

# Growing Together Family Resource Center– WJB

Fall 2019  
Volume 1, Issue 1



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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>**

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 31<sup>st</sup> 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**

**Supervisor, R.E.C.E**

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

## INFANT NEWS

Welcome Fall! The babies have been enjoying the beautiful cooler weather and have been exploring some of autumn's natural gifts. The children have discovered how fascinating it is to see the different colours blend in our changing leaves, the textures of different gourds and pumpkins and also being able to enjoy the festive lights and scents of fall in our classroom.

Keeping in mind of the weather change we are asking everyone to bring in warmer clothes, splash pants and indoor shoes/ slippers please.

Enjoy the Beauty of the Season!

*Ms. Dawn, Ms. Crystal, Ms. Stephanie*

### Wish List:

Bubbles

Tape

Window writers

Gliding rocking chair



## News From Toddler Land

Here in the toddler room we have been exploring different textures. A large piece of Mac tac was placed on a standing shelf with loose leaves for the children to put on the tree branches. We explored this for some time the children loved sticking the leaves on and pulling them off. One morning Novalee was at the shelf and put her back to the shelf and realized she was stuck, Nova's friends then saw how much fun Nova was having and they decided to joined in with her, they found this very amusing. The next morning we had Mac tac taped to the floor sticky side up, the children noticed it as they came into program. The toddlers would run across the Mac tac, BayLeigh even got stuck on the Mac tac because it was so sticky, she needed help off. The children then took off their shoes and watched how their sock peeled off the Mac tac. Next their socks came off to see what it felt like and sounded like.

To extent their curiosity we switched it up and tapped bubble wrap to the floor. It surprised me to see that the children Laid on the floor to pop the bubbles rather than running across it. Later that day we were unable to make it out side due to the rain, so we brought out the riding toys. Axel drove his riding toy over the bubble wrap and it made lots of loud and quick pops, everyone stopped what they were doing because they were not sure what the sound was. When we figured it out they thought it was funny and continued driving around the room making sure when they went by the prices of bubble wrap they drove on it.

Lastly we supplied the children with bubble wrap and different colour paints Ms. Jaimi asked them what colours they would like and added it to the bubble wrap, the toddlers then took a paint brush and mixed the colours around. Then we placed the white paper on top and banged it with our hands. The pictures turned out beautiful and are unique in their own way.

We have also had some staff changes over the last few months. We have welcomed Ms. Kelsey back from maternity leave, and have been waving at Ms. Steph from the window into the infant room. We are very excited about the fall weather that has finally come, please remember to dress according as we are outside for an hour in the morning and afternoon. Also with fall weather comes along mud, with this change we ask that you please insure your children have indoor and outdoor shoes.

Ms. Lynetta, Ms. Jaimi, Ms. Kelsey



## JUNIOR PRESCHOOL NEWS

Hello Fall

We would first like to welcome all of our new families that have started with us or have moved up from the toddler room we have loved getting to know each and everyone of you a little more. In the Jr room we have been very busy with all sorts of different fall activities. We have been going on lots of nature walks outside of the Childcare, exploring with different sensory activities such as corn, rice and sand, and being very creative with our art work. Our children have really been into climbing right now so we are working on creating a gross motor space to build on this interest in the classroom. So far, we have added a mat and a set of stairs for climbing. We are looking forward to spending lots of time outside enjoying this beautiful weather together and continue exploring all around us.

**\*REMINDER\***

We do go outside everyday in the morning and afternoon. Please bring in a jacket and a change of shoes, for those cooler fall days. Once the cold weather is upon us, please remember all snow gear including snow pants, hats, mitts, boots.

Wish list:

- Big and Small pumpkins
- Sensory items (beans, rice)
- Spoons (plastic or metal)
- Plastic bowls and cups

Laurie and Jessica



## SENIOR PRESCHOOL NEWS



Spooky Wheels on the Bus.”

One final thing we are looking forward to having a Spook-tacular Halloween Party October 31. Look for a flyer in the coming weeks as the date grows closer. We have lots of fun ideas planned!

With thanks,

Ms. Liz & Ms. Lynetta

### Thank You

Lucy M- Pumpkins

Colby S- Cucumbers

Ms. Linda- lots of new toys

Ms. Dawn-Buttons, trays, toys

Ms. Sara- Toys

Ms. Jaimi- Markers

Ms. Karen- Toys

### Wish List

Potting soil

Clothes (especially pants size 2-5)

Large Pumpkins (for carving and decorating)

At the end of August we said some goodbyes. Both to Ms. Alyssa, who left to prepare for the arrival of her new little one, and to last year's Senior preschoolers as they made their journey to FDK. I cannot wait for all of the adventures you will have in this next step of your lives.

As we said goodbye, we also said hello to all of the new friends that have moved up from Junior Preschool and the new friends starting in the ELP program. We are so excited to have you! As well, we are also saying hello to Ms. Lynetta. You may have seen her in the Toddler room, but now she is exploring with us in here.

Our room has really been interested in the changes of the season. We have painted with corn cobs and glued with kernels. Currently, we have a pumpkin stand in our dramatic area. As well, we have been enjoying books on fall and Halloween, especially, "5 Black Cats" and "The



**Hello FDK families.** I would like to introduce myself. My name is Denise Moerman. I am a married mom of three boys, Ethan (6), Blake (4) and Levi (1). I have worked for Growing Together for almost 12 years! I am just recently back from maternity with Levi (whom you can see in the baby room snuggling with his teachers!) but before I went off I was in the Toddler Room at St Annes. I graduated from the ECE program at Fanshawe College, in those 2 years I met my husband. We have been married for 10 years. I love to read, and I try very hard to bring that into the program so that children can learn to enjoy the stories they are told. I can't pick a favourite book as there is just too many, but my boys love ones where the story line is silly and the voices are easily changed. I love coming up with and finding new ways to expand how a child sees and experiences something that brings them joy. I can also be heard making up songs as we go along. They may not make sense, but they make children laugh.

September and October have been months of Transitions. New friends and New teachers. We were combined with School Age quite a bit and had to work that into our new routine. We are settling into our new routine. The FDK group loves to colour and we are trying to talk about our pictures and tell the stories behind them. I have introduced I Spy colouring pages. It is such fun to just sit and talk while colouring. We have made playdough and have tried a few different methods. With plans to try some more and some slime recipes. With the changing season the group is loving the leaves that are starting to fall and using nature in creating. We have brought sticks in and painted them, and can now use those stick to count, sort, create letters and so much more.

With the cooler and wet weather coming, feel free to bring in slippers or extra shoes, I will have a bin that will go between all our rooms.



Wish List: puzzle, books, markers, crayons, marbles, playdough toys

Hello Friends,

My name is Gail. I am the school aged educator at W.J. Baird Growing Together Family Resource Centre.

I have a Bachelor of Arts degree from Memorial University, with a major in Psychology. I have spent most of my career working with children and families in many different environments.

I joined Growing Together in the summer of 2019, and I have had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful children, as well as many wonderful parents, caregivers and teachers. I have been spending the last couple of months building relationships, encouraging learning, creativity and independence and personal growth within my group.

I encourage every child to be the best that he or she can be. To accommodate the needs of such a varied group, I encourage and promote respect for oneself and for each other, as well as for each other's individuality and diversity.

My school aged group's favorite activities thus far are; making playdoh, experimenting with colors, shapes, textures and smells, using Magnatiles to create magnificent structures, talent shows, and of course, playing together outside.

I thoroughly enjoy hearing their stories and sharing laughs. Every environment and experience that a child encounters is a learning experience. I look forward to sharing many more learning experiences with my group.



## **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.

\*option to sprinkle pieces of fried bacon on it

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