Chinese dumplings. Children washed their hands and were eager to fold the dumplings. Children were happy to show mom and dad their favorite toys in the classroom. They played together in the dramatic center and the block center. Before enjoying lunch, a mom read the book "My First Chinese New Year" about Chinese New Year and children danced to a Chinese song. Lunch was served and the dumplings were very delicious. Children enjoyed the food they made.

The second month of the year was full of celebrations and transformation of our dramatic center. It was turned into a community center and children learned about all community helpers and their role in keeping us safe. Children put on costumes of construction workers, police officers, firemen, and doctors. A community village was built from construction paper, painted in green and many recycled boxes were used to make a school, hospital, municipality, fire station, police station, and university. Toys like people, cars and traffic signs were added and children played with the village. They were engaged in taking different roles of community helpers. Valentine's Day was celebrated in the classroom by preparing Valentines cards for parents and Educators which children decorated with stickers, glitter and paint. Valentine's Day cupcakes were prepared by the children. They were excited to measure and mix the ingredients. The cupcakes were red and decorated with colorful sprinkles. On February 28 was Pink Shirt Day. During circle time, we talked about why people wear pink shirts and how it promotes anti bullying messages. Children reviewed once again the nice words and voices they can use to play with their friends.

A Bulgarian celebration of spring called "Baba Marta" was presented by Raina. Children enjoyed the story of grandmother and her grandchildren and how they influence the weather if they are listening or not. Special bracelets called "martenici" were prepared for each child to wear as a symbol of the coming spring. Children danced on Baba Marta song. St. Partick's day was celebrated by decorating the classroom with green decorations, reading books like "Leprechaun on The Loose" and "There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Clover". Ramadan was a celebration during March as well. Muslims all around the world celebrated Eid Al Fitr. We learned about the traditions and meaning of fasting, preparing special meals and praying.

Senior room children were excited for the coming spring season. We talked about the changing weather and what kind of clothes are appropriate for this season.

FDK 103

Bing & Najma

During this winter, our children had plenty of opportunities to play in the snow. After a heavy snowfall, we made snow angels and slid on the snow. The children also enjoyed digging holes in the snow and attempting to create tunnels using large shovels.

In January, we celebrated one of our favorite festivals—Chinese New Year. We provided various materials for the children to explore this cultural event by participating in related activities. The FDK children learned Chinese New Year songs and wishes in Mandarin. They also practiced copying Chinese characters on paper to decorate our classroom. This year, we invited parents to join us in making dumplings with the children. The FDK children had a wonderful time with their parents in the room.

In February, we celebrated Family Day. The FDK children made house frames using popsicle sticks and designed their dream houses on paper. They drew pictures of their family members on cards to create family portraits. They also built 3D houses using cardboard and arranged furniture toys inside.

During March Break, the FDK children did a variety of fun activities together. We walked around the park to observe nature, and later, we made cloud crafts in the classroom. We talked about healthy foods and decided to make Poke Balls using fruits. Najma shared some information about Ramadan and brought some clothes that Muslim wear. The children also listened to a story to learn about Ramadan and made crafts to celebrate the occasion.

We are looking forward to spring, but just a friendly reminder: please dress your child appropriately for the weather. If it snows or the temperature is low, children will still need snow pants and mittens. Thank you for your cooperation!

SA 102

Lily, Xin & Tharani

In January, the school-agers celebrated Chinese New Year by making hand pulled noodles and wooden stick lanterns. For hand pulled noodles, they have learned that Chinese noodles have more than 4000 years of history and there are thousands of varieties of noodles in China. According to the recipe, the children measured flour, water and salt to make a dough. Then cut the dough into small pieces and soaked in the water for one hour. The children enjoyed pulling the small dough into a long strip. We cooked the noodles and served them with soy sauce. For the wooden stick Lanterns, the children made 25 stick triangles, hot glued them together and decorated them with red glossy paper. With the handle and tassel, the children used wooden sticks and orange yarn to make them.

Here comes the month of February. The children showed a strong interest in using recycled materials to create a kitchen. They made a refrigerator, tables, chairs, stove and sink. After completing their construction, they excitedly told the teacher to display it in the classroom. Although the children didn't have opportunities for outdoor play due to the cold weather, the children enjoyed various fun indoor physical activities. Two of the boys used recycled materials to create a blue ball and a basketball rock. They played basketball with their peers in the classroom. For Valentine Day they created their own cards for their loved ones.

In March, we invited teacher Najma to talk about Ramadan with the children. The children have learned Ramadan is the month the Muslim people do fasting; they can only eat or drink before sunrise and after the sun sets. In addition, she showed two pairs of children's clothes that are for little boys and girls. She did a demonstration of taqiyah on one child. Also, she showed all the things that she needs when she prays. During March break week, the children enjoyed soap water play, they used a straw to blow bubbles and collected them in a container. But the most things they liked to do are making Chinese hand pulled noodles and strawberry tart.

As the weather gets warmer, we look forward to spending more time outdoors.

SA 104

By: Sajiththa & Firdous

Our December celebrations were filled with joy and creativity! The children performed wonderfully in our Christmas celebration dance, showcasing their talent and enthusiasm. We also had a blast making beautiful snow globes and holiday cards. During winter break, the fun continued with exciting sledding adventures and baking delicious lemon-orange cookies. The creativity flowed as we explored the art of crafting 3D salt crystal Christmas trees, which turned out to be an incredible hands-on experience!

In January, we kicked off the new year with excitement and creativity. The children crafted personalized New Year cards for friends, families, and teachers, setting the tone for a fresh start. We also celebrated Chinese New Year by making beautiful couplets and colorful lanterns, learning about the cultural significance of these traditions. The highlight of the month was making yummy dumplings, and the kids were thrilled to try their hand at this delicious cooking experience. On the other hand, our budding engineers explored buildings through various blocks such as VEX Robotics, IO Blocks, and gear creations, constructing different types of structures and discovering the basics of engineering and design.

February was a month filled with love, history, and creativity. The children celebrated Valentine's Day by making heartfelt cards and painting wooden hearts for Family Day. For a fun twist, we also baked strawberry cupcakes, challenging ourselves to come up with healthier alternatives while keeping it tasty. In honor of Black History Month, we took time to learn about the inspiring lives of Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks and their remarkable fights for freedom and equality. The children gained a deeper understanding of the importance of justice and respect for all. For our extended project, we had a great time building a city in groups! The children worked together to create different buildings and structures, including a movie theater made from popcorn cups, parks, roads, the CN Tower using air-dry clay, a galaxy pool, and houses. This fun competition fostered teamwork, creativity, and a love for construction!

March was another busy month with Ramadan. Firdous explained to the children about Ramadan. Children were curious about the hours of fasting. To enhance the knowledge and know more about Ramadan children worked together to create a mosque with recycle boxes. They also made crafts like phases of the moon to represent the flow Ramadan.

We are so proud of all the progress the children have made and look forward to more exciting projects and learning experiences in the coming months!

POP - SA

By: Magda & Hamida

Yeah, spring has arrived finally!

Now we don't have to put on a snow pants or heavy jackets so we can spend more time outdoor playing their favorite sport like soccer, 4 square and basketball. Having a running race around the field in the fresh air. Also group games, shark attack, etc. The children love and enjoy running around in the fresh air digging for worms so they can put it in a special jar to take care of or happily catch a butterfly. Also, they like to go to a park close by to enjoy and walk and play in the different equipment.

In January we celebrated the new year also the Chinese New Year with the beautiful colorful red dresses and suites. Children decorated our room with different Chinese art and Chinese writing wishing everyone a happy healthy new year.

We made Chinese fried rice with chicken and port. The children co-operated together to cut lots of different vegetable and they added eggs. They discussed all the nutrition values of all the ingredients we used. A group of the children set up the table and they all sat down to celebrate and enjoy together a healthy meal they made themselves.

In February we celebrated Valentine's Day and family day. The children made beautiful bracelets and necklaces to each other. We also celebrated the children's birthdays. One child asked to make fruit salad to celebrate her birthday so we made a very yummy and healthy fruit salad to enjoy together.

We started to introduce wood working activities since January until now, each child has the chance to do the line test a few times. Some of them wanted to continue, for others it was very challenging. Only a few continued to do it if they have time, especially one child who comes from school every day, he will say I'm doing wood working today I have no homework or he will say I will finish my homework fast, then I will start my wood project. He is very excited about it; he wanted to learn new steps every day about wood. He did a few projects so far and is still continuing. He started with a simple cutting, sanding to more complicated ones and he is very excited about that, he shows his mom every day what he accomplished. Now he is doing a project to give to his teacher. This month, March the children are interested in creating different things with Hama beads, like rainbow shapes, butterfly, a poke ball, also paper plane and origami, also preparing for Easter and Eid Al Fitr celebration.

Enjoy the spring and be safe !

POP – KG

By: Jolentha

Spring has just arrived and we hear the sound of birds chirping the new beginnings of nature has started to bloom as well. We've also been busy here at Prince of Peace Kindergarten program, let's recap all the events that happened since January.

In January, the start of our new year 2025, saying goodbye to 2024. The children have been very interested in folding paper planes. It started with simple dart planes which lead to learning multiple different types of paper planes, planes that flew long distant, trick planes and planes that were just meant to look at. Since the children were very interested in paper planes, I came across a calendar store and found 365 days of planes to make. Each day we would take turns folding the plane of the day. Winter months were upon us, of course we spent lots of time outdoors building snow mountains, cakes, and sledding. We didn't just play snow outdoors, we also brought them inside to do snow experiments, such as observing how much water is a bucket of snow and also looking at what lies in the white snow. Is the melted snow as clear as we think it would be? We also took food colouring to dye the snow to make pretend snow cones. We used snowball maker molds to make round snow balls and place them in our cones from the cup and ball game. Sprinkle it with some colour and there we have our snow cone/ ice cream.

We spent time indoors learning to play board games such as Candy Land, Connect Four, and Noisy Bingo. The children got really good and taking turns and learning to play with games with rules.

Building forts was also a big interest for the children at POP. They love building cozy corners using big blocks and then putting bean bags and stuff animals into the space. Brining in dramatic food also into their little club house. We also used empty recycled boxes and made a paw patrol tower and pup houses for our paw patrol dramatic play.

February, we celebrated Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day. For Chinese New Year, we got to experience activities using chopsticks to pick up objects from one tray to another. We also tried using chopsticks to eat our snack with. We got to watch a video from TVO Kids talking about one child celebrates the event and another child who knows nothing about the celebration and learns about the celebration through the process. During Valentines the children helped decorate our classroom with lots of love and hearts

During our March break we got to have some nice warm weather. We got to go for walks in our neighborhood and going to venture to our newly built park by Agnes Mcphail. During last year summer we were watching the process of the old park being torn down and a new park being built back up. This March Break we got to experience the new structures and climbing apparatus of the park. The children liked the new structures and the new ways to explore their gross motor skills.

Even though spring has sprung the weather is still fluctuating from hot and cold. Please remember to dress accordingly to the weather. We hope to see more spring weather coming into April. For those celebrating Ramadan, Eid Mubarak to you and for those celebrating Easter, Happy Easter. Wishing everyone a wonderful Spring Journey.

