

SUNNYSIDE GARDEN DAYCARE CENTRE

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2008

The seasons seem to be changing quicker these days and before we know it spring will be knocking at our door. We hope that you've had a wonderful Holiday Season and we're happy to see that you've all returned safely. The staff at the daycare would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year and look forward to our continuous growth with you throughout 2008.

SAFETY FIRST

Maintaining safety at the daycare is very important. It reinforces and promotes a sense of security in our children and ensures their well being. In order for this to happen, it is vital to have consistency and open and ongoing communication between staff and parents. This communication also includes reading all outgoing and posted daycare information- this is provided for your planning and reference!

SIGNING IN/OUT

It is essential that all parents, caregivers or visitors dropping off and picking up daycare children sign in and out each day. It is also necessary for this individual to make some form of contact with one of the daycare staff to make sure that they know your child has been dropped off or picked up. We need your support in this process as it helps to keep your child safe. If you (or your caregiver) are not familiar with our signing in and out procedures, please speak to one of our staff who will gladly assist you. This information is vital should we ever need to evacuate the daycare and school in case of an emergency.

WINTER WEATHER WATCH

The winter weather this year has been inconsistent and confusing. The temperatures are changing dramatically resulting in snow one day and rain the next. Please be sure to check the temperature and weather conditions each day. Before sending your child to daycare, please make sure that they come dressed appropriately for the weather and outdoor play. Clothing should fit comfortably enough that the children can still move around and have fun. It would also help if these things are clearly labeled, should you need to search for stray items.



DAYCARE FEES

We would like to remind all of our daycare parents that daycare fees are due at the first of each month. Signed and post-dated cheques up to six months in advance are requested. Please be sure to address all cheques to Sunnyside Garden Daycare Centre. When dropping them off make sure that you hand them to one of the daycare staff directly.

LATE PICK UP FEES

The daycare operates between the hours of 7:15 am - 6:00 pm. Any pick ups after 6:00 pm by the clock located in the daycare room, will and do result in a late fee. If you have any late pick up fees that are still outstanding please speak with one of the staff or the Daycare Supervisor.



NEWS FROM THE PRESCHOOL ROOM

We are having lots of fun in the preschool room as we are growing and learning. There are a few things that we would like to remind you about, as well as a few new things as an update.

WELCOME

We would like to welcome our new student-teacher **Dominika Jozwik** who comes to us from Centennial College. She will be with us until April and we hope that she enjoys her stay.

TOYS

All toys are to stay at home. We have lots of fun and exciting toys at the daycare for the children to play with. Toys often get lost, broken or misplaced and special things should not come to daycare for play. Any special things are invited to come on your child's show and share day.

EXTRA CLOTHING

Your child should always have at least two changes of clothing each day. We plan really fun activities and when you're having so much fun there is a chance you might get dirty! Sometimes we may have an accident because we're having so much fun and we're still toilet training. These clothes should be labeled and kept in your child's cubby.

NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL AGE ROOMS

REMINDER

The children in the school age program no longer meet in room 107/108 after 5:30 pm. Please continue to pick up your child from room 105 after 5:30 pm. Thank-You!

ROOM 105

In search of: The junior school age room teachers are looking for any small clean boxes, which the children will creatively transform into a village. (cereal, kleenex, cracker and cookies boxes) Please bring them in to the daycare as you collect them. They will be greatly used and appreciated.

Shoes: It is very important that your child has a pair of indoor/outdoor shoes for daycare everyday (different from Garden Avenue Public School indoor shoes).

ROOM 101

In need of: The senior school age room teachers are in need of the following items:

- small pieces of untreated wood for woodworking projects
- long sleeve men's shirts to be used as smocks when doing art activities.

Any donations or names of contact people would be greatly appreciated.



ENROLLMENT

Daycare enrollment is continuing to be steady! At this time, we would like to remind parents that **Kindergarten Registration** will be taking place over the month of February at Garden Avenue Public School. The school is currently planning an orientation/open house day when parents can bring their children to meet with the Kindergarten teachers and see the classrooms. We will inform you once a date has been confirmed. If you should have any questions or concerns please feel free to call the school at (416) 393-9165.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The SGDC Board of Directors meets once a month to discuss matters pertaining to the daycare centre. The next board meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 25, 2008** at 6:00pm. Dinner and childcare will be provided. All daycare parents are encouraged and welcome to attend. If you wish to attend please be sure to inform Miss Judith ahead of time.

DAYCARE CLOSURE DATES

In order that you might plan ahead, please note the upcoming closures for SGDC.

Monday, February 18, 2008	Family Day
Friday, March 21, 2008	Good Friday
Monday, March 24, 2008	Easter Monday
Monday, May 19, 2008	Victoria Day
Monday, August 4, 2008	Civic Holiday
August 11 to August 15, 2008	Daycare Closure

FRENCH IMMERSION

The Toronto District School Board offers an Early French Immersion Program and a Middle French Immersion Program. The Early Immersion program begins in Senior Kindergarten and Middle Immersion Program begins in Grade 4. The Early and Middle French Immersion programs **are not** currently offered at Garden Avenue Public School.

Please be advised that if your child is currently enrolled at Sunnyside Garden Daycare Centre and you choose to exercise either French Immersion option, you will forfeit your childcare space in the daycare.

Sunnyside Garden Daycare Centre has a limited number of spaces, and priority is given to students currently enrolled at Garden Avenue Public School.

Should you have any questions please give Miss Judith a call at (416) 533-2008.

THANK YOU!

All of the daycare staff would like to extend their warmest wishes and appreciation for all of the lovely cards, gifts and warm gestures received over the holiday season. Thank-you for thinking of us - it warms our hearts to know you care!

VALENTINE'S DAY CHOCOLATE COOKIE BARS

1/2 c Butter
1/4 c Sugar
5 tb Cocoa
1 ts Vanilla
1 ea Egg
2 c Graham cracker crumbs
1/4 c Nuts (finely chopped)
1 c Coconut

Filling:

1/4 c Butter, divided
3 tb Milk
3 ts Vanilla
2 c Confectioners' sugar
3 ea Squares chocolate
1 T butter

Cream butter, sugar, cocoa, vanilla and egg together. Add graham cracker crumbs, nuts and coconut. Pack in 8 x 13-inch pan and refrigerate.

Mix together the butter, milk and vanilla, blend with confectioners' sugar. Spread on first mixture; let set. Melt chocolate and 1 tablespoon butter; spread on top. Let set. Cut into squares.

VALENTINE'S DAY COOKIE POPS

If you are looking for a fun and easy recipe to do with the kids, try these deliciously simple Valentine Cookie Pops. The kids will smile and giggle while making these treats, and will have something fun to give to family, friends, and classmates!

- 20 vanilla wafer cookies
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1 6-ounce bag white chocolate chips
- 1 6-ounce bag semi sweet chocolate chips
- colored candy sprinkles, red & white
- pink and red gummy or sour patch bears
- cake decorating writer gel in green, pink, red, black, & white
- 1 tube each of white, red, and pink cake decorator frosting with flower tip
- red food coloring
- ice cream or lollipop sticks
- wax paper or paper plates



Instructions

Spread peanut butter onto the flat side of the cookies. Place an ice cream stick into the peanut butter on half the cookies. Top with another cookie so the stick is sandwiched between the two cookies.

Before melting the chocolate, separate the white chips into two bowls. After melting, add a few drops of red food coloring to one of the bowls of white chips to make pink chocolate. Dip cookie pops in the melted chips, covering completely. Roll pops in red and white sprinkles and lay or stand on waxed paper or paper plates. Place in refrigerator to chill.

Fun Variations

- **Drizzles** -- Alternating between white chocolate, pink chocolate and semi sweet, drizzle melted chocolate over the cookie to create a cool look!
- **Writing** -- Write fun Valentine shorts on plain pops such as "Love" or "Hug". Add a gummy bear.
- **Hearts** -- Use the decorator gel to draw on hearts and hearts with arrows.
- **Flowers** -- Using the flower tip, pipe on pink flowers with cake decorator icing. Use green gel to add stems and leaves to the bouquet.

Note: Another variation is to use vanilla or chocolate frosting instead of peanut butter for the filling. These can also be made without sticks. Use one stick to be able to dip the cookies in chocolate and roll in sprinkles, then remove the stick and put on wax paper or paper plates, then chill.

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY EVERYONE!