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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Next BOD meeting June 19th at 5:15pm
- Next staff meeting June 19th at 6:30 pm.

FROM PAT'S DESK

As you all are aware your children have been participating in this year's outdoor challenge! Recently Tammie, Suzanne and I attended the Manitoba Nature Collaborative for Children group presented by fellow colleague Ron Blatz, Director of Discovery Children's centre. He has been an excellent role model and mentor in the community by promoting the importance of outdoor time for children.

Last year I had the great pleasure of spending a Saturday with Claire Warden, an Educational Consultant from Perthshire, Scotland. The following is a list of reasons why she believes children should go outside:

- 1. A sense of freedom-** Children need a sense of autonomy if they are to develop a belief in themselves.
- 2. Experiencing the weather-** totally unique aspect of outdoor play: need to feel it.
- 3. Sensorial learning that changes with the seasons-** these experiences let us feel the wind, smell the grass - helps develop the brain!
- 4. Learning through movement-** The physical mastery of the body is important for the reinforcement of neural pathways in the brain that are connected to all aspects of learning.
- 5. Developing positive attitudes towards the world we live in; Citizenship-** Involving children in the creation and care for outdoors environment in a meaningful way will help them become caring and responsible citizens.
- 6. Experiencing biodiversity-** If children are going to look after the world they live in they need to be aware of it!
- 7. Becoming environmentally aware-** Children are more likely to grow up protecting what they love!
- 8. Enjoyment!**

TAMMIE'S TIDBITS!

"Jordan the Squirrel" Story:

A father and his daughter in our program saw a crow beating up on a baby squirrel, they chased the crow away and saved the wild squirrel. He became tame quite quickly and after some bottle feeding he learnt how to drink from the water bottle.

After staying with the family for a few weeks they gave him to me to release him at my country home. I have 10 acres of land, all surrounded by trees, a perfect home for a squirrel. Jordan spent a week in my shed in a large cage with his "nest" hanging in one corner (with the father's sock still as a bed). After a week in the shed we moved his cage outside and opened the door, my daughter asked how will we tell which squirrel is Jordan. I said that he would be the only squirrel that will let us pat him and jump on our backs. I think Jordan loves his new home!



SCHOOL AGE NEWS

Money Savvy Kids: By Gordon Pape & Deborah Kerbel

I found this book at McNally a few months ago and was intrigued. Having an almost six year old, my husband and I wanted to find out about what is a good age to teach children about money and when we should start giving him an allowance.

This book had a lot of good information - some of it was a bit overwhelming and scary. New research is stating that by the time my six year old is ready to go to University, a four year degree out of Province will cost \$100,000 in 2025. Whoa! That's a lot of money that I don't have in my bank account especially since I have two children!

This book offers good ideas about opening an RESP and saving now for the future. It adapts similar concepts of that of David Chilton, author of the Wealthy Barber. It offers real advice for any family on how we can teach good money concepts to all ages of children and how to make it fun! It recommends giving your child an allowance because we wouldn't let a child drive a car without giving them lessons first. It discusses not giving

an allowance based on household chores since adults don't get paid to do the dishes or the laundry. Chores gives children a sense of pride on its own, a role in the family unit.

The book also encourages setting up three separate accounts; one for spending, saving and charity. We often think of charity as giving. In Hebrew the word charity is "tzedekah" which translates into justice - a perceptual quest for fairness, something kids at this age can really understand!

So when your child has been talking about the money club these are some of the concepts and ideas Tammie and Jocelyn have been discussing. This book offers a large variety of websites, money game sites and play ideas to get your child thinking about money. We recently redesigned our dramatic play area into an office-video store.

Over the next few weeks the children in this group will visit the BMO bank at the end of street. On the completion of this club we will lend out this book to anyone in the program who is interested in reading this material.

What is our Geo-caching Club?

On May 3, 2006, Dave Ulmer, a computer consultant, wanted to test the accuracy of the satellites by hiding a navigational target in the woods. He called the idea the "Great American GPS Stash Hunt" and posted it in an internet GPS users' group. The idea was simple: Hide a container out in the woods and note the coordinates with a GPS unit. The finder would then have to locate the container with only the use of his or her GPS receiver. The rules for the finder were simple: "Take some stuff, leave some stuff."

We signed up at geocaching.com and made a group name of REEP Kids. We then did a search for caches or "treasures" within a 1-mile radius of the school. We found many listed, downloaded the coordinates and have gone a few times to search. We found 3 and will go back again to search some more! Next week the group is going to make a few caches and hide them in the neighborhood.

To enjoy this cool, fun outdoor sport all you need to do is create an account have access to a GPS device!

Favorite Quote of the Month: Magic Puddles

Go on..... Jump in, Splash, Stir it, Race through it, Sit in it, Step over, Hop over, Leap over, Stand with your mum, Dance, Splish, Splash, Swish, Plop, Sing, Scream, Shout, Sigh, Look down under the water, Cover them, Find a friend, Find a bug, Twirl in the water, Take measurements, Give it a name, Think about it, watch it disappear, make soup, Make perfume, Make a mess, Make a pond, Laugh, and laugh, And Giggle a LOT! All of this..... in a puddle.

By: Lara Warden

KINDER CORNER NEWS

The Kinder children had a wonderful time at KIDS FEST on Thursday June 6th. Thank you Michelle for volunteering.

It is hard to believe the year is drawing to an end. The Kinder graduation party and lunch is planned for June 24th immediately after Graduation in the school finishes.

Families are welcome to come to our program at 10:30 am on June 24th. A lunch will be served at 11:00 am.

Please feel free to spend some time reviewing your child's work and progress over the year.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THESE MAY & JUNE BABIES!

CHILDREN:

Anastasia, Anthony, Brandon, Kevin, MacKenzie, Neveah, Rania, Shaelynn, Beckham, Bella, Dayton, Lisa, Sean, Shalace

STAFF:

Pat, Vince, Arlyn

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our next meeting will be held June 19th at 5:15 pm. As always, babysitting and dinner is provided during all Board of Directors meetings!



STAFF NEWS

A BIG thank you to those families who recognized ECE week at the end of April by bringing in special treats for the staff. That was much appreciated!

Thank you to the Board of Directors who sponsored Jay Stroller from Drums Cafe come to come in and do a fun team building drumming workshop for the staff! A great time was held by all!

Staff performance evaluations are almost complete! It was wonderful to hear everyone's feedback on some of our new job responsibilities. I really enjoyed hearing about all the staff passions and goals and objectives for next year!

PARENT NOTICES

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in the parent surveys. Your feedback was much appreciated.

Please see the results of this survey posted on the parent board outside of the MPR.

Summer packages are almost complete! Tammie and I plan on sending these out later this week.

It's been very busy planning and booking all the various fieldtrips the children will be attending during the summer months. Please make note of the changes of operation during the summer months. It is also important to note the times we need to leave on scheduled fieldtrips so you don't miss the bus!

Thank you!

ME TO WE

Over the past several months the children have been collecting pennies for Free the Children Foundation.

This Foundation helps provide clean drinking water for people all over the world. Tammie and I have an appointment to donate these funds to the bank this week.

Having clean water to drink is a privilege for many parts of the world including up north in our own province! It has inspired me to focus deeper on this subject during our summer. I have applied and was successful in receiving money from the Winnipeg Foundation to undergo a sustainability challenge!



Victoria and Kevin who brought in the many pennies to help save lives!

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Learning and Growing Together.