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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Next BOD meeting February 12th at 5:15pm

FROM PAT'S DESK

Happy New Year! A HUGE thank you to families who donated toys, clothing and food items to our adopt-a-family through Winnipeg's Cheer Board. Our family was a single mother of four children who had been unable to work for almost a year due to an illness. She said if it wasn't for our organization there wouldn't be a Christmas in her house this year! She was clearly overwhelmed by our generosity as we loaded bag after bag into her home. It was a very emotional experience and we truly felt her gratitude, so thank you!

I also want to thank the children and staff that helped organize the info board and wrapped all the presents. To me, these types of life lessons and experiences will be remembered for a long time. It always amazes me how generous this community is and I am proud to be a part of it!

On another note it is re-licensing time! Over the last few weeks we had our yearly fire and health inspections. At our last staff meeting I reviewed all of our protocols and procedures including our safety plans and protocols for reporting child abuse. Safety is always our first priority and it is so important to review and if necessary revise our plans so we all feel prepared about what to do in any type of emergency.

TAMMIE'S TIDBITS!

Lately we have been having a problem with missing boots and shoes and are working in partnership with the school to help find a resolution. For children in grades 1, 2, 3 and 4 we are now storing shoes and winter boots in the blue/white cupboards in the hallway just outside the MPR doors. We hope this will be a solution to this problem moving forward.

Children in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6 have had the opportunity to join a Domino Challenge with Tammie. We are playing Mexican Carnival Train Dominos and tracking the scores. Prizes and awards will be given out the week before spring break. The kids have really caught on quickly how to play. We

play with a Double 15 set and so they have had to practice their math and counting skills while playing. The score sheet is posted in the main room. All scores will be added then divided by the number of games played to get the final scores.

We are looking for many loose parts, these include but not limited to: juice can lids, milk caps, yogurt cups, dead pen cases, buttons, fabric scrapes, curling irons with chords cut off, egg cartons, small empty boxes of pantry items, paper drawn on one side only, etc. **BEFORE YOU THROW SOMETHING AWAY, THINK, "CAN A CHILD FIND ANOTHER USE FOR IT?"**

STAFF AND PROGRAM NEWS

The staff have been observing and writing beautiful "**Learning Stories**" about all of your children. Our hope is at the end of the year each of you will have one story about your child's time with us.

At Christmas I thought it would be a nice idea to have the staff write a learning story about their own favorite Christmas/holiday tradition.

On December 11th we had our staff meeting and holiday party and every staff spoke and/or read their story to the group. It was a lovely and humbling experience.

Everyone spoke so eloquently about their memories during the holiday season. Several staff spoke about traditions rooted deeply in their culture and all of us reflected upon wonderful memories with family and friends.

Overall it was a wonderful learning experiences and I want to thank the staff for sharing and

trusting us with their special memories.

On November 30th we hosted our first ever Teacher appreciation day breakfast! It was a huge success! Thanks to Suzanne and Tammie for their considerable help organizing, planning the meal and purchasing the supplies.

We have now planned to hosted a Grab and Go breakfast for all the EAs in the school on February 12th from 8:30 -10:30 am.

We are very fortunate to be partnering with Robertson School and Community!



Specialized Services
for Children + Youth

*Come join us for the public launch of the SSCY
Together is Better Capital Campaign.*

Enjoy the wonderful sounds of Winnipeg's own Fred Penner and take part in face painting, balloon making and more.

We'll be gathering at The Forks on
Sunday, February 2, 2014,
from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. to celebrate!



Come one, come all and help us kick-off this amazing
initiative for families living with children with special needs.



SSCY will be launching its public campaign on Sunday Feb. 2 from 11:00- 1:00pm. You are invited to attend this wonderful event!

Favorite Quote of the Month:

"Only children believe they are capable of anything."

~ Paulo Coelho

KINDER CORNER NEWS

The kinders have been focusing on winter and snowy days over the last month. Jean, Arlyn and Meagan have kept them busy doing a variety of snow crafts. This month we will be focusing on kindness and compassion around Valentine's Day. We also hope to visit a senior's home in the area on Valentine's Day!

Your children have been participating in a yoga class on Wednesday afternoon! Brianna has planned several themes to keep the children's interest such as Chinese New Year and winter forest animals. So if you see your child doing "downward dog" in the bath he/she is re-enacting the yoga poses they have learned!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THESE DECEMBER, JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BABIES!

CHILDREN:

Ryan, Marisa, Frank,
Ethan M.E
JB, Isabella, Eve, Evan,
Candice, Orianna, Kylie, Ava

STAFF:

Marilyn, Myla, Jocelyn,
Meagan and Jean

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Next BOD meeting is
scheduled for February 12th
at 5:15 pm. Childcare and
dinner will be provided.

SCHOOL AGE NEWS

We hired a Yoga Instructor named Brianna from Prairie Roots yoga! She will be teaching yoga to the school agers every Thursday afternoon between 4:00-4:30 for the next ten weeks. Every child will have an opportunity to participate as the class will be rotated between the three different age groups!



PARENT NOTICES

We are in the final process of approving our new transportation policy. Once the Board of Directors approves it next month we will send out a copy to all of our families.

We would appreciate after you arrive in the morning to please walk your child down to their locker and assist them (if need be) getting their winter gear off before they join their group. Our ratios are 1 staff to every 15 children and we don't have the capacity to have one staff person out in the hallway all morning watching the children at their lockers. Parents with children who require additional support needs will have their child's staff help them in their lockers. We appreciate your cooperation!

ME TO WE

Thank you for supporting our Bake Sales we held just prior to the winter break! On December 12th we raised \$70.50 for Siloam Mission and on December 13th we raised \$86.50 for the Red Cross Typhoon Haiyan! A huge thank you to all the children who helped organize this event and a special thanks to Suzanne for baking all the delicious muffins and cookies.

February is "I love to Read" month and we will be accepting donations of any new or gently used books to donate to the Children's Hospital book drive. We will have a box in the MPR to leave your donations.

Thanks again for your continued support!



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**Learning and
Growing Together.**