



news  
DECEMBER 2012

## A Message from our Teachers – Kristi & Aleks

WOW! It's been a great first month of classes! Everyone seems to be settling in, getting more comfortable and getting to know one another. We started off asking the children questions about themselves, getting to know them and encouraging them to recognize all their wonderful qualities. The morning 4's class had shown a lot of interest in rainbows, which has led to painting, drawing and making collage rainbows, and the children have been excited to decorate our 'rainbow room'. This has intrigued the other classes to begin making rainbows as well, and has encouraged learning around colors, mixing colors to see what happens, and discussion about where rainbows come from. We are looking forward to working together to make a big rainbow with lots of different materials. If you have any recycled materials that may be useful that you would like to bring in that would be greatly appreciated! (For example - bows, ribbons, wrapping paper, fabric, tissue paper etc.) Also if you happen to have prisms and small flashlights that you would be willing to bring in, that would give the children a chance to explore the colors in a light rainbow. Thanks so much for your help!

All classes have had a chance at the end of the day to work through an obstacle course, which has seemed to be very popular with all of the children! They seem very keen to work out their muscles and are being very patient waiting for their turn while cheering on their friends. As they get used to how the materials and equipment are used we will encourage the children to make an obstacle course of their own for their friends to work through. With this work around body awareness we have also been drawing self-portraits in studio time and have just introduced Mat Man, which is a song they can work through to draw all parts of the body. It is a really great project to watch all year long and see how far they have come since drawing their first 'mat man'. We will also begin working on fine motor skills such as dexterity, pencil grasp and cutting skills.

And of course what child doesn't love dinosaurs!? There has been a lot of talk among all 3 classes about dinosaurs, studio time to make their own dinosaur to bring home and discussions about how

### Reminders

- Last day of class for this year December 19, 2012
- Classes resume on January 7, 2013

### Fundraising

Mabel's Labels – order at [www.discoveryyps.mabelslabels.com](http://www.discoveryyps.mabelslabels.com)  
Canada Safeway and Calgary Co-op gift cards (see attachment)



they may have become extinct. Some of the children's suggestions were "It was the meteorites that came from the sky and hit them", "All the water dried up and the dinosaurs died", "They had no food and then their bones were dug from the ground". We are looking forward to focusing more on these subjects and seeing what else stems from these ideas, as it has already brought on talk about volcanoes, which of course we will make one and watch it erupt in the coming weeks!

We can't wait to learn more alongside all of the children, and we had an amazing quote from Hennessey in the morning 3's class that will be a big part of all of our classes:

"Life's all about switching things up sometimes"

## **A Message from the Board**

Dear Discovery Families,

We are delighted to report that we are successfully up and running the children are all so happy and having fun and the feedback from parents has all been overwhelmingly positive!

### **Thank You Kristi & Aleks!**

Thank you to Miss Kristi, Miss Aleks and each and every family for making Discovery a place where our children can come together to play, imagine, explore, learn and develop in the true spirit of community. It has been an honour to be able to witness the blossoming of experiences and the growth of relationships in the classroom. We have received so many heart warming comments speaking to the excitement and contentment of the children in our space. Thank you.

### **Licensing Update**

We are very pleased to announce we have passed the first surprise visit from our Licensing Officer, Christina Miguez. Christina was pleased with her inspection of our program and that we are following our Policies and Procedures to ensure the well being of our children. She plans to come back for the next surprise visit sometime in December.

### **Advertising Campaign**

We are working an advertising campaign, headed up by Leanna Baxter, Advertising Director, to fill the spaces to build the school up.

### **Fundraising**

As a non-profit school, which has undergone a challenging start to the year, our fundraising will be an essential part of our school's success this year our goal is \$10,000 to go toward operations and compensation. Already efforts are underway. We are planning our bi-annual Silent Auction, Socials and our Grocery Store Gift Cards promotion. \*\*See additional attachment\*\*



If any family would like to contribute with ideas, help or funds please contact Jennifer Ireland or Charmaine Armstrong.



### **Thank you & Goodbye!**

Susannah Tawse, Jill Crockett and Susan Esson our 3 co-chairs that stepped up at the AGM this September to help rebuild our school have resigned their positions. From the rest of your team we would like to give you three a very heartfelt thank you for all that you did for our school and community. It was such a tremendous pleasure to work with all of you. You each so selflessly gave so much. We could go on about what wonderful people these three are but those of you who know them already know how true this is. Jill is moving away and we wish her and her family all the very best! Susannah and Susan are remaining very active members in our school each fulfilling a few volunteer roles and helping out wherever there is need. Susan, we would also like to give you a special thank you for all your generosity and efforts that made our Fall Fair such a fun day for our community. Thank you!

### **Welcome aboard!**

Both Charmaine Armstrong and Kevin Magowan have volunteered to join the school's executive committee. Each of their families are new to the school this year with their oldest child and wish to invest in the future strength of the school by getting involved now. A big thanks to both of you! If there are any families who might be interested in joining our board as well please feel free to talk to anyone of us!

### **Call for Community Support**

We have successfully re-established the loving community based school we all want for our children. It is now time for us to come together in the next phase for Discovery. We are currently enjoying smaller class sizes where our children are able to build strong relationships with their classmates. This too presents the opportunity to be more intimately involved in your children's preschool experience. We are in need of filling a variety of fun and interesting parent volunteer jobs to help develop an enriched program and school.

We are asking families to consider taking on a second role in the school until we are able to build up the school's population. It is also possible to share a second job. For example, if you can do some of the sewing, or could do laundry every second week, the community could look to make this work as well.

### **Here are some of the roles that remain vacant:**

Registrar's Assistant, Registration Day Committee (2 of 3), Fundraising Committee (General), Substitute Teacher (needed for every class section), Documentation (needed for every class section), Laundry and Recycling, Clean Up Day Coordinator, Field Trip, Sewing, Librarian, Website. Thanks for considering this!

### **Thank you to all the families!**

Thank you to all the families - together we have re-built a safe caring and inspiring learning environment for our children - it took everyone support to get here and what we have now for our kids is really special.



### **Help Spread the Word**



We are currently not operation with full enrollment so if you know another family who is looking for a wonderful preschool go ahead and offer for them to consider Discovery - we are welcome to families coming to visit our classrooms to see if it is a good fit for them. Please contact Alexandra Weaver for registration information, check our website or talk to Kristi and Aleks. Thanks!

### Clean up Day Information

Now that the kids are back in the school and playing, we need to make sure the space and the toys are kept clean. We have 3 Clean Up days this year, to occur on the following dates:

- Thursday, December 20, 2012 in the morning;
- Thursday, March 21, 2013 in the afternoon; and,
- Monday, June 24, 2013 in the morning.

Specific times will be provided closer to the date, but expect to be there for approximately 3 hours and please note that clean up days are for adults only please.

As a reminder, part of our responsibilities with Discovery Preschool includes helping out with one clean up day during the school year. If you had signed up for one of these dates in September, you will still be on the list for that day. If, however, you had signed up for the October date, you will need to sign up for another date. Please sign up early to ensure you get a space on the date that will work best for you.

As we are still in need of a Clean up Day Coordinator, Jill, one of our former co-chairs and who has actually moved out of the community has graciously agreed to help out until she can transition this responsibility to someone else in the community. Please email her at [jillcrockett@gmail.com](mailto:jillcrockett@gmail.com) or call her at 403-474-8349 to sign up or if you need more information.

### Discovery preschool executive board members

Kevin Magowan	Chair	<a href="mailto:kevin.magowan@gmail.com">kevin.magowan@gmail.com</a>
Jennifer Ireland	Vice Chair/Fundraising	<a href="mailto:jenny.ireland@gmail.com">jenny.ireland@gmail.com</a>
Eric Ireland	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:eric.ireland@gmail.com">eric.ireland@gmail.com</a>
Charmaine Armstrong	Vice Chair/Fundraising	<a href="mailto:cbosh@shaw.ca">cbosh@shaw.ca</a>
Alex Weaver	Registrar	<a href="mailto:alweaver@shaw.ca">alweaver@shaw.ca</a>
Leanna Baxter	Advertising Director	<a href="mailto:leanna@leannabaxter.com">leanna@leannabaxter.com</a>
Cindy Byckal	Facilities Director	<a href="mailto:cbyckal@hotmail.com">cbyckal@hotmail.com</a>
Kim Todd	Secretary	<a href="mailto:kimtodd@shaw.ca">kimtodd@shaw.ca</a>

Board meetings are held on the first Monday evening of the month. You are welcome to join us. If interested in attending or becoming a board member, please contact us.

