

March 2017

A Message from our Teachers

February was a short month at preschool and flew by quickly! We are eagerly anticipating warmer days and sunshine ahead for March, which means spring is hopefully on its way! We have had a busy month with a successful 'Friendship Day,' trips outside to the park on warmer days and many wonderful visitors that have added a richness to our learning about community helpers.

Our visits from a Dental Hygienist, a Fire Fighter, a NICU Nurse, and a Police Canine Dog Handler sparked the children's interest in taking care of others. The children re-enacted these roles in a variety of learning experiences around the classroom and in the Studio.



The children especially loved practicing their pretend teeth brushing skills in our sensory bin filled with goey green toothpaste 'slime' and taking care of animals at our 'pet shelter' in the dramatic play area. We greatly appreciate the time and talents of our parent visitors. Thank you so much for sharing your expertise with us!



This month we look forward to focusing on the children's emerging interests by exploring Movement. Some children are interested in how cars and other vehicles move. They have been building ramps and bridges for their vehicles with the blocks. Other children have been exploring physical activities with balls and beanbags and tunnels and they curious about how our bodies can move in different ways. Another group of children has been intrigued by the ocean creatures in the song, 'Slippery Fish' and the book, 'Octopus' Garden." We will help the children create our own pretend underwater garden in the dramatic play area and discover how these amazing animals live and move in their watery habitat throughout the next few weeks.

As spring arrives, we will also be starting our own indoor garden. If you or a family member have a 'green thumb,' we would be grateful for your help and expertise with this group project. Please feel free to approach us in the next few weeks if you have some time to donate to this worthwhile and ongoing group project.

In the studio, we will be focusing on creating and gathering our best artwork for the annual Art Show Fundraiser that will take place towards the end of May. The Art Show is an evening with our preschool families and friends featuring your children's art creations in a beautiful venue. It is an evening for families to get together and enjoy some food and conversation with our preschool community. This fundraiser is our largest and most important of the year, which contributes to the school's operating budget. Your child's artwork will be displayed for you to bid on, along with a few larger art pieces that all the children have created together. We will have a date and more detailed information about the Art Show and how you can help in the next month as the date approaches.

Important Dates

March 23 & 24 - Organizational Days (No school)
March 27 - 31 - Spring Break (No school)
April 3 & 4 - Classes Resume

Moving into the remainder of the school year, we would kindly ask that families try to arrive on time so as not to interrupt the flow of our day and so that we may lock the doors 15 minutes after school begins. Parent volunteers, please ensure that you arrive at 9 am to help with the classroom set-up before the doors open. Your help and support is much appreciated.

Finally, we are in desperate need of guinea pig sitters! This is a wonderful way to teach your child and their siblings about responsibility and caring for living things. If you are willing to care for our beloved pets for a weekend, please sign up!

We look forward to a wonderful month ahead full of new opportunities and experiences with our preschoolers!

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,
Ms. Danielle & Mrs. Tammy

A Message from the Board

- Our popular Grocery card Fundraiser will be coming up again in March! As a reminder you can purchase Safeway and/or Community Natural Foods gift cards and a portion of the money raised will go back to the school. Watch for more information in the coming weeks on how you and your family/friends can participate.
- A reminder to all families that you will be receiving your respective tuition receipts by mid March for tax purposes. Please keep an eye out for an email from our Treasurer!



Student Biography



Ms. Stella is teaching at Discovery as a student teacher from January to April 2017. She is studying Early Childhood Education in the 5th semester at the Protestant University of Applied Sciences in Freiburg, Germany. She has previously interned at various kindergarten classes in Germany.

Ms. Stella is thrilled not only to discover the difference between Germany's and Canada's pedagogical system, but also about getting to know a foreign culture and to meet new people.

She enjoys reading stories and doing movement and outdoor activities with her students. In her view, fulfilling the children's desire to move is an important task for every child care institution.

Since Ms. Stella never got the opportunity to experience the Reggio Emilia approach in practise, she looks forward to experience it at Discovery. She values the warm and welcoming behaviour of everyone at the preschool and is delighted, that she's got the chance to take part in this amazing community for the next few months.

As part of Ms. Stella's school work she will be sending parents an online survey in hopes of gathering feedback about balancing work and family life. Please keep an eye out for an upcoming email.

Wishing everyone a great March!

Discovery Preschool Executive Board Members

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