



## NEWSLETTER: SUMMER 2016

### *From the Director*

Dear Parents,

We are coming to the end of another school year at the BLC. While we do not close for the summer and there is no real end of the year, it does feel like a transitional time because so many of our children will be moving up to kindergarten and many new children will be joining us. We wish all of our 'graduates' well as they move on to 'big school'. Please come back and visit sometimes. It is wonderful to see how many of our alumni come back to volunteer or do their community service hours at BLC.

We are excited about a new way of communicating information with our parents, which will be introduced in September. Until now we have sent out newsletters four times per year to inform you about activities in the different programs. With the new way of communicating, *Mailchimp*, the teachers will send you weekly updates and photos so you do not have to wait a couple of months to find out what your child has been learning. Please also take time to look at the documentation boards that the teachers have posted in the classrooms and corridors. The boards usually show a specific activity that the children have enjoyed and the learning that comes from that activity. Both the *Mailchimp* communications and the documentation boards will tell you what is happening in your child's program. It is possible that your child will not appear in a photograph in every posting but the teachers will try to make sure to include him/her the following week! Before starting *Mailchimp* mailings in September we plan to offer parents the opportunity to opt out of having their child appear in photos. We will ask that parents refrain from posting *Mailchimp* pages on Facebook. We also plan to send out postings of what your child is eating each day as well as weekly menus and upcoming social and fundraising events.

Many thanks to all of you who have participated in committee work this year, whether it was playdough making, toy cleaning, social/fundraising, shopping, recycling, or maintenance. This participation has been a great benefit to our programs.

I would also like to thank the BLC Board of Directors for their hard work this year. Five Board members are leaving the Board as their children are moving on to kindergarten in the Fall. They are Caroline Paterson, our Board Chair, Priya Bhaloo, our VP, Erika Myers, our treasurer, Natasha Geerts, our fundraiser and Anna Lam, our member at large. They have brought their dedication and enthusiasm to the Board, looking after the best interests of the programs and the children. Fortunately five Board members are returning for 2016-2017. They are Susan Thorne Myers (Board Chair), Andria King (VP), Jessie Foster (treasurer), Melissa Hammell and Vanessa Follon (members at large). They will be joined by our five new members who were elected at this year's AGM. They are Carlo Lombard, Gina Gallant, Sarah McMaster, Jennifer Houghton and Yana Voranova.

One of our teachers will be leaving the BLC this month. Cathy Brown started teaching in the nursery school program in September 2005. She went on to teach in the

### IMPORTANT DATES

**July 1<sup>st</sup>:** Closed for Canada Day

**July 4<sup>th</sup>:** "Move up day" for some children

**August 1<sup>st</sup>:** Closed for Civic Holiday

**September 1<sup>st</sup>:** Last day at BLC for children going to kindergarten

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Closed for program changeover

**September 6<sup>th</sup>:** New school year starts

full day preschool when we moved to this building in 2011. Cathy has been a warm and nurturing teacher, enjoying a special rapport with the preschoolers. I thank her for her years of service in the childcare field, both here and in other schools where she taught and wish her all the best in the future.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact me. I will be away for a couple of weeks in the summer but, if I am not in the office, I will always be available by email. I wish you all a safe and happy summer.

**Jackie**



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### *From the Board Chair*

With summer now officially upon us, I'm sure many of you are turning your attention to holidays and outdoor activities! This is a time of mixed emotions for me – I look forward to spending the holidays with my son, but as the months pass by I realize that he will come closer to saying farewell to BLC and will take that ever-important step into Kindergarten. I sometimes find it difficult to believe that three years have passed since we first walked through the BLC doors. We have so many fond memories of his time at BLC, in fact far too many to count! He has learned so much under the care & guidance of all of his teachers, and has made friends that I am sure he will have for many years to come. As he and his classmates prepare to make this transition, I know that they are well equipped as a direct result of the foundation that has been built within this wonderful institution. From my husband and myself, a very special thank you to our sons teachers from this past year – Becky, Violeta, Beth, Cathy, Wendy & Amanda: we are grateful for your kindness (and patience!!)

With only a few days remaining as the Chair of the Parent Board of Directors, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all of my colleagues on the Board – Erika Falconer, Priya Bhaloo, Jessie Foster, Andria King, Melissa Hammell, Natasha Geerts, Susan Thorne Myers, Anna Lam, Vanessa Follon, and last but not certainly not least, Jackie Ruano. My gratitude for your assistance during this past year cannot be overstated! As we look to the year ahead, we have many returning and new Board members, and you will have an opportunity to meet them at our Annual General Meeting, which is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

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We've added an exciting twist this year – a wine & cheese social that will immediately following the AGM – we really hope to see many of you there!

The work that the BLC does is so important and I would ask that you all continue to provide your support in any way that you can – every little bit helps!

In closing, I would like to wish each and every one of you a happy and safe summer – enjoy this special time with your children!

Sincerely,

**Caroline Paterson**

### *Social Committee Director BLC Board Co-Vice President*

On Saturday June 18, we held the 2016 *Summer Family Fun Day* at BLC for our students, teachers and their families. The event was organized by the Board, Social Committee and Fundraising Committee. We need to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to City Councillor Tim Tierney, Beacon Hill-Cyrville for a special donation that helped cover our costs for the fun day and were able to hold the event free of charge! We also received a sponsorship from the Metro grocery store at Ogilvie and Montreal Road.

We had over thirty families attend the fun day, including many of our new families joining BLC this year. The event included a book sale and clothing donation drive, to help families in the area who are in need of children's clothing.

We also had many activities for the children (and parents), and the face painting and fishing pond proved to be the most popular! The kids also had the opportunity to go digging for gold nuggets in our sandpits for prizes! The organizing committee would like to thank all the teachers who came and helped with the event, from preparation to set up to take down. Thank you to toddler program volunteer Marion for bringing in some Jumbo Freezies for all the kids! We'd also like to thank the parents who came out to help. Rosana M. has been a great support throughout the year! She comes out to help at every event, always with a smile and willing to do anything we need! Thanks to Myha E. who couldn't help on event day, but made sure we got all the flyers out to our BLC families beforehand! Thank you to Nathali O. who was there all day helping with set up and lunch! Our social and fundraising committees have had a great year and this was a fantastic final event for us.

We hope you enjoyed the events this year and have taken advantage of the opportunities to network and socialize with your BLC family!

**Priya Bhaloo**



vectorartillustrations.com

### *Junior Preschool*

The time has come to say goodbye to some of our precious little children, who are moving up to the senior preschool classroom. We will certainly miss them. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with your children, watching them grow and develop over the course of the year, learning new skills, and growing in confidence while forming new friendships. We would also like to extend a

warm welcome to the new children who will be joining us in July.

The children have spent the last part of the year enjoying our *Spring* themes and the hit songs have been the "butterfly", "frog", and "plant" songs, that they have learned to help them comprehend lifecycles and the beginning of new life in the Spring. We really enjoyed watching the caterpillars turn into *Painted Lady* butterflies and fly away over the hedge as we sang the "fly, fly, butterfly" song. "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" is the book of the season, while the songs from the *Frozen* soundtrack continue to hold the top spot on the music chart. They have also had lots fun with dramatic play, pretending, and singing and acting out various songs, which made music and movement a big part of junior preschool. We do hope you delighted in listening to some of the children's favourite songs, as much as we have all through the year.

We have been enjoying the warm weather by going out as much as we can, both in the mornings and afternoons. Thank you for applying sunscreen on your children in the mornings and sending them with their hats to keep them protected. Sending their bathing suits, waterproof shoes and a little towel to keep in their cubby would also be a good idea as we plan to have the water out on hot days to help keep them cool. Watch out for more messy play while our little engineers build dams, rivers and castles with the water and sand.

As we said before, it has been our pleasure and privilege to watch your children's personalities unfold day by day. George Bernard Shaw was known to have said that, "We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing." We have appreciated playing and learning with them. We do hope that you will continue to play with your children; we do believe that it is truly the path to learning as well as the secret to staying young at heart.

We would like to thank you for your support and co-operation in making our time with your children a truly enjoyable one, and wish you a safe and fun-filled summer.

**Linda & Jackie**



dreamstimes.com

## *Nursery School and Middle Preschool*

It's a bittersweet feeling to watch the year come to an end, knowing that the children you've watched grow throughout the year will start a new journey soon. We have spent a wonderful year singing, dancing, reading, laughing and learning together. The most rewarding feeling was seeing how well everyone used their creative abilities and imaginations; all the while building meaningful friendships.

Our Special Day was a highlight of the year! We were filled with pride to watch the children share their special something. They all shone as they shared their treasure from home or performed for their peers. There were many impressive questions and comments from the audience as well. This small presentation was a bright turning point for some of our shy friends and an opportunity for our chatterboxes to take the floor!

As a special treat for being such good "Bucket Fillers", we had some Water Fun Days! We enjoyed playing with the bubbles, water tables and toys, sprinkler games and yummy watermelon slices.

To finish off such a magical year we had to have a magical send off. Our songs and celebration was an emotional one for families (and teachers!). Your children should feel very proud of their performance.

A special thanks to all of our parents for being so supportive and involved throughout the year. We are so looking forward to seeing all your smiling faces again next year; whether back with us at the Beacon Learning Centre or at our events throughout the year. We would love to hear how our friends are doing in Kindergarten!

Have a sunny summer,  
**Becky and Violeta**



## *Senior Preschool*

This spring has brought many changes and opportunities for growth for the Senior Preschool friends. We welcomed

a family of caterpillars into our class and watched with anticipation and joy as they transformed into beautiful butterflies. The children would rush to the butterfly tent each morning to observe the process of metamorphosis and see what changes occurred, seemingly overnight. The children also had the opportunity to learn about plants and where they come from, by growing their very own sunflowers and tending to the class' green beans and fairy garden. We discussed soil, roots, water and the sun's role in plant growth.

As the temperatures rose, we spent more and more time outside enjoying the beautiful sunshine. We have been encouraging the children to "move their bodies" by running, skipping and jumping! We thank you for applying sun screen to your children each morning and providing additional clothes so we can enjoy wet, messy play!

Finally, the Senior Preschool teachers would like to express warm wishes to all the families heading off to kindergarten in the fall. We know that our beautiful butterflies and budding flowers are ready for the next steps in their lives and we wish you all success and happiness during this important transition. Please stop by to visit, your children's smiles and hugs are always welcome!

With love from the Senior Preschool teachers,

**Beth, Cathy, Wendy and Amanda**



kidscampuslv.com

## *The Toddler Room*

Greetings to all the toddler family of friends!

The past spring months have been filled with busy, happy and exciting new projects for the toddler children. In early May our butterfly hatching project began as 15 tiny caterpillars arrived; they grew larger with each passing day, greatly delighting the children. It was fascinating for all of us to watch them create their chrysalis and eventually witness the exciting metamorphosis when the Painted Lady butterflies emerged. Many cheers and cries of delight came from the children as they watched their butterflies fly away outside to find a new home. This

project led to many arts and crafts projects creating caterpillars, butterflies, and a giant cocoon. We have also been reading books and stories about caterpillars, one of their favourite being, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar"; it is always a treasure to hear, especially when told as a flannel board story at our circle time.

The toddler children were very busy preparing special surprises for Mother's Day as they created cards, painted flower pots, and then planted pansy flowers into their artfully decorated pots. We were all so very pleased that so many of the mothers were able to join us for the afternoon "Mother's Day Tea Party". What a lovely occasion and celebration it was with party treats, some favourite songs, and lots of hugs as the children presented their special song for Mother's Day with sign language.

The children always enjoy the chance to dig in the soil, so it was a treat for them to help create a fairy garden with potting soil, grass seed, and their watering cans. Over several weeks the children have been watching the grass grow taller, and have added little creatures and natural objects to the garden to create a nature scene. They also enjoyed planting and watering sunflower seeds and watching them grow into little sprouts. Hopefully you all received your own baby sunflower plant to take home and transplant into your own outdoor space. We'd love to see any photos of your plants as they grow into beautiful sunflowers!

Another springtime project the children have been excited about, has been watching a variety of birds coming to the new birdfeeder located just outside our window. They are learning the names of birds as they come and feed including cardinals, sparrows, goldfinches, chickadees, and of course the big hungry crows! Perhaps we'll add a bird-bath to help attract some robins and more activity.

The best part of spring for all of us has been getting outside a great deal more to enjoy playing in our yard, without so many layers of clothing getting in the way. The toddlers have been having plenty of fun in the sun with the ride-on cars and bikes, balls, bubbles, digging in the sand, side-walk chalk, and even large mural painting art activities! On one occasion, we brought the paints outside to paint our own club houses out of large cartons. The children had great fun playing in the houses afterwards, and peeking out the window and door with their friends.

Lately with the hot summer weather finally here, we have been enjoying water play outside at the water tables, where the children have endless fun filling containers and pouring the contents out, using water wheels, and playing with the pond creatures. Needless to say, their clothes and footwear get wet during water play, so we ask that

you please make sure that your child has several changes of summer outfits in his or her green bin in the toddler room so that we can make the necessary changes after this fun play. Also, a spare pair of foot-wear is appreciated. Water shoes, crocs, or sandals that can get wet are a wonderful idea.

Recently, our "Fathers' Day Picnic" get-together was a great success, and we wish to thank all the family members who were able to participate to make it a fun and special day to honour dads. The children had fun sharing their special treats and then showing off some of their favourite songs, especially the "Daddy, Daddy, I Love You!" They also worked hard at making their bookmark gifts and handprint-fish cards to present to their dads.

Be sure to take a few moments from time to time to check out our large photo frame boards in the hallway and in the classroom that showcase the children involved in various activities, or their current interests. Lately we have highlighted: "sensory play", "outdoor fun", "teamwork play", and "community vehicles we love to see". The children are always thrilled to find their photo and to name their friends.

As July approaches, we will be seeing six of our toddlers moving up to join the junior pre-school group of friends. We will certainly miss the wonderful, happy times we had with Will, Dex, Henry, Felix, Ariana, and Yiyi, and we wish them all the best as they become big preschoolers! We will also be missing Gustave and Naima very much as we have to say "Good-bye" to them as well. We wish Naima happiness and fun in the move to her new care centre. Gustave will return to B.L.C.'s Nursery School Program in the fall, when we'll be sure to greet him over the fence with his new friends. We look forward to warmly welcoming our two new toddler friends, Mackenna Morellato and Yulia Bhattasali and their families to our happy, busy group.

On a sadder note, we wish to mention that our much loved teacher, Lee will be taking some "sick-leave" time off this summer to get some much needed rest and healing time for some on-going health concerns. We wish her a full and speedy recovery to renewed health very soon. Also, we will greatly miss our dear, teacher, Cyndi, as she takes July and August off from the Toddler room to be with her active family over the summer. We also miss our wonderful teacher Saman, who, as you know, is now a busy mother looking after her lovely new daughter, Zaynah! Hopefully they will come by and treat us to a visit sometime this summer. We wish the new family all the best!

Fond wishes to you all as you enjoy the wonderful, warm summer days traveling on vacations, or just having fun in your own backyards.

Kind regards from,

**Karen, Sandy, Elaine, Cyndi, & Lee**



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