



Mes Amis Preschool Newsletter

March 2019

Bonjour Preschool Parents,

Welcome to the month of March! How quickly time has flown by this year. This month we will be getting into the St. Patrick's Day and Easter spirit with crafts and songs.

Throughout the rest of the month we will be continuing our work with printing letters and discussing the phonetics of each letter. We will have a larger focus this month on spring themes and we will be discussing seasons, weather and opposites as well.

For gym classes this month, we will be learning all about rhythm and dance. We will continue to build on the amazing dance lessons that Cheryl Dakinewich has so kindly came into our classes and taught us last month.

Our sharing theme for this month is "Free Choice!/Choix Libre!" For this theme, students are asked bring any item that they wish to show and share with their classmates, anything goes! Please don't worry if your child is absent on their sharing day as we can always make it up on the next day that they are present at school. Your sharing calendars are now in your child's mailbox.

Activity Conferences

I will be conducting Activity Conferences for my students along with parents. I have time slots available for interested families to sign up to come and participate in and see your child's progress so far. This is an opportunity for you to come into the classroom along with your child and have them show you firsthand what they have been learning and to see what things your child may be struggling with or excelling at.

The way the Activity Conferences work is that you come to the classroom during your pre-scheduled conference time period and go through a series of different activity centers, with your child, that I have set up for your child to demonstrate their learning for you. At the final centre, you will have the opportunity to have some time to sit down with me and ask

some questions concerning your child's progression and readiness for Kindergarten or any other school related matters.

I understand that you all have very busy schedules, so to accommodate everyone as best as I could, I have set up 30 minute conference time slots from first thing in the morning until the evening on both of the conference days. I currently have the conference time sheets set up in the classroom. Please only sign up for a conference time on the day that your child usually attends school (ie: T/Th students must only be signed up for a conference time on Thursday the 21st).

The reason for this being that I will have different centres set up each day pertinent to the different age groups/classes. Please keep in mind that these conferences aren't mandatory and that you may not be able to participate and that is not a problem. Some of you will be away during conference time and would like to set up another time to do a conference. Please come see me directly if this is the case and we will see what we can set up.

Key Dates

- No school on Friday March 8 or Monday March 11
- **Wear green on Thursday, March 14 and Friday, March 15**
- No school on Thursday, March 21 or Friday, March 22 (Activity Conferences)
- No school April 22-26 (Easter Break)

In lieu of a field trip this month we will be having music classes. Kari Sorotski of Kindermusic will be leading these music lessons for our T/Th groups and Tia Cowie will teach the M/W/F groups. The lessons will be focusing on music, movement and various musical instruments. These lessons will take place on every Wednesday for our M/W/F classes and every Tuesday for our T/Th classes for the month of March. I am very excited to have this opportunity again this year as it was such a hit in previous years.

I will continue to take the students outside for some playtime in lieu of our gym time on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The rule of thumb for our outdoor play days is that if the weather is reasonable (no colder than -15C), we will be having an outdoor day. Please be sure to send your child with adequate winter clothing for these days.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, we will be having a "Green/Vert Day" on Thursday, March 15th and Friday, March 16th. In addition to the fun crafts and games we will play, I ask that we dress in green/vert!

We have days with no parent helpers in some classes, and we urgently require volunteers to help us maintain appropriate and safe adult-child ratios at Mes Amis. In particular, there are a number of dates in our M/W/F PM class where having two helpers will make things run much more smoothly. I am open to more than one helper in any of the other classes as well. Babysitters or other adult family members are also welcome, once they have cleared a criminal record check. We can also accommodate younger siblings, please talk with me about this first.

Also, I just wanted to kindly request that if you are signed up as parent helper but are unable to make it, it is your responsibility to find a replacement for yourself. We do not want to have to cancel any classes at the last minute, but our parent board has indicated this is a real possibility if we do not have adult helpers in the classroom. I thank you all for your understanding and cooperation.

Please remember to send your child with their library books on our library days. This is very important as I am not able to sign out additional books for students until overdue books have been returned. There is a library bin on the shelf by the classroom door in which you can drop off your child's book when you bring them to school on Monday and Tuesday.

Library times are:
AM – 10:30- Mondays and Tuesdays
PM - 2:15- Mondays and Tuesdays

This is all for now. If you have questions or concerns you can call me at school @ 659-7820 or e-mail me at hahlstedt@hotmail.com. If you call the class during class times I will not answer the phone but I will retrieve messages as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued encouragement and support,

Heather Whyte