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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Next BOD Meeting, March 4

FROM PAT'S DESK

January and February are typically busy months for me in the child care field. It is re-licensing time, summer grant proposal deadlines and most of my committee work tends to be in full swing. This past six weeks have been particularly busy as I prepare for my maternity leave departure by spending time with Donna and training her on the new position as Assistant Director. She has already been a wonderful addition to our team and I value her experience and education she has attained in the field. There are several weeks to go yet and I haven't decided on a specific end date. I have heard that your third is a bit of a wild card so I am going to try to proceed until either baby arrives or my doctor says it's time to be off!

Re-licensing time went very well and was a very smooth process this year. Our Educators meeting in January was spent reviewing all of our regulations and best practices. If at any time any parents or guardians would like to review our safety manual please just let me know and we can set up a day and time to discuss. It is always available for everyone.

I was asked to write an article about our curriculum plan on Human Rights issues from this past fall. It will be published in the next Bridges magazine. I will post it on our website once I have received a copy.

OUR NEW ASSISTANT DIRECTOR!

Hi my name is Donna Tom-Brannan and I am so thrilled to have joined all of the children, families and staff here at REEP! I am very passionate about working with children, offering quality programs in the community and mentoring staff and students. I am originally from Ontario – having lived in Winnipeg for 7 years with my husband and 2 children. In my spare time I love scrapbooking, fishing, camping and snorkeling in the ocean. I have held a variety of positions over the years and have learned more from playing with children than from sitting behind a desk.

I am currently spending most of my time training with Pat in the office. I wish her all the best as she prepares for her maternity leave - but admit I am looking forward to her return although she has not yet left 😊. She is such a positive role model; sharing similar philosophies has helped us to get off to a great start! As Assistant Director, you may find me in the office, other times I will be joining the children in our program, playing in the gym, or just hanging out with everyone in the MPR. Feel free to stop in to say HELLO as I take the next little while to get to know all of you here at REEP.

KINDER CORNER NEWS

The past couple of months Moe the Mouse has continued to be a part of the program during our afternoon meetings. The children have since been able to share a sleepover with Moe and shared their experience with their peers through the pictures taken. Since then, Moe has introduced the children to his animal friends who make special letter sounds. They have enjoyed listening to stories together, scavenger hunts and games. Be on the lookout for another round of sleepovers in February and March with Moe and one of his animal friends. A letter and signup sheet will be out soon.

The kinder program has had a special guest recently; music and activity by Randy! The children enjoyed taking turns spinning the wheel of songs and the activity of flying a

balloon rocket. We hope he comes to visit soon! Thanks again Randy!

Arlyn and I have been able to attend workshops about emergent curriculum.

Emergent curriculum (defined by Wikipedia) is a way of planning curriculum based on the student's interest and passions as well as the teachers. Planning an emergent curriculum requires observation, documentation, creative brainstorming, flexibility and patience. Rather than starting with a lesson plan which requires a "hook" to get the children interested, emergent curriculum starts with the children's interests. This is not to say that the teacher has no input, in fact teachers may well have a general topic they think is

important for children to study and they may purposely include certain materials or experiences related to it as jumping off points.

Along with the many things incorporated into winter some of their interests have been ice crystals, space, motorcycles and babies (dolls). We have been trying to find ways to implement the children's interests into their daily explorations through small group activities, the set up of the room environment, incorporating discussions and visuals such as books related to their interests.

We invite our parents to speak to Arlyn or I if you have any questions or concerns.

Jean dela Cruz

SCHOOL AGE NEWS

Favorite Quote of the Month:

"Empathy is seeing with the eyes of another, listening with the ears of another and feeling with the heart of another."

Alfred Adler

It's hard to believe that I have already started to plan for our summer program. I have applied for a similar grant to last years from The Winnipeg Foundation regarding our Reading and creating with Illustrators.

I will also be submitting a grant proposal from The FACT Parent Child Coalition Centre focusing

on sports and recreation programs. If you know of anyone who can teach a particular sport, recreation or movement class please let me know.

We sometimes struggle finding instructors over the summer months.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THESE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BABIES!

CHILDREN:

Candice, Erik, Evan, Eve,
Gabby, Ava and Kylie!

STAFF:

Donna, Marilyn, Elaine,
Myla, Amy, Meagan,
Jeanneil, Sandra and Jean

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We held our last monthly
BOD meeting on February
11th @ 5:15 pm.

Our next BOD is scheduled
for Wednesday March 4th @
5:15 pm.

EDUCATORS NEWS

I am sad to report that Marilyn has taken a leave of absence until further notice. She had a tumble down her stairs at home, two weeks ago just before arriving for her morning shift. She is recuperating at home and we wish her a speedy recovery! In the meantime Amy has filled her shift until Marilyn hears more from her doctors.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome Angela Legaspi (Arlyn's niece) to our team! She will be working a few afternoons a week to accommodate some staffing shortages.

I would like to congratulate all the staff in such a successful re-licensing time!

RECIPE

Rainbow Smoothie

- 1.5 cups of fresh or frozen mango
- 1 banana
- 1, 6-8 ounce container of vanilla yogurt
- 1.5 cups of ice
- .5 cup of milk
- .5 cup of strawberries
- 4 whole strawberries

In a blender combine mango, banana, yogurt, ice and milk. Cover and blend until smooth. Divide mixture into four glasses. Add strawberries to blender, cover and blend until smooth. Gently pour strawberry mixture on top of mango mixture in glasses. Top with a strawberry if you would like.

Makes 4 servings.
Enjoy!

ME TO WE

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO OUR CHEER BOARD FAMILY AGAIN THIS YEAR.

THE RECIPIENTS WERE A SINGLE MOTHER WITH TWO TEENAGED BOYS. SHE WAS VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE FOOD AND GIFT CARD DONATIONS. SHE LEFT A WONDEFUL MESSAGE ON OUR VOICE MAIL AFTER THE BREAK INFORMING ME HOW IT REALLY WAS AN AMAZING CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR FOR THEM, SO THANK YOU!

PARENT INFO

This a friendly reminder that Spring Break forms will be sent out later this week. I have sent out a letter reminding families of the new charge implemented over winter and spring breaks. The parent manual will be updated shortly.

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**Learning and
Growing Together.**