

The Growing Times



March 2023

From the Atelier

Dates & Reminders

March 10 - PD Day, Centre closed

March 14 - Board meeting 8:30pm on Teams

March 20 & 21 - Casino



From the Board

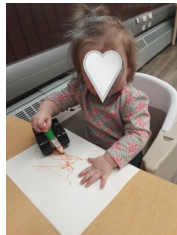
Casino - Reminder of the upcoming casino March 20 & 21. Thank you to all who have already signed up. If you have not already done so this is your friendly reminder that family participation is **mandatory** and failure to meet this requirement may result in termination of care with 30 days written notice. Please contact Casino Chairperson Caleb Delamont 403-614-3115 or calebdelamont@gmail.com.

This month we will be exploring natural clay. I will provide the children with a plastic platter to create on, rolling pins, clay sticks, natural plants, spray bottles and candy cookie cutters. This play experience is all about the process not the result.

Natural clay is a bit more difficult to manipulate than regular playdough so the children will need the entire month to explore it before I expect them to create any finished products. My plan is to write the children's names on individual plastic bags to keep the clay moist in between sessions. My goal is to share photos with you of your child's progress through the month.

Some of the benefits of clay exploration is assisting in the development of persistence, sensory play, and strengthening the muscles in the children's hands, arms and upper body that facilitates dexterity and is beneficial for children colouring, cutting, and writing in the future school setting. It is a channel for children to express their inner feelings and experiences allowing them to make sense of their world and how they fit into it.

News from the Rooms



Room 1

Hello families, we cannot believe we are in March already. We have been having a wonderful time playing in the snow outside and even enjoyed playing with snow inside the classroom in our sensory bins. We also have been getting out for stroller walks as much as possible. We are looking forward to warmer weather.

Throughout February, Room 1 children have been showing interest in vehicles. They like to play with toy cars, trucks, and tractors in the classroom. They also have been busy climbing up our steps to look outside through the window and showing excitement when they see the vehicles. According to their current interests, we did some related activities like making cardboard cars and drawing with a car. We are planning to introduce more related fun activities :)

Their current favourite tunes are "Sleeping Bunnies", "Row, Row, Row Your Boat", "If You're Happy and You Know It". They enjoy looking at books called "Let's Look at Things That Go by Lorenz Books", "First 100 Animals by Priddy Books", and "I Spy Little Book by Jean Marzollo".



Room 2

We celebrated Valentine's Day by sharing Valentine cards and did a lot of fun activities. Now, St. Patrick's Day falls on the 17th of March, we have prepared more activities for this occasion. We would love to see our kids in their green shirts for this day. The children have been exploring the dramatic play area with new utensils and some dress up clothes. Adding to this centre allows them to continue to explore the interest in this area.



Room 4

This month the children were showing interest in modeling mediums and sensory things. To support this one day we sat down as a group and made playdough. The children got to take turns stirring and pouring ingredients. They enjoyed cutting shapes out with cookie cutters. Another day we put out bins with food colouring and shaving cream. The children were able to use their hands to mix around the colours and feel the textures.

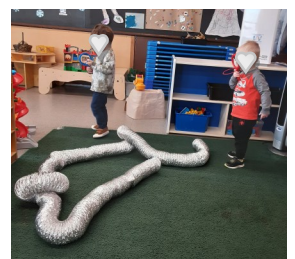
The class has been enjoying reading Robert Munsch books at Storytime, especially 'Andrew's Loose Tooth', the children really have a good laugh. We are learning about repeat after me songs (e.g. Boom Chika Boob is a favourite). Our class made golden rules for the room and we are practicing them each day.



Room 5

The children in Room 5 have been interested in dinosaurs, creating, books and risky play. We have fully changed the areas and environment within Room 5 to support their interests. The new block area is bigger, allowing for more creativity and risky play to take place. Also learning from the children what materials they would like to see in their new environment. We have been adding their art, interests and photos up around the room.

Dinosaur books and sensory activities with dinosaurs have been put out for invitations to play. We have been reading lots of books about feelings and friendship. The children have been extending what they have read and are learning into their conversations. We have welcomed our new friend Ava in our class. We are also sad to announce our friend Rosie last day with Room 5 was February 28.



News from the Rooms

Room 3

The children in our room have enjoyed another busy month! They had fun celebrating Valentine's Day and those we love. We did crafts and activities and explored not only the feeling of love but also the development of various skills. They discussed about what special things makes family members special (language), Learnt about the heart shape (math). We did oil and colour experiment (science), and we used their hands to finish creative art activities (fine motor skills). We also read books on sharing and feelings. Their favourite book was "Love You Forever" by Robert Munsch. The children love singing the "ABC's" and have started recognizing the first letter of their names. We will continue supporting them to recognize letters and their sounds through tracing, colouring and songs.

In March we will be celebrating the arrival of Spring and St. Patrick's Day. We will focus more on their interests and imagination, and extend their ideas with open ended activities. We will help them in managing their emotions, expressing themselves, showing empathy, sharing and be kind to others.

Have you all noticed the learning stories posted outside the room? Learning stories gives an idea about what learning opportunities are taking place during a child's play. Children learn through play and on a regular basis we will share the beautiful learning journey of our munchkins through learning stories.

Any concerns or suggestions, please let us know!

- Anita & Ms. Bibi

