



February 2016

## ***A Message from our Teachers***

January has ended and it's been an exciting month of exploring what makes each of us unique! Since returning from the winter break, all three classes have demonstrated a shared interest in talking and learning about themselves. We have expanded upon this interest through using many different materials to create faces and talk about the features that make up our faces, and have further explored our individual faces through self-portrait sketches, clay faces, and water colour self-portraits. This interest has evolved into exploring our many expressions and emotions. The children have enjoyed acting out and identifying 'new' emotions beyond happy, sad, and mad, through colour with "My Many Coloured Days" and looking at Van Gogh artwork.

Another emerging interest has been in identifying and writing the letters of our names! Whether creating letters with play dough, tinkering materials, paint or white boards, many of the children have loved creating the first letter of their name and learning the first letter of their friends' names.

This month has presented many opportunities for us to talk about our families. The children especially enjoyed talking about the special trips and holiday traditions they participated in over the winter break. This conversation generated a huge interest in travel and airplane play when many of the children started lining up chairs and taking recommendations for travel destinations! We have enjoyed having our dramatic play 'airplane' and the 4's have demonstrated an interest in another thing that flies – bees! We will be beginning a study over the next few weeks and are planning a field trip for the 4's class to Chinook Honey Company (in Okotoks) on Friday, March 4th to see an active beehive to further expand our learning about bees. Since this field trip is outside of Calgary, we strongly suggest carpooling and parents are welcome to join in on the fun for a \$10 charge.

As well, to extend this conversation about our families, we ask that each child bring a sentence, a drawing, or a photo telling us what special activity your family does on Family Day (Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>).

### **Important Dates**

**Feb 11 & 12 – Teacher's Convention –no school**

**Feb 15 – Family Day – no school**

**Feb 18 – Clean Up Day (6:30-9:30pm)**

Our Friendship Day Party will take place on **Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**. This will be a normal school day, but we would ask for anyone who is interested to please

sign up to bring snacks or help with set up. Each child is encouraged to bring a game (simple, cooperative games that your child knows well are best) from home to play with on that day. Valentines or Friendship cards can be brought from home if you wish, and is a good opportunity to practice writing names and letters. We will bag any cards or treats and send them home at the end of the day.

We are thrilled that our music sessions with Ms. Amoriza have continued into the New Year! The appearance of the “singing lady” is always a huge excitement for the children, and we are so happy to have the opportunity to bring new songs, games, and instruments to our school.

Moving into the remainder of the school year, we would kindly ask that families 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 classroom set-up before the doors open. A friendly reminder that you are not permitted to bring siblings on your volunteer days, due to licensing regulations. Your support is much appreciated!

Warm regards,  
Aleks and Danielle

## *A Message from the Board*

### **Housekeeping Items**

- As most of you likely know, the outside front door into the school continues to be a bit challenging to open at times. It is very sticky and requires a strong tug. If you are not able to open it or the door is locked, please ring the doorbell or call the school phone number at 403-465-1141 to have someone come up and open let you in. Also, at no time should the door be propped open. If there is a problem with the door, please let the teachers know and a parent volunteer can be responsible for manning it. The church is looking into a solution to this ongoing challenge.
- A quick reminder to put a change of clothes in your child’s backpack in case your child needs extra clothes to change into during the class.
- If the doorbell rings while you are volunteering at the school and it is not another parent, please direct that person to the main office doors on the east side of the building (26A St). The church has expressed concern that we have been letting unauthorized people into the school from our outside door. There isn’t any reason for anyone, outside of preschool families, to be using that day during the day unless they have their own key. This is a security concern for the school and the church. Thank you for your help in dealing with this concern.

### **Parent Volunteers**

- If any volunteers are feeling overwhelmed by their volunteer responsibilities, have questions about their responsibilities or are wanting to do more at the school, please contact Parent Volunteer Coordinator, Melissa Frankiw, at [mfrankiw@gmail.com](mailto:mfrankiw@gmail.com).
- Reminder to parents about the importance of the parent volunteer schedule. There must always be at least 1 adult to 7 kids. This is particularly important for the



afternoon 3-5 class as there is only one teacher. If there are not enough adults, unfortunately the kids will be sent home as this is a licensing issue. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment!

## Clean Up Day

Our second school clean up day is fast approaching on Thursday, February 18 from 6:30-9:30pm. Thank you to all who have signed up! Please keep in mind that every family is required to participate in one clean up day. If you have any questions about clean up day, please e-mail Lori-Anne Toone at [lorianne.toone@gmail.com](mailto:lorianne.toone@gmail.com). If you have not yet signed up for a clean up day, please go to: [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0549AFAC2DABFE3-cleanup](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0549AFAC2DABFE3-cleanup). A clean school is so important for our children! Thank you!

## Goodbye

It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to Leanna Baxter, our Advertising Director Parent Volunteer, and her son, Liam (4's class). Leanna has been a very active and dedicated board member for almost 4 years at Discovery Preschool. We would like to sincerely thank Leanna for all that she has done for the school. She and her family are moving to Copenhagen for a career opportunity. Leanna, you and your family will be dearly missed and we wish you all the best in your new adventure!

## Discovery Preschool Executive Board Members

Maria Wilding	Chair	Rebecca (3's)
Melanie Gray	Vice-Chair	Cole (3's)
Peter Maitland	Treasurer	Caleb (4's)
Melissa Frankiw	Parent Job Coordinator	Kennedy (3's)
Cindy Byckal	Co-Registrar	Charlie B-L (4's)
Lisa Roberts	Co-Registrar	Callum (4's)
Mary Spooner	Facilities Director	Georgia (4's)
Linda Tran	Fundraising Director	Maddox (3's)
Julie Panteluk	Secretary	Charlie P (4's)

