



October 2016

A Message from our Teachers

September has come and gone as quickly as the leaves have changed on the trees. It has been filled with much laughter, excitement and friendship building, and we have loved getting to know each child and family more and more each day.

This month we used circles as a symbol of us all coming together as a community of explorers and friends. Together all three classes reflected on how we would keep that community a happy and safe place and created our community agreement - keeping ourselves, others, and our space safe. The children also created an abundance of beautiful circle art, and the 4's class participated in International Dot Day (based on *The Dot* by Peter H. Reynolds) by 'making their mark' on light catchers hung in our studio space.

Through our exploration of circles and dots arose a new interest in colours all around us! The 3's class has been especially interested in talking about their favourite colour and sorting objects by colour in our sensory bins. The 4's and 3-5's classes have demonstrated a curiosity and excitement about the way colours change and mix together when working with paints, coloured water, or play dough. We have already conducted some wonderful experiments and experiences and will continue with this interest in the coming weeks.



Please see our new bulletin board in the boot room, our Facebook page, and our documentation board for weekly updates and more information about all that we are learning.

We are excited to also explore the changing colours of our natural world as we venture outdoors to our neighbourhood and the playground. Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather each day.

"Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn." - O. Fred Donaldson

As we have gotten to know our curious and playful 3's class over the past month, we have implemented a new routine that empowers them to make choices based on their own needs and to engage in longer periods of play. Maria Montessori said that "Play is the work of the child," and it provides endless opportunities for your child to develop their social, cognitive, language, and other critical skills. We have already observed a huge success with this new approach for our youngest preschoolers, and we are happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the changes made.

Looking to the upcoming month, we are excited to have our Halloween celebrations taking place on Thursday, October 27th (3's and 3-5's) and Friday, October 28th (4's). Siblings and parents are welcome to attend this day as well. We invite you to forego packing a snack for your child that day, as we will have coffee, tea, flavoured water, and treats. There will be a sign up sheet for anyone wishing to contribute to the celebrations. Costumes are not mandatory, but welcome and encouraged!



Please also watch for an email regarding field trips and in-class visitors for the upcoming month as we confirm details and dates.

A big thank you to everyone who has brought in beautiful items to add to our loose parts collection! We are continuing to collect for those who still have some interesting found or natural materials to contribute.

We are looking forward to another exciting month with all of you!

Kindly,
Miss Danielle and Mrs Tammy

Important Dates

Oct 7 – Organizational Day (no school)
Oct 10 – Thanksgiving Day (no school)
Oct 20 – Cleaning Day (6:30-9:30pm)
Oct 27 & 28 Halloween celebrations
Nov 1 & 4 – Picture Day



A Message from the Board

Parent Volunteer Information

- A reminder to parents that you must have completed your Police Check and Parent Volunteer orientation prior to volunteering in the classroom. This is an important licensing requirement and in some cases may impede us from running the class if the correct teacher/parent to child ratios are not in place. Further a reminder to all parents to not prop open the door during drop off and pick up. Thank you for your continued help & support in this area!



Photo Day information

- Preschool photos will be on November 1st (3's and 3-5's classes) and November 4th (4's class). Photo proofs will be sent home the following week with order forms with a deadline that allows for pictures to be returned by the end of the month – just in time for the holidays 😊

School Printer

- The school printer is becoming old and has stopped working from time to time. If your family has a printer (preferably color) that you are no longer using or you know someone who has a spare lying around the preschool would happily take it off your hands. The printer allows us to showcase what the children have been focused on and helps us in our Reggio goal of documentation. Please speak to one of the teachers if you have any questions.



Did you know we are on Facebook? We're excited to have another avenue of communication to share weekly updates and to showcase the work that your children are doing! Find us at: <https://www.facebook.com/discoverypreschoolcalgary>

Discovery Preschool Executive Board Members

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