

Greetings From Junction Daycare's Board!

It's been an incredibly busy fall at Junction Daycare, especially with the move to All Day Kindergarten (see Virginia's article below). The Board would like to thank Virginia and the entire staff for their incredibly hard work during this time of change. As always, the staff put our kids first and made the transition seamless for the daycare families.

In case you missed our 2nd Annual Parents' Night Out in September, be sure to read the highlights from the event. There will be other informal events throughout the year and we encourage everyone to attend. These events are wonderful opportunities, especially for new families, to get to know other parents in the community.

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, December 17th** for our annual Festive Open House. Look forward to refreshments, activities and entertainment from the kids.

We have a wonderful new website thanks to Alida Orr and Ann Shisko at www.junctiondaycare.com. It is updated frequently so if you have a question, check the website first. This helps Virginia spend time on the children instead of returning phone calls!

Finally, a reminder that the daycare will be closed **December 25th – January 2nd**. Please let the staff know when you'll be away so that appropriate staffing can be arranged for the holidays.

A Time of Unprecedented Change in the Junction Community

Virginia Thomson, Supervisor, Junction Daycare Enrollment and staff update:

Junction Day care is just starting to settle after a few months of record changes. We began the summer with **90 children** and started September with **122 children**.

Junction DCC is now able to accommodate 40 JK/SK children as opposed to 24. We were also able to open up a 2nd preschool room so we now have 32 preschoolers.

In a province wide change to Full Day Kindergarten, ECE's are sharing space with their colleagues in the school boards. Sharing space comes with many positive aspects: more resources for children from early morning drop off until late afternoon pick up as childcare & school boards share their expertise and materials. But it also comes with many challenges as both groups sort out how to work together. This takes time and patience. It is confusing when the 2 groups are regulated by very different sets of rules. The sooner that the same criteria apply to both groups, the better the process will be.

These changes have allowed us to hire new staff, including replacements for Verona Carnegie- Darku who is on an educational leave of absence until June and Laura Gass who secured a position as an ECE in the ADK program with the Peel school board.

One staffing challenge with these changes is that out of a total of 16 staff, ½ of them are working part time hours and split shifts. Junction DCC has very professional, dedicated staff who are valued by the centre, board and parents. But the increase of part time positions in the childcare community may mean greater instability of staff in the future. It is an area to be addressed by all of the childcare community.

Junction DCC still feels that a toddler program in the childcare would meet the needs of the community. We continue to look for sources of funding and support from our elected politicians. This will continue to be a goal for Junction DCC.

Current Staff:

Preschool room 104: Kathy Sliwa, RECE; Li Huang, RECE; Adlin Malcolm, ECA

Preschool room 103: Joanne Farrugia, RECE; Mimi Bains, RECE; Tiffany Gardiner, ECA

Before and After room 112: Jade Armstrong, RECE; Alexandra Jennings, ECA

Before and After room 113: Terez Matyasi, RECE; Albert Park, RECE

Junior School Age: Katherine Henderson, RECE; Helen Lee, ECA

Senior School Age: Derron Gooden, RECE; Veronika Pratt, ECA

Virginia Thomson is centre supervisor and Katherine Henderson is the assistant supervisor.

The New & Improved Junction Daycare website has an up to date list of all of the staff & their bios.

Room Updates:

Preschool Room #1

A Big Hello from Preschool Room 1!

We have been very busy with our George Brown ECE placement students who have contributed innovative & creative activities to our classroom. Thanks!

We have also been enjoying our "Show & Share" Fridays, as well as the wonderful storybooks that the children have been bringing from home to read.

Did you know that next year, in 2014, 16 of our preschoolers will be starting Full Day Kindergarten? How exciting!

Verona says hello to all!

All the best,

Kathy, Li & Adlin

Preschool Room #2

Happy Fall & Holiday Season to all!

A very warm welcome to all of our new preschool children and families. The preschool children and staff have been enjoying getting to know one another while making new friendships and learning new routines through play and song.

This month the children have been involved in starting our literacy journals through their drawings. Each entry will be compiled in their journal and will be sent home upon completion.

We have also started our documentation booklets, which assist the teachers in documenting the development of each child in our care. The booklets are located with your child's daily charts.

Lastly we would like to welcome our new George Brown student, Christina, who will be with us for a 7 week placement, implementing activities in all areas of development.

Thank you to all our families for their support and input into our program.

Mimi, Tiffany & Joanne

Kindergarten Room 113

We are very busy learning new songs every week, listening to classical music, reading & retelling stories from books and doing yoga. We are also learning holiday songs, mailing holiday cards, writing in our journals and sharing our weekends with peers.

We are working on 2 projects; building a natural tree inside and working on our cardboard city.

We have lots of science experiments with magnets, creating tornadoes with water and working with marshmallows for building and counting.

Outside we have been collecting leaves and getting our playground ready for winter.

Thanks for your support,

Terez & Albert



Kindergarten Room 112

Room 112's Before and After program is a busy one! In September we raised monarch larvae (caterpillars) and observed their life cycle as they pupated (formed chrysalides) to emerge as adult butterflies. Five butterflies were tagged and released. The data was sent to Monarch Watch, based at the University of Kansas.

A Trent University student visited in October to share photos and anecdotes from her archaeological dig in Belize. The children had lots of questions and were a wonderful audience.

The class shared their thoughts on the meaning of fall. The collection can be found in a book kept by the attendance.

In November we continue to write letters to students in Germany as part of the "Flat Stanley" exchange project. And we're finishing letters to Santa. Your child's notes will be collected so that you can read them before they're mailed.

We're looking forward to a visit from Joseph's Mom, Zoe who's an archaeologist and works at the ROM. Zoe will bring in a few things to make the session an interactive one.

If you've got an interest or talent you'd like to share, please let us know. We love having visitors!

Jade & Alex

Room Updates:

Junior School Age Room

Greetings from the Junior Room! We would like to welcome Helen to the Junction Daycare family as a new part time staff our room!

The children have been enjoying our Novel Study on the book "The One and Only Ivan" which is about a Silverback Gorilla that grew up in a mall (true story!).

We are all excited about the winter weather and are looking forward to the snow. As always, we plan on going to Ravina Park to do a lot of tobogganing and playing in the snow! Parents please have your children dressed for the weather and have extra clothes at daycare just in case we have so much fun that we need a change! The children have been spending a lot of time outdoors and are in the middle of a hockey tournament.

The children are working on a surprise for the Festive Open House on the 17th of December so please stay posted!

Katherine & Helen

Senior School Age Room

Greetings from the Senior Room! Over the past year we've had some great George Brown students who have brought a lot of new activities & ideas that have enriched our program. Big shout out to Taylor and Michelle!

During Halloween we created a haunted house that was a huge success! The kindergarteners and school age children who came to visit thought so too!

We also have a new comfy sofa for our book centre!

Right now the big interests in the Senior room are: Science activities, brain teasers, dominoes and co-op games!

Happy Holidays to all our families!

Derron & Veronika

Childcare Worker Appreciation Day

Does anyone else realize it's December? I know, what happened?

In case you missed it, Childcare Worker Appreciation Day was Oct 30th!

As a THANK YOU to the staff for taking such wonderful care of our children, Junction Daycare's 2013 Board of Directors celebrated Childcare Worker Appreciation Day by treating the staff to some munchies, conversation and games(!) at Axis Gallery and Grill on November 8th.

As a parent of two children who attend Junction Daycare, admittedly, I was filled with anxiety dropping off my first child at daycare for the first time, 3 1/2 years ago. I think he cried for a month at every drop off (I left teary everyday too). But, the wonderful staff met him every day with open, caring arms. Reassuring me that it was completely natural for him to have separation anxiety and that he would eventually come around. They couldn't have been more right. With their constant patience, support and knowledge he soon felt right at home.

I think that we sometimes forget just how fortunate we are to have such personable, educated and dedicated

staff at Junction Daycare. Not a day goes by that my children (and me!) are not met with warm smiles and open arms. And that makes having to say goodbye daily... bearable.

Alida Orr - Board of Directors Secretary

Junction Daycare's Annual General Meeting - END OF FEBRUARY 2014 Mark your calendar!!

Thinking of coming aboard the Daycare Board?

Some of the 2013 Board Members will be stepping down. Now's your opportunity to get involved!

Elections for the 2014 Board of Directors will be held at the AGM.

Want more info on being on the Board? Contact alidaorr@yahoo.ca for more info.

Junction Daycare's 2nd Annual Parents' Night Out

Alida Orr, Secretary, Junction Daycare

On Friday, September 27th, 2013, childless parents, board members and daycare staff came out in droves to **The Yellow Griffin** seeking uninterrupted adult conversation, food that took longer than 3 minutes to eat and maybe, just maybe, partook in a bit of imbibing. Part parent social, part Daycare Fundraiser, a small fee was collected to attend and raffle tickets were sold with all profits going towards daycare office upgrades. In total, we collected \$600! Virginia was able to purchase a laptop, which will allow staff to work on lesson plans, attend to personal business and provide additional support with daily Daycare operations.

All raffle items/baskets were generously donated by our Junction Daycare parent community.

- Fisher Price/Mattel Baby basket - Alida O
- General Mills -Lori H
- Royal Doulton - Scott T
- Massage Gift Cert - Melanie W /Foot clinic- Debbie L
- Books from Random House - Pamela M
- Coca Cola - Jennifer L
- Baked Goods - Jade A
- Little Island Comics - Ann S

This is a great way to stay connected to your other parents & staff ..stay tuned for our next (casual) Night Out in 2014!



Highlights From the Last Few Months:



DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Festive Open House



December 17: 6:30 – 8:00

Daycare Closed



December 25 – January 2nd

Junction AGM



End of February



INVITES
YOU TO OUR...

Festive OPEN HOUSE



*join us for some good cheer,
sing-a-longs
& special performances...*

TUESDAY DEC. 17

6:30 - 8:00 PM