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## Glenbrook Community Preschool Newsletter

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### We are a Peanut Free Zone

Glenbrook Community Preschool will be providing a healthy snack for your child during their preschool class, so there is no need to pack one. In addition, please do not send any other food, such as birthday or holiday treats, to school with your child due to allergy concerns. Even food that has come in contact with peanuts can be potentially dangerous for some children. Thanks for your cooperation!

October 2016

### This Month at Preschool

Preschool is now well underway, with the first month already behind us! Our students have had busy days full of playing and have been exploring various shapes and colours during the first part of September. Later in the month they had opportunities to investigate ideas of fall, through stories, crafts, playdough and more.

With October now upon us, we turn our imaginations to the ideas, images, sights, and sounds of Thanksgiving and Halloween. Perhaps your child can tell you about the Thanksgiving playdough tools they have been using, or a Halloween book their teacher read. More information on Halloween at preschool can be found on the reverse of this page.

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### Upcoming Holidays and Important Dates

Friday, Oct. 7 - Monday, Oct. 10 ----- Thanksgiving Break (no classes)  
Tuesday, Oct. 25 ----- Parents' Advisory Committee Meeting (7 pm)  
Thursday, Oct. 27 ----- Halloween Costume Day (3 Year Olds)  
Monday, Oct 31 ----- Halloween Costume Day (4 Year Olds)  
Tuesday, November 1 ----- No School (3 Year Olds)

All parents are welcome to attend our Parents' Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings, held the last Tuesday of each month. We welcome your contributions! If you would like to attend, please email Jennifer Straatman at [chair@glenbrookpreschool.org](mailto:chair@glenbrookpreschool.org).

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### Cold and Flu Season

Cold and flu season is unfortunately upon us, and we need your help to keep our preschool a healthy place for everyone. We are asking parents to please keep your child at home if he/she is not feeling well. Although this is obvious in cases of fever or vomiting, it is just as important when the child has a continuous runny nose, a bad cough, or is just feeling a bit off. It is natural for children, even when they are feeling unwell, to tell their parents they want to go to school, because school is fun. However, this same child will have difficulties concentrating in class, and will require a considerable amount of attention from our teachers, taking their focus away from the class as a whole. As well, after a few sneezes directly into the playdough, they are guaranteed to pass their germs onto other students and the teachers. Thank you for making your best effort to keep our classrooms a healthy place for everyone. Your consideration of our teachers and other students is much appreciated!

## Reminders

- Check out the preschool's website (glenbrookpreschool.org) and the bulletin board in the coat room for weekly updates and information!
- To maintain consistency in the classroom, we kindly ask that you encourage your children to address their teachers using their surnames. They are Mrs. Fozzard, Mrs. Miller, and Mrs. McConnell. Thanks for your assistance with this!
- Our classroom tends to get quite warm. Please keep this in mind when dressing your children for school. We suggest t-shirts, not hoodies or sweatshirts.

## Fundraising Update

Please watch for information coming home in late October regarding our Holiday fundraiser. This year we are pleased to be bringing back beautiful Christmas poinsettias, as well as Mixing Spoon mixes for tasty soups and baked goods. In addition, we will also have the option of wreaths and holiday planters, all ready in plenty of time for Christmas entertaining.

More information coming soon!

## Enjoy the fun at home! No Cook Playdough Recipe

2 cups white flour  
1 cup salt  
2 tsp. cream of tartar  
2 Tbsp. vegetable oil  
2 cups of BOILING water with food colouring added to it

Mix all ingredients in a bowl, turn out onto counter and knead until smooth. Store in an airtight container.



## Halloween at Glenbrook Preschool

On the class nearest Halloween, your child is welcome to wear a costume to school if they wish. This will be Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> for the four year old classes, and Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> for the three year old classes. Please leave all Halloween toy weapons at home, and remember how warm the classroom gets when selecting your costumes. Also, please do not send any Halloween treats with your child. Thanks for your cooperation!



## Drop-Off and Pick-Up

We have recently been informed that an airvent in our coatroom leads directly into an elementary school classroom next door. Adult voices in particular carry through the vent, disrupting the class, so we ask that you please keep this in mind when dropping off and picking up your children. Thanks!

Now that preschoolers are familiar with the drop-off routine, there is no need to stay with your child until they leave for the classroom. In fact, many children find it easier if their parents do not prolong the drop-off process.

## Provincial Child Care Subsidy

Did you know that the provincial government subsidizes the preschool fees for children of a stay-at-home parent? There is a maximum household income, which varies according to family size, but it is more generous than many people realize! **For example, a family of four (two parents and two children) with an annual income of \$56,000 can qualify!** Why not see if your family meets the criteria?

For eligibility requirements and further information please go to:  
<http://humanservices.alberta.ca/financial-support/15679.html>

or call 1-877-644-9992

Please note, you can use an online subsidy estimator to see if your household income falls within the limits without first having to fill out the application form. This estimator can be found at:

<http://humanservices.alberta.ca/financial-support/15668.html>

## Learning Through Play

Wooden building blocks are a perennial favourite in preschool classrooms around the world, and our classroom is no exception. Kids love blocks! In addition to providing hours of fun, did you know that block play can help children to:

- Learn about gravity, stability, balance, weight, and trial and error
- Understand shape, size, space, depth, width, and height
- Develop hand-eye coordination and muscles
- Learn to plan and ask questions
- Gain confidence in their own abilities
- Learn to cooperate and share with others



Information taken from: <http://www.education.govt.nz/early-childhood/teaching-and-learning/learning-tools-and-resources/play-ideas/blocks/>