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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Our next board meeting will be held on February 21, 2018 at Robertson School.**

FROM PAT'S DESK

Well it's that time of year again and we are pleased to announce that re licensing went very smoothly at both locations. At January's educators meeting we reviewed our safety plans including various other protocols and procedures such as evacuation drills, hold and secure and a child abuse policies. All of our inspections and recertification's have been updated and completed.

On January 30th we applied for a grant from the Winnipeg Foundation to help with the costs of the window renovations at our school location. We are hoping to install three large windows into our main space. Thank you to Tony, Ewa, Darcy, Ron and Lynne for writing letters of support for this endeavour. Thank you to Anjelica for her research and collaboration of this grant application. I have learned a lot during this process and I am grateful for Marshall Kirton our architect for his expertise and support of this project.

BECKA'S BEAT

We are happy to announce that Becka is back at work after a brief stay in the hospital. We want to wish her a speedy recovery and glad she is starting to feel better.

Over the last several months we have discussed with our educators about our hopes and dreams for the centre. I am happy to announce we accomplished many goals for 2017 and we continue to value our educator's feedback. Four goals we accomplished between both sites were:

- Installing windows into school site multipurpose room (in progress)
- Providing health benefits to our Inclusion support educators
- Providing paid vacation days for all full time educators instead of vacation percentages.
- End of the year picnic for everyone

Some of our future goals we are strategizing for include a family resource binder, new website and authentic pictures development, and sensory/quiet space at the school location.

Pat Furman on behalf of Becka Linton

Assistant Director

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Reggio-Emilia Philosophy

Words cannot describe how grateful we are for the partnerships we have with the various organizations in our community:

On Feb 2 Jonothan Torchia, Founder and Director of the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Run and Lorraine Manson, the WFPS Run Race Coordinator spoiled the SSCY Centre! The WFPS Run chose to donate over \$1,500 worth of toys purchased at Toys'R Us to CRF! The SSCY Centre was very generous in sharing some of these toys with our children, and for that we are very grateful!

During the cold winter days, we have found sanctuary in the SSCY Centre Atrium. This amazing space has provided our children with the opportunity for physical play, and pretend and dramatic play activities.

We are also grateful for our partnership with Winnipeg Harvest, who generously provides both our SSCY and School Centre Locations with food donations on a bi-weekly basis.

We would also like to introduce a new book that we created based on children's stories as shared by them during their time in the atrium. First is a story by Addy, Abby, and Ava; the other, called Atrium Adventures. These can be found on the table outside of the office!

Olha Zablotski

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WFPS visits and brings donated toys to SSCY Centre

Jeni's Column: Our Inclusion Journey

Happy New Year and Best Wishes for a Wonderful 2018!

I had the opportunity to do some professional development and attended a workshop in January focusing on Challenging Behavior. This workshop focused on using an Edge Assessment tool; where individuals can evaluate where children are on the Edge scale (Edge -1, Edge [optimum], Edge+1, and Edge +2). Which zone the child is in can vary throughout the day but the goal is to help the child achieve/maintain Edge. The workshop also discussed other topics such as: underlying causes of challenging behavior and the importance of matching situation demands with the individual child's skill set.

I really enjoyed this workshop. It reinforced my current knowledge on this topic and offered additional insights that I can share with educators and implement in the centre.

Jeni Singer
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Lunchtime
Atrium
Adventures

**“All of our dreams can come true
– if we the courage to pursue
them”**

- Walt Disney

INFANT CORNER

By Amanda Johnson
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Wow! Time is sure flying! We have been very busy here in the Infant room. Despite our recent frigid weather, we've been able to go out on the warmer days and enjoy the fresh air as well as go on sleigh rides and toboggan rides down the hill!!

Children enjoy having loose parts in our program; there are so many ways we can use them. After observing children playing with metal lids and manipulating them in many ways, (including inserting them into small jar openings), we've pasted every child's picture on a lid and offered a large coffee container with a slit in the lid. This created more ways for our group of children to explore their new, customized lids. Children have enjoyed finding their own picture, as well as recognizing their friends' pictures.

As February is a month to celebrate love, our group has worked on acts of love and kindness and a collaborative painting project! Check it out in the hallway.

We want to thank all our families who participated in our *Story Behind My Name* project. They are very endearing and interesting to read! As educators, we are looking for ways to connect with our families and learn more about their values and beliefs. This project helped give us a glimpse into our families' beliefs and interests, so we appreciate your thoughtful feedback and stories. Looking forward to learning more about our families!

Staff Changes!

We would like to give a special shout out to Simon Brigole, who has started his Work-Placement Program at Red River College to be an Early Childhood Educator II! Simon has been a huge asset to the centre and we are so proud that he has chosen to pursue his knowledge in the childcare field! We would like to welcome Earl Magsankay to our program, who will be working Simon's shift while he is in school.

We would also like to give a special shout out to Angela Legaspi, who has left the program to pursue further education in Toronto! We will miss her very much!

We wish Simon and Angela nothing but the best of luck in their education!



Vision Boards



"The Story Behind My Name"
 - Maple and Chestnut

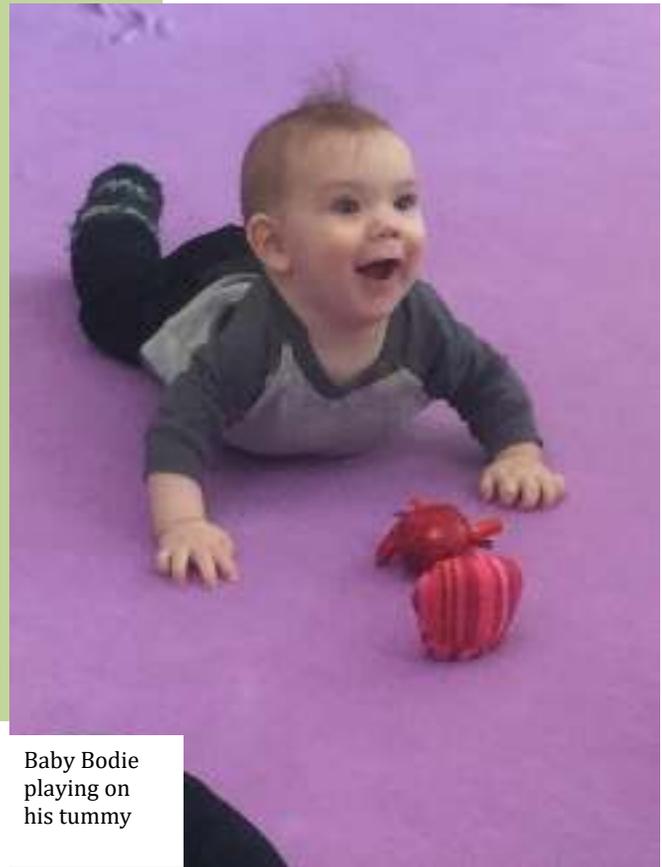
CEDAR NEWS - SEEDS OF EMPATHY By Meghan Tervoort

Baby Bodie came to visit us again on February 1st. He had many developments to show to the children. He can now propel himself forward using his arms and legs while laying on his tummy. He enjoys dancing; which prompted the children to sing and dance to *If You're Happy and You Know It*. He enjoys having the children watching him, he smiles and makes eye contact when the children speak to him. He also smiles during his welcome and goodbye songs as the children shake his foot in greeting.

Since beginning the program, I have seen empathy further developing amongst the children. They show compassion for one another by offering hugs, toys, and caring for each other. Children have begun to offer apologies; either a hug or saying "sorry" on their own when they have upset someone. This concern for each other has helped foster a sense of community within Cedar room.



How big is baby Bodie?



Baby Bodie playing on his tummy

BIRCH NEWS - ALLIGATOR PIE

By Christy Kreiner

"Alligator pie, alligator pie,
If I don't get some I think I'm gonna die.
Give away the green grass, give away the sky,
But don't give away my alligator pie."

This project began with the poem and book by Dennis Lee and has exploded into diverse curriculum involving: language, music, mathematics, and art!

We have been learning about reptiles, rhymes, size, and now, dinosaurs! We are so excited to see where their curiosity takes us next.



TRAVELLING AROUND THE WORLD

By Nola Adair

There were a lot of new and exciting things to explore and discover when Spruce room first opened but the item that really has caught the attention of the children is the globe!

We have spent the last couple of weeks locating various places on the globe (Winnipeg, Ukraine, Philippines), reading books about caring for the Earth and the differences and similarities of children around the world. We are also in the process of working on an art project - creating our own paper mache globe!

The children have enjoyed playing games such as picking a souvenir magnet out of a suitcase to see where they will travel and spending time discussing what they would pack if they went on a trip.

This is such an exciting subject for the children to be interested in and I can't wait to see where it will take us!

I will be sending a questionnaire home in regards to cultural backgrounds and travel experience which I'm hoping families will please take the time to fill in. Please look out for the questionnaire in your child's locker.

Thank you!



Jeremy and Ava making a paper mache globe!



"What do you think the window will look like?"
- Robertson School Age Program



Board Member Reflection

By Darcy Brooks, Chairperson

As the new Chairperson of the REEP Board of Directors, I am pleased to announce that the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) at Robertson School will be getting some much-needed windows, in the coming months! Restoring the windows in the MPR is imperative, as natural lighting will benefit the entire Robertson School population, ranging from improved mental health and emotional wellbeing to synchronizing the brain and body to economic viability. Pat is working diligently with an architect to ensure the design and implementation of this project best suits the needs of the Robertson Early Enrichment Program. The perseverance and commitment shown by the REEP leadership, staff and BOD has been inspiring and has led to this exciting venture coming to fruition. Stayed tuned for future updates and construction start dates!

SHEday Conference by Anjelica Brucal

Last week, Pat and I had the wonderful opportunity to be surrounded by over 1,500 women in business who shared their stories of the struggles, obstacles, and changes they overcame to be where they are today and to be who they are today.

SHEday is a powerful and empowering conference organized by the Women's Enterprise Centre of Manitoba to bring women of business together to network and share resources on success. It was so inspiring to be in the presence of so many successful women (and men)! Here's what we learned that day:

1. Share; Hear; Empower
2. Your stories, big or small, are invaluable
3. Women are powerful and we (women and men) need to realize that
4. Rejection can be discouraging but if you give it some thought, can be all the encouragement you need
5. Know what you want and ask the universe for it
6. Know your voice and be confident in it
7. Women as leaders in the workplace are essential to economic growth
8. Have hope. Be courageous. Take risks!

Can't wait till next year!



SHEday conference held at the RBC Convention Centre



Making vision boards at educator's meeting



2018 REEP Holiday Party



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THESE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BABIES!

CHILDREN:

Joe, Addy, Scarlett, Daniel, Jeremy, Gabriel, Jack, Frank

STAFF:

Becka



Vision Boards



Good-Bye Angela!
Goodluck on your future endeavours, we will miss you!



Literacy Provocations



IN JEANETTE'S KITCHEN

Black Bean Rice and Vegetable Tacos

Ingredients:

- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 small onion, finely diced
- 1 green bell pepper, finely chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, finely chopped
- 1 can (15 oz) black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 bag (10 oz or 3 cups) shredded cabbage
- 1 cup frozen corn
- 1 cup ready-to-serve brown rice
- Juice of 1 lime
- 1 packet taco seasoning
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- Corn tortillas
- Diced tomato, shredded cheese, sour cream for garnish

Instructions:

1. In a large skillet over medium-high heat, sauté the onion and bell peppers in the olive oil until crisp-tender, about 5 minutes. Add the black beans, shredded cabbage, frozen corn, brown rice, lime juice, taco seasoning, and garlic
2. Reduce to medium heat, cook and stir for 8-10mins
3. Spoon mixture into corn tortillas and garnish with your desired toppings

Enjoy!

-Jeanette Cabacungan

PARENT REMINDERS

- Just a reminder that the REEP SSCY location will be closed on Friday March 30 for Good Friday and April 2 for Easter Monday.

EDUCATOR'S MEETING

At our last educator's meeting we reviewed and discussed our emergency procedures: lockdown, evacuation, and abuse. We also reviewed proper storage and handling procedures, and proper group and ratio sizes.

After, we made personal vision boards for our personal hopes and dreams.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our next board meeting will be held on **February 21, 2018** at the SSCY Centre Location. Dinner will be provided.

We are looking for parent testimonials to add to our Newsletter and Website! Please feel free to approach either Anjelica or Pat if you are interested!

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Learning and Growing Together.