

JUNCTION DAYCARE - NEWSLETTER



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Happy 2011 Everyone - Message from Junction Daycare Board of Directors

Mark your calendars now and plan to come out to our Annual General Meeting. Our outgoing president, Christine Thompson, will give a review of the board of directors work over the past year and Virginia, our centre director will report on highlights from Junction D.C.C. As members of the daycare, it is your responsibility to ensure that there is quorum to pass the audit report presented by our Treasurer, Mike Suska. New parents are nominated and elected at the AGM to be on the board of directors for the coming year. It is important that parents from the preschool, kindergarten and senior rooms are represented on the board, as well as a minimum of 2 parents each from Annette P.S. and High Park Alternative. Please read about the responsibilities of board members and consider standing for a position on the board of Junction Daycare.

Message from the President

Happy 2011 everyone. I hope your holidays were enjoyable, and that your new year is starting off well.

Firstly, I want to remind everyone that February 24rd from 6-8pm is our Annual General Meeting and all parents are invited and encouraged to attend. Childcare will be provided, as well as a light dinner. Please ensure you let Virginia know that you are coming. You will hear highlights of the successes and challenges we faced over the past year, from the strong advocacy support of our parents to the proposed school-mandated security system coming in 2011. This is an opportunity for you to have your say on who your Board members will be. Each family is eligible to put a name forward, and has a vote on this most critical aspect of the Centre. The Board is responsible for overseeing the welfare of the Centre, from developing the budget and policies, and union negotiations, to assessing potential future risk factors, such as all-day kindergarten, and how any changes to the City budget might affect our budget for 2012.

I have been on the Board since 2006, and regret to announce intention to step down from the Board effective February 23, 2011, due to other work commitments. I have thoroughly enjoyed being so heavily involved. I strongly encourage your consideration to putting your name forward for a Board position at February's AGM. It is a very rewarding opportunity to be at the governance level of the organization that cares so well for our children.

Again, it has been a wonderful experience as your Board President.

Christine Thompson (Amanda – recently moved to Senior School Age Room)

Message from the Vice-President

It has been a great privilege to serve the Junction Daycare on its Board of Directors over the past 4 years. I have enjoyed getting to know the staff and other parents on the board. This is a terrific experience for anyone interested in making an important contribution to the well being of our children and gaining experience on a not for profit board. We have overseen a variety of new projects and initiatives that have improved JCC for its member families and staff. Many thanks to everyone for their tremendous support!

Anita Nielsen

Message from the Treasurer

Every fall the Board of Directors with the support of Virginia face the challenge of proposing the budget for the following year. There is a delicate balance between funding the daycare appropriately ensuring the high quality of care and programming can continue while being sensitive to the financial constraints of each member family. This balance has been more difficult in the past few years given the economy and the tightening of belts everywhere.

The single largest expense to the daycare is the collectively bargained salary structure for our staff. We are fortunate to have a caring and innovative team that works hard to provide excellent care to our children. The cost of that care makes up approximately 89% of the total expenses of the Centre. The contractually mandated increases of 3% (plus an additional 1% equity adjustment) to this expense are the largest driver of overall increases to the budget.

For the past few years we have been proposing budgets that keep fee increases to a minimum in an effort to recognize that family budgets are being stretched as well. One of the risks associated with tight budgeting is unforeseen circumstances impacting our expenses or our revenues without a comfortable cushion to allow for these pressures. Unfortunately for the daycare, we have been hit by these each of the past two years. As we are in a comfortable financial position overall we were able to absorb small losses without putting the Centre in jeopardy. However, should these losses continue, the Centre will find itself in a risky situation.

It is the Board's feeling that we cannot afford to propose a budget that is unprepared to deal with fluctuations in enrolment, the unpredictable nature of revenue from the summer programs, as well as some additional costs we are anticipating that have yet to be determined. Some of these unknown risks include the uncertain continuation of our subsidized rent under the new Mayors cost cutting plans; a school mandated security system that will include hardware for the building and passes for the parents and staff; replacement of the air-conditioning units that must be completed by TDSB approved contractors; and the uncertainty of what to expect when all day kindergarten takes effect at our schools. None of these expenses are covered through any of our current City or provincial funding streams. It has been the general feeling of parents that fundraising for these additional expenses is not a viable option given that Annette Public School and High Park Alternative already do a considerable amount of fundraising through the year, we would be targeting the same parents, and we simply do not have the resources to manage fundraising activities.

It is the Board's responsibility to propose a revenue target that will allow us to deal with some or all of these threats and to continue to manage expenses to ensure we control what we can. Prior to the AGM on February 24, 2011 we will be sending a notice with the new fee schedule. Please take the time to review it and ask any Board member any questions you may have. We encourage you to attend the AGM so you may participate in the process of making Junction Daycare strong. It is also your opportunity to put your name forward for a Board position. Three current members are stepping down so we will be seeking some fresh faces - at least 1 MUST be from HPA. Please do not hesitate to connect with one of the current Board members or Virginia to indicate your interest in putting your name forward.

On behalf of the board I thank you for your continued support and look forward to a great 2011.

Mike Suska (Madeline - kindergarten room)

Want to know more about the board, see the next page. Please notify Virginia or any of our current board members if you are interested in standing for election to the new board of directors

Responsibilities of Junction's Board

President's

- ❖ Act as the chair at Board meeting and the Annual General Meeting
- ❖ Prepare agenda for board meetings and initiate additional meetings when required.
- ❖ Signing officer of the corporation
- ❖ Maintain communication with other board members, supervisor, staff members and parents between meetings
- ❖ Be willing to become familiar with Junction Daycare By-laws, policies and to keep current with childcare issues and legislative changes
- ❖ Work with committees as needed
- ❖ Serve as a sounding board and resource to the Supervisor of the Daycare

Vice-President

- ❖ To preside over monthly meetings or other Junction events in the absence of the President
- ❖ Signing officer for the corporation

Secretary

- ❖ Keeping minutes and records of all business transacted by the board
- ❖ Signing officer for the board
- ❖ To prepare correspondence with outside agencies and organizations

Treasurer

- ❖ Ensures proper financial documentation is maintained by the centre
- ❖ Oversees major purchases
- ❖ Advises the board on financial matters at monthly meetings
- ❖ Signing officer for the board
- ❖ Oversees and approves day care budget and government grants
- ❖ Reviews, signs and pays cheques, bills and invoices as required

Current Board of Directors

Christine Thompson: President

Anita Nielsen: Vice-President

Kathleen Austin -Day: Secretary

Mike Suska: Treasurer

Members at Large: John Prinos,

Jennifer Churchill, Sarah Hogg,

Alternate: Steven Hermans

What does the Board of Directors do?

Junction daycare is a non-profit organization. Its' Board of Directors is made up of parent volunteers who work together to manage the organization. Parents who are board members are actively involved in the decision making process of the centre. Serving on the board provides the parents with the opportunity to participate in a democratic process while building, managing and improving the day care in many areas. Over the past year, the Junction Daycare board has met once a month for an evening meeting (no regular meetings in July and Aug). Our meetings begin at 6.00 and end by 8.15 P.M. Supper and childcare are provided.

Legal Responsibilities of the Board

Board members are legally responsible for governing the corporation and may be liable for misusing or neglecting their legal responsibilities. Board members are expected to:

- Govern the corporation with leadership, strategic direction and planning
- Meet the financial and legal obligations of the corporation
- Act honestly and in the best interest of the corporation, due diligence
- State a conflict of interest if there is a difference between the interest of the corporation and personal interests
- Declare a conflict of interest if they stand to benefit financially, directly or indirectly, from the actions of the Board
- Know the By-laws of the corporation
- Attend meetings regularly and be prepared to discuss all items on the agenda
- Review all reports and correspondence from licensing authorities
- Make financial decisions based on knowledge and professional counsel, if appropriate
- Take a leadership role in the formation and implementation of policies for the corporation

LITTLE HANDS, GREEN THUMBS

Preserving the Earth with Little Hands

Greening the Junction

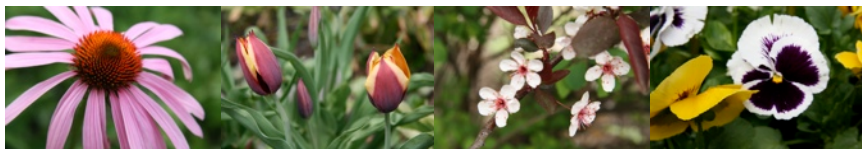
Efforts have been made to include the Junction kids in the greening of their environment. This Fall many of the Preschool and Kindergarten children raked and bagged leaves. These are being used as a dry layer in between the fruit and vegetable waste that the children save from lunch/snack time, and place in the school compost bins. Some of the leaves were placed on the raised garden bed in the playground, adding a valuable layer of mulch.

The Kindergarten and Preschool rooms have replaced their classroom hand soap with a natural, eco friendly product that is gentle on both the skin and the environment. Rather than having rolls of paper towels at the children's disposal, the dispensers now hold single-folds. This dramatically reduces the amount of paper towel used and promotes independence during hand washing routines.

An email list has been composed so that communication between the daycare and parents can be done electronically - this will drastically reduce the amount of paper being sent home.

The Kindergarten children have become Eco Stewards in our effort to work with Annette and High Park Alternative as members of the TDSB's Eco Schools. The children take turns monitoring lights, composting, and recycling.

Jade



Looking Ahead: Green Ideas For Spring

Spring is not too far away and Junction Daycare is already planning great ideas to Spring on into Spring....

Perennial Swap Day: This will be a day where moms, dads, and even grandparents can meet up to exchange and trade their favorite perennial plant

Purge the Snowsuits: A great way to be ready for next Winter. Parents can swap children's snowsuits with other parents (need a size 4, donate your size 3)

Greening up the Playground: With the approval of Annette Street Public School and High Park Alternative we will contact the city to donate logs, stumps and soil

Junction Daycare Gives Back



Junction Daycare is proud to announce that it collected over 6 boxes of food for the Daily Bread Food Bank at this year's annual Festive Dinner.

We would like to thank everyone who donated non-perishable food items. What a wonderful feeling it is to be able to help those in need over the holidays - well done!

Daily Bread Food Bank is a non-profit, charitable organization that is fighting to end hunger in our communities. As Canada's largest food bank, Daily Bread serves people through neighbourhood food banks and meal programs in over 170 member agencies across Toronto.

Your donations are vital to ensuring we can provide food and resources to the thousands of individuals and families across the city who rely on us every day.

If you would like to continue to help support the Daily Bread Food Bank please go to www.dailybread.ca

T'was an Eco Friendly Festive Dinner

The Festive Dinner was a huge Green success reminding me of Robert Munsch's book: Jonathan Cleaned Up-Then He Heard a Sound. The subway stops and unloads thousands of passengers who march through his house and then suddenly they're gone.

The size of the event warrants a committee of parents for next year so we can look at better ways to organize the the Junction children's concert, the setup, flow of the line ups, the serving of the food, and the clean up.

I hope you caught a glimpse of your child as it's always a joy to watch them performing.



With the help of High Park Alternative (who so kindly loaned us reusable plates, cutlery, mugs and drinkware) and composting all uneaten food, we were able to reduce the amount of garbage normally produced by such an event to almost zero.



Special Thank You!

The Good Neighbour who donated compostable paper coffee cups

Jade Armstrong who sourced out compostable "plastic" (they were made from corn!) juice cups and loan of her Green Bins

Junction Daycare who contributed classroom cups and signage

Parent Volunteers who helped with set up, clean-up and those who took home dishes to wash

Sylvia Galea and Sharon Giddon along with all the wonderful **Staff** who shopped, cooked and supported our efforts to make the dinner Eco-Friendly!

NOTICES

George Brown Students - Junction once again welcomes George Brown Early Childhood Education students to our daycare. Placement is from January 10, 2011 to February 25, 2011. Katriona: Preschool, Mia: Kindergarten, Shirley: Junior School age, Tyanna: Senior School age.

Hangar Project - Junction Daycare is hooking up with the school to be part of the Hangar Project. The project will involve the children in decorating over 600 cardboard hangars to decorate the hallways with messages of inclusion. The school has a wonderful book which they are reading in the classrooms entitled "Don't Laugh at Me". Junction Daycare staff will look at innovative ways that they can involve the daycare in this important project. The project starts in February.

Summer Camp - Summer Camp Registration for Junction's school age summer camp is going on line within the next couple of weeks. Parents whose children attended the 2010 camp had this to say: "I would recommend the program. It was a great summer, he was never bored, nor did he want to miss anything. Both the trips and the amount of physical activity made the summer memorable". And this one: "The kids went on fun trips, spent a lot of time outdoors and kept up an active and interesting schedule. It is also affordable and has full day hours to accommodate working parents." Please make sure that you tell your friends and neighbours. Bringing a buddy to camp will earn you a discounted rate for summer camp. This year we will be requiring Junction school age parents to sign up for a minimum of 2 weeks in the summer camp, as a precondition to holding your space for the fall. Go to <http://www.junctiondaycare.com>.

EDITORIAL MEMBERS:

Board Members

Virginia Thomson

Alida Orr

Jade Armstrong

Jill Hynes

CIRCULATION:

Distributed to all Junction
Daycare Families

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DAYCARE**