



Newsletter

KJ Academy - February 2011

Chinese New Year

Chinese New year is on Thursday, February 3rd, 2011! We have been talking about Chinese new year and done some activities in celebration/preparation. Some of these activities include making red & gold lanterns (you can see these hanging in the Cubby Room), reading stories, learning/talking about 'Lucky Money', practicing/attempting to write Chinese characters using paintbrushes and black ink, etc. We will be handing out some 'luck money' treats on this day to all of the children as well!

Parking

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS: There are a total of 5 parking spaces in the rear of the daycare with plenty of wiggle room. Many parents are double parking making it very frustrating for other parents that are trying to pick up or drop off their child. Please make sure to park as close to either side of the parking lot as possible to ensure use of all spaces. If you plan to stay longer than 10 minutes during pick-up and drop-off times, please park at the front of the building. Thank you for your cooperation!



Derri-Carolyne & Helen enjoying afternoon snack together

Valentines Day

Valentines Day is coming up on Monday February 14th! We will be doing various activities throughout the month in celebration/preparation of Valentines Day. We will be exchanging Valentines on Monday, the 14th, so we invite you to bring some Valentines for your child to distribute to all of his/her friends that day. If you decide to provide edible treats, please remember that we have some children with mixed nut allergies as well as a child with an egg allergy. The children will be asked to save any treats for when they go home and will not be permitted to eat them during class time.

Uniforms

We have successfully begun the transformation to the use of uniforms in our facility. So far we have had mostly rave reviews from the families (& children) regarding the uniforms. There have been a few concerns about buttons falling off of the girls tunics, and after much observation, the staff have noticed that the children are actually pulling on the buttons. Please don't fret if your child is missing a button, we will replace everyone's missing buttons in the near future and have them reinforced to the garments for proper durability. Please remember that with the uniforms comes a specific dress code; we ask that during uniform days the children meet that dress code. (i.e. any garments worn must be of the KJA uniform selection, or similar). We have made available our uniform patch (\$5 each) so that you may purchase your own white collared shirts, navy pull-over V-neck sweaters, navy cardigans, or navy sweater vests and simply sew on the crest yourself. If you'd rather, you may purchase these items directly from the daycare. To do so, please request an order form from one of the staff members. We'd like to gradually have the children wearing black shoes with their uniforms as well, however, we will not strictly enforce this for the time being. Thank you for all of your feedback and support as we all continue to adjust to these changes. :)

Goodbyes

We are very sad to say goodbye to the following families:

- **Brady**; His last month was in January as his family moved to Florida!
- **Zara**; Her last month was in January as her family has moved to Calgary!
- **Dilan**; His last month will be February as he will be moving to UBC

We will miss you all very much and hope to see you in the future for visits!



Caleb is practicing to write the letter 'A' in Kindergarten Club

New Faces

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the families of **Mattea** and **Vincent**! They have just started at KJA in January of 2011 and are doing a wonderful job! We are so pleased to add you all to our KJA family!





Zoë is reading a book during quiet Reading Time

Expansion

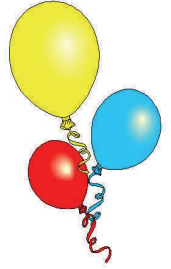
We will be closing on a lease within the next week on a nearby location of which we will be opening a preschool. Please let your friends and family know as we will be struggling in the beginning to get enrolment up! Once everything is all set up, we will invite you for an open house (if you're interested). :)

We are also currently looking into a location in the False Creek area which may or may not pan out as it is quite popular and the landlord has received many offers (including ours). If it were to work out we will be opening the largest childcare facility in British Columbia consisting of two preschools, (3-5 half day care), two daycares for children ages 3-5 (full day care), one infant daycare and one toddler daycare as well as out of school care with transportation. Nothing is certain as of yet, keep your fingers crossed for us! (and yourselves as I now this location would assist many families of which multi-aged care would be a miracle!)

Happy Birthday!

We would like to wish a very happy birthday to the following children:

- **Helen**: January 23, 2006
- **Vivien**: February 11, 2008
- **Benjamin**: February 22, 2007



Special Thanks

Everyone at KJA would like to extend a special thanks for the following families for their generous donations to the daycare!

- **Hunter & Family**: \$60 toward a light table
- **Caleb & Family**: \$50 toward needed supplies
- **Edward & Family**: approx. \$120 toward a 'puppet tree'

Available Spaces at KJA

Since we will have had 3 children sadly leave KJA due to location in the current and previous months, we now have 3 spaces available. We will be going through our waitlist shortly, but when we had checked it recently, our waitlist consisted of mostly underage children. Please tell your friends and family about KJA so we can get these spaces filled ASAP! Thanks for your help in the matter, we really appreciate it!



Children's Festival

The Children's Festival was a hit last year, so we plan to take part in it again this year! Last year we had a great time seeing Charlotte Diamond live in concert as well as enjoying the other activities that the Children's Festival had to offer. This year we will be seeing Music with Marnie. We will be going on Monday, May 30th, 2011. We will be in need of some parent volunteers, so mark your calendars and let us know if you're interested! We will have a sign-up sheet available for you closer to the date. Please note that if you decide to join us as a parent volunteer, you will be expected to aid the teachers during the trip. You will be given specific instructions on the day of to help you out. We appreciate all of the time and effort that parents put forth to help make field trips like these a reality for us! Stay tuned for more information closer to the date of the field trip!

Kindergarten Club

Kindergarten Club this year has kicked off with a bang! Ms. Aniko has been given the role of 'Supervisor' for Kindergarten Club and is doing a wonderful job! The teachers are all working together to come up with unique and innovative ideas to engage the children in K-Club activities and we have seen great results! Don't forget to talk to your child about the letter they are learning each week and encourage your child to help with the scrap book!

Progress Reports

The next set of progress reports will be distributed on Monday, February 28th, 2011.

On a side note: we would like to comment on how well ALL of the children have been doing lately both socially and academically. We have seen a drastic improvement in majority of the children and we are so proud of everyone (including the parents, as we rely on you to work with us a team for your child). Great Job Everyone!

Drop-Off & Pick-Up

We are starting to notice that many parents are dropping their children off at the entrance of the daycare. **It is imperative that all of the children be personally walked into the daycare and greeted by a teacher.** If this is not done, then you are placing your child in immediate danger. If the staff are not aware of your child's presence, your child could leave the daycare, be taken, or even injured as they will not be properly supervised.

Also, we have noticed that many of the parents are in and out so quickly in the morning & afternoon. We ask that all parents patiently spend some time engaging with their child either during drop off **OR** pick-up. These children spend a large amount of their lives here and would give anything to share that part of their lives with you. All we ask is at least 5 minutes, engaging and showing an interest in your child's life at KJA. This is NOT meant to sound accusing. Just a reminder to some families.



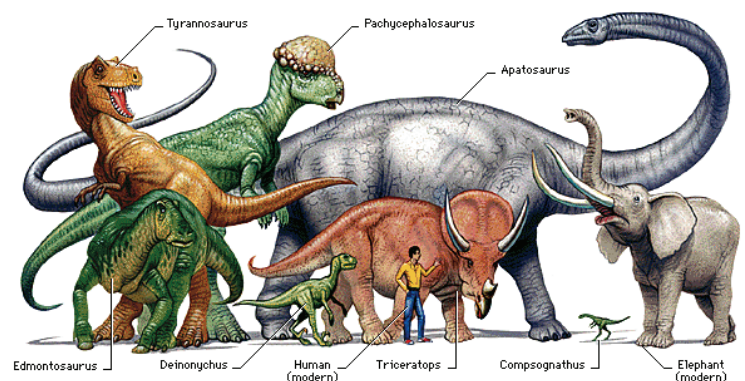
Edward is learning how to use a violin!

Kiddy Chefs

Throughout the year we have always done the odd baking or cooking day with the children. This is a great opportunity for the children to develop their math skills through measuring and counting and weighing, as well as to practice working as a team, taking turns and learning that we have to work hard to have the food and meals that we eat on a daily basis (it doesn't appear from thin air!). The children also really enjoy the times that we have spent cooking & baking. As a result we have decided to introduce a program to our monthly curriculum called 'Kiddy Chefs'. Each month we will have 'Kiddy Chefs' day where the children will work together to create something delicious to eat! (no just sweet, but savoury as well). This month we will be making eggless berry muffins for Valentines Day. We will be sure to send home the recipe each month either in one of the newsletters or on a separate notice so that your child may get to share with you what he/she learned!

Latest Documentation

Recently, some of the children showed an interest in dinosaurs. Ms. Fannie picked up on this as she had noticed that many of the children kept asking her to read them books (both fiction and non-fiction) about dinosaurs. We decided to create an activity for them that related to dinosaurs and sure enough our investigation of dinosaurs took off! We have done several activities so far including digging in sand with special brushes for fossils, reading books, drawing with dinosaur shaped crayons, graphing our favourite dinosaurs, having in depth discussions about dinosaurs and typing out everyone's ideas on the projector screen, felt board stories, and currently we are creating a dinosaur egg nest using paper mache! We will continue our investigation with many more activities through means of puzzles, matching/memory games, painting, etc. If you know of or can think of any way that you or your child can contribute to our investigation, please let us know!



Weather

Though it is warming up a little outside, it is still quite chilly! Please make sure your child has proper outdoor gear as we do go outdoors in almost all weather conditions! The groundhog did NOT see his shadow on Groundhog Day, so we are meant to have an early spring which will be lovely. In the event of an early spring with warmer weather, please be prepared to provide your child with waterproof rain pants/suits! Snow pants will be too warm! You can find rain pants at locations such as 'Please Mum' (Oakridge), 'Children's Place' (Richmond Centre), or Mountain Equipment Co-op MEC (West Broadway). Thank you for your cooperation!

Star of the Month

Stephanie is our Star of the Month! She has been doing such a good job using her words! Don't forget to bring in your poster Stephanie!



Happy Birthday Helen!

Policies & Procedures

ATTENTION ALL FAMILIES: This is to inform you that there will soon be some additions/alterations to the Policies & Procedure Manual. These changes will take place on the official P&P document (located in the resources section of the website) over the weekend, and implemented on Monday, February 7, 2011. In short, the additions/alterations will be regarding the following:

- **Professional Development Days**; we currently have listed that we will be using a maximum of 2 days per year for Pro-D, this will be changed to 3 days per year.
- We will be adding '**Curriculum Development Days**' to our list of daycare closures. These will not be full day closures, simply early closures (3:00pm).
- **Uniform Policies**

A copy of the changes made will be sent home with your child on Monday, February 7, 2011. Please make sure to familiarize yourself with the updated policies and Procedures.

February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 Chinese New Year	4 Walk to the Park	5
6	7	8 Kiddy Chefs	9 Walk to the Park	10 Music Class	11 Walk to the Park	12
13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Walk to the Park	16	17	18 Walk to the Park	19
20	21	22	23 Walk to the Park	24 Music Class	25 Walk to the Park	26
27	28 Progress Reports					



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