

Growing Together Family Resource Center @ Harwich Raleigh

Hello Fall!

There is something I find so magical when the crisp fall air begins to meet us in the mornings. Harvest is one of my favourite times of year! My experience brings comfort and tradition as we make the transition from the warm summer days to freshness of fall!

Fabulous Fall

Our playrooms have all enjoyed exploring the seasonal gifts that come with fall. A big thank you to the VanderPol family for supplying an unlimited amount of pumpkins that our educators were able to share with the children to extend their interests and learning. You are able to view some of the wonderful learning opportunities featured on our Learning Story Displays found on the bulletin board in the main hallway (right hand side of the hall). At Harwich Raleigh, learning stories are displayed on the bulletin board just outside of the school age classroom. Please feel free to leave a comment on the learning stories, as we always love to hear your feedback!

Staff Developments

Our educators have been attending some really great workshops this fall as part of their commitment to their continuous learning plan with the College of Early Childhood Educators. At the beginning of the month CKCS (Chatham Integrated Children's Services) hosted a knowledge café inviting educators and support workers an opportunity to take a closer look at the collaboration of support within our childcare programs.

On October 10th, staff celebrated some special milestones. Among the celebration we recognized Ms. Karen B (WJB) with her 25 years of commitment, Ms. Liz C (WJB) with 15 years of commitment, Ms. Elisha B (WJB), Ms. Trista F (May Court), and Ms. Sam V (May Court) on 5 years of commitment.

October 24th was Childcare Worker and ECE Appreciation Day. Thank you to those of you that took the time to fill out a message for our educators on how they have touched the lives of your children. These are currently on display around of staffing photos in the main hallway.

Annual Licensing

Both Harwich Raleigh and WJ Baird successfully completed their annual licensing inspections. These routines inspections are completed annually by a Program Advisor with the Ministry of Education. Congratulations to the educators and administrative team for continuously displaying on our of core values of excellence with this milestone.

GTFRC Fundraiser – deadline November 1st

Our Board of Directors have organized our annual cash draw fundraiser for the year. There are 5 prizes available, with the top prize in the amount of \$1500. Tickets are still available until this Thursday October 31st for purchase in any of the offices here at WJ Baird for \$5.00/ticket. A big thank you to those of you that have supported this fundraiser with selling and purchasing tickets.

With thanks,

Melanie L. Brown



AUTUMN
is a second spring
when every
LEAF
becomes a
Flower.



FDK

Hi everyone! I'm Miss. Alexis. I am an RECE and have recently graduated from the Child and Youth Care pro-

gram at St. Clair college. I had been on placement throughout the summer and have returned as the FDK educator here at Harwich Raleigh. It has been nice to see so many familiar faces, whether that be the children from Baird and Harwich as well as parents. I am excited to continue to create growing relationships with the children.

As you have noticed, throughout the months of September and October, we were combined with Miss. Nicole and the school age class! In the beginning of September, we focused on icebreaker type games. I believe that this is an important part of creating relationships amongst each other. I introduced games such as Web of Friends and a ball with various prompts to start conversation. Examples of these prompts include, favorite sport, when I group up, I want to..." etc. It was great watching the children interact in such a positive and respectful manner. Gaga Ball is another popular interest in this group! We have explored various aspects of nature by walking through the woodlot and seeing the wonderful objects mother nature has to offer.

Throughout September and October, I have noticed that the children enjoy making crafts such as painting, printing with stamps and drawing. They have also taken an inter-

est in making slime! They demonstrate patience and respect as we work together as a group. I am excited to continue to create memories with these children.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask. I'd be happy to answer them!

With thanks,

Miss. Alexis



ABOUT MISS NICOLE.

I would like to introduce myself, Nicole Koopmans .. I am an RECE graduate from St. Clair College many moons ago. I am married and have 2 amazing sons, Kyle, 19 and Karter, 14.

Hello Parents!!

I began my teaching career at GTFRC ON July 30, 2019. I am thrilled to be your Before and After School Educator here at Harwich Raleigh Public School.

I have spent the past couple of months getting to know each of your children and wow.. what a group we have!

We have explored our backyard playground space, including the amazing path to the enchanted forest area!! The students absolutely love our time playing Capture The Flag, Carnivores, Herbivores and Omnivores. Scavenger hunts and simply exploring the nature that surrounded us. The students have learned some sign language and continue their “François” skills in our classroom as well!!

Our classroom has welcomed a new “student” #4Bobby Orr, our Coy Goldfish to our space.

We have also created an atrium calming space in the upstairs corner of our room. Our “Atrium Rangers” are responsible for watering, deadheading and talking to our plants. It’s a place for the children to get some peace after a long day at school..

Your children LOVE GAGA BALL!! If you haven’t had the opportunity to check out this area in the back school yard, please do!! Derived from the Israeli word meaning “hit hit” ball, the students are corralled into an area and much like dodge ball , they attempt to not be hit by the ball..

Our classroom has changed a couple of times as Miss Nicole likes to move and change things up as often as I can to keep the room fresh and appealing for your children to hangout before and after school..

I truly have enjoyed getting to know my students, your children and am looking forward to many school years ahead of us!!

If ever you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to reach out to me!

Yours in Early Childhood Education,

Nicole Koopmans



BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL HANGOUT SPACE

Introducing Sage, a mild mannered good O'l boy, who is an aspiring Therapy Dog.

Sage is a Dogue De Bordeaux, and he will be assisting Ms Nicole in the Social Emotional development, and physical literacy programming wherever they visit. His birthday is May 30th 2019, and his favorite color is blue.

He will work exclusively with FDK and School Age children at GTFRC after he is certified through a local Therapy Dog Certification program.

Nicole Benoit-Robain RECE
SACC Program Supervisor



PIC-COLLAGE

Karen's Kitchen

Sweet Potato Soup

1tbsp olive oil

1 small onion

2 stalks of celery

6 cups of chicken stock

2 lg. sweet potatoes (peeled and chopped)

1/2 tsp nutmeg

1/4 tsp pepper

*If you want it to be a little creamy, add milk or coconut milk and less stock



Directions

- 1) Sauté onions and celery in oil until soft.
- 2) Add balance of ingredients.
- 3) Bring to a boil. Then simmer 25 min or until potatoes are tender.
- 4) Remove from heat in small batches. Puree.
- 5) Return to sauce pan. Heat and serve.

