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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Next BOD meeting is May 14th at 5:15pm

## FROM PAT'S DESK

Love, kindness and compassion have been our themes and mottos over the past few months. It became our focus the beginning of February while planning our curriculum and activities for our kinder program in response to Valentine's Day. We wanted to start a discussion about "What does kindness mean to me?" or "What does it mean by being kind?" We started handing out "I caught you caring" hearts to compliment the children on their pro-social skills. We chose specific books every day to read to the children about what it means to be kind to one another. We read stories such as "One" and "Can I Play Too?" for example. As the weeks and months kept passing these mottos became so much more.

On March 22, 2014 our dear friend and colleague Arlyn, lost her husband after a brief battle with cancer. This tragic event has no doubt been very difficult for Arlyn, her three daughters and to the entire Legaspi family. It has also affected the many staff, friends and families here at our program, and truly anyone who has lost someone dear to them from this horrible disease.

During this difficult time I have been amazed by everyone's generosity! The entire Robertson community has really pulled together to support Arlyn and her family. I am very proud and blessed to be part of such a wonderful organization and community.



## TAMMIE'S TIDBITS!

I will be sending out the summer surveys along with a separate September registration letter shortly. We appreciate if we can receive them back as soon as possible. A quick response helps us plan for our summer staffing and the many fieldtrips we will schedule. We have a very long waiting list and would like to inform those families on their status with our program.

It's supposed to be spring but Mother Nature is a little late! We will continue to try to get outside each day so please provide the appropriate clothing. Many of our children enjoy playing in the puddles so please provide extra clothing!

We also want to kindly remind our families that if you feel your child should not go outside for some reason, we cannot always guarantee this request can be accommodated. The ratio for school aged children is 1 staff to every 15 children and unfortunately we do not always have extra staff available.

We can provide other opportunities of play outdoors, and/or limit certain activities, however typically they need to be well enough to join their group.

Thank you!

## SCHOOL AGE NEWS: SIMPLE GAMES WITH ROCKS

I played a simple game of rocks and words with my group of girls from grades 3, 4, 5 and 6. The game began with a bag of rocks and 5 black markers. We all sat around a table in a circle and I placed 20 rocks in the middle of the table and asked the girls to write down random words on each of them.

The game starts with one person picking a rock, looking and reading the word. That child now has to create a sentence using the word they chose. After they are done they put the rock back into the middle and it is now someone else's turn to make a sentence and so on.

The goal of the game is to try to make a story. Each sentence every child creates with their words needs to flow with all the sentences that came before it.

After several rounds with these 20 rocks the children wanted to keep creating more words, so they started writing words on paper and added those to the pile of the

rocks until we had 60 words in the middle of the table.

The girls and I had so much fun making all of these different sentences and stories that they didn't want to stop and they were eager to play the game the next day. The story we created was about a dog named Faith who liked to eat pizza, go to the zoo and watch the elephants. It was a very simple game that provided lots of fun, and I encourage all families to try this activity at home!

By : Suzanne LaRocque



We are always trying to find new activities to enhance all the children's love of reading,

storytelling and looking at books. We always strive to make our environment very print rich and full of language and literacy!

We created another activity with rocks! Tammie and some of the children decorated rocks with letters written on them. The younger school age children have been using these rocks to practice spelling and writing their names with them. They have been making up other words or informing the staff my name starts with the letter "B"! The children use the rocks to spell the words and then they draw the letters in a sand box next to the rocks. This activity is not only full of language and literacy concepts it also has a sensory component to it as well!



### Favorite Quote of the Month:

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

~ *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## KINDER CORNER NEWS

The children studied the work of famous pop Artist Jim Dine and they recreated his masterpiece "Hearts". We spent a day learning about Jim Dine and using his work as inspiration! Every child painted their own heart and then we cut each of their hearts into four pieces. The children were told they could keep one piece of their hearts

and then give the other three pieces away to their friends. Then we "re-made" each heart so that every corner had a little piece of four friends! We felt this was the perfect activity which symbolized our conversations about love, kindness and compassion. The children's work is documented and on display in the MPR!



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THESE MARCH AND APRIL BABIES!

### CHILDREN:

Jenaya, Madison, Brayden,  
Faith, Hope, Gino and  
James

### STAFF:

Tammie, Melchie, and Jenn

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Next BOD meeting is  
scheduled for May 14th at  
5:15 pm. Childcare and  
dinner will be provided.

I wanted to take this  
opportunity to thank all the  
Board of Directors for  
supporting the Legaspi  
family during this difficult  
time. Thank you for  
organizing and planning the  
fundraising dinner and  
supporting any other ideas  
on how we can provide  
support to our staff member.

## STAFF NEWS

I want to send out my heartfelt  
gratitude to all the staff who  
participated in the meal drive for  
the Legaspi family! The day after  
Arlyn left on compassionate leave,  
Jennifer Martin came to me with an  
idea about setting up a meal drive  
for Arlyn and her family. This meal  
drive commenced on February 3rd  
and lasted until March 13th! I also  
want to thank Melchie for working  
as the liaison between our program  
and the Legaspi family! Melchie  
often was the person who dropped  
donations off at their home in the  
evening and on weekends. I have  
felt grateful to be a part of such an  
exemplary team!

In other staff news everyone now  
has completed their projects and  
Invitations to play. We hope to  
have some sort of an open house  
later this Spring to showcase their  
work! Stay tuned!

## RECIPE

### Creamy Potato Soup

- 1 medium onion chopped
- 1 celery rib chopped (can  
substitute corn)
- 1 medium carrot, grated
- 1/2 cup margarine
- 2 tbsp flour
- 4 cups milk
- 1 can mushroom soup, undiluted
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 8 cups potato cooked and cubed
- 1 tsp salt

In a pot sauté onion, celery and  
carrot in margarine until tender.  
Stir in flour until blended.  
Gradually add milk. Bring to a  
boil, cook and stir until thick, 2  
minutes. Add soup, cheese,  
potatoes and salt; mix well...Cook  
and stir until cheese is melted and  
soup is heated through. Makes  
10-12 servings!

## ME TO WE

On April 5th, 2014 our  
program hosted a  
fundraising dinner for the  
Legaspi family at the  
West Kildonan #30  
Legion on Main St., from  
6:30-8:30 pm. We are  
extremely pleased to  
announce that the  
proceeds of \$1,795.00  
acquired from this event  
will be donated directly to  
the family!

A huge thank you to all  
the Board of Directors for  
their help in organizing  
and supporting this  
event, and in particular to  
Danielle Harvie for all her  
"behind the scenes"  
work!

A huge thank you to all  
families who brought in  
prizes for the silent  
auction and to families  
and staff who donated  
non-perishable food  
items, gift cards, etc. to  
the Legaspi family.  
Thanks to everyone who  
purchased tickets for the  
dinner and for the  
donation drive, and finally  
a HUGE thank you to  
Robertson School's staff  
for their contribution  
towards prizes, food,  
money and gifts for these  
events!

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**Learning and  
Growing Together.**