

# Little Mariners Child Care Center Coming to Silver Bay

By Kitty Mayo

The Little Mariners Child Care Center is a new daycare that will be coming soon to Silver Bay, with a home at William Kelley School.

Kerissa Graden, the daycare's director, says that much work is underway for licensure and renovations over the summer, with a hoped for opening in the Fall at the beginning of the school year.

The new daycare will be operated through the LSSD Community Education program, and would also serve younger children, from birth through three-years-old throughout the day, in addition to after school hours.

The group Shoring Up the Business in Silver Bay identified a daycare shortage as a serious issue affecting businesses and employees in the area last year. The Little Mariners daycare idea came out of further discussion in the community and working with the Lake Superior School District.

The school district was invited to the table because of the daycare model already being utilized in Two Harbors with the Kids and Co. after school program.

Kids and Co. has been operating as an after school daycare program in Two Harbors for over 20 years, serving a range of school age students after school hours, as well as operating a very small daycare for three- and four-year-olds who are also in preschool.

During the course of the summer Graden says that the space the daycare would occupy was determined and finalization of renovation plans was underway, when last week a different space at William Kelley was made available.

While the change resulted in a great deal more room, revizing renovation plans now has to be done. Planning for a new early childhood playground is set for July, and a new drop-off area with a roundabout and more parking is also planned to be completed this summer.

Graden says that her primary focus has been on the pre-kindergarten program, in the

age range from six weeks to pre-K (up to age 5, but not yet attending Kindergarten). That program is on course to open by September with hours from 6:30 am to 6:00 pm.

The second set of children, Kindergarten through age 12, will involve an after school program. With the uncertainties of how school will operate because of Covid-19, that program will be determined as the district makes decisions closer to the beginning of the school year.

Graden is originally from Two Harbors, and after working as a private nanny, moved to South Korea where she taught English as a second language to middle-schoolers. Later, she worked as a child care teacher, until she learned of this opportunity closer to her hometown.

"I just love the whole concept of having the center in the school, the opportunity is such a big benefit to families, especially those with school age kids, it's going to be really convenient for them," said Graden.

According to Graden a study by the Northspan Group indicated last year that the need for child care in Lake County was increasingly pressing, with over 100 children needing care, but only 12 child care slots available.

"Lake county is a child care desert, especially for younger children, the new center will be a benefit by being able to take more infants and toddlers," said Graden.

Applications are being taken for several staff positions at the daycare, including full and part time positions for teachers, assistant teachers and aids. Graden says that anyone interested is encouraged to send in their resume and then work with her to decode the often confusing requirements. Apply through the LSSD website at the "Employment Opportunity" page there.

Graden says that enrollment will open soon, and meanwhile she is taking names for a reservation list at: [kgraden@isd381.org](mailto:kgraden@isd381.org), or call with questions at: (218)226-4437, extension 8453.

## New Aviation Training Scholarship Offered

The Arrowhead Eagles Aviation Organization (AEAO) of Grand Marais is pleased to announce its first-ever aviation scholarship to anyone who aspires to a career in the aviation industry. This new \$2,000 scholarship is made possible by the donations and fund-raising activities conducted by AEAO.

"We're pleased to offer this significant scholarship thanks to the generous support and efforts of many contributors to our organization. It's a great opportunity to help jump-start an aviation career for a local community member," said Mike Raymond, President of AEAO. "I am particularly pleased that an anonymous donor helped us reach our goal of \$2,000."

Career options in aviation include maintenance technicians, pilots, flight attendants, fixed-base operators (FBO), airline scheduler/dispatcher, aviation sales, FAA air traffic controller, airport operations, unmanned aircraft systems and aeronautical engineers.

Anyone interested in this scholarship

opportunity can pick up an application form at the Grand Marais airport office, 123 Airport Road, Grand Marais, MN. Applicants must be enrolled within a year of acceptance of the scholarship into an aviation training program with a Certified Flight Instructor or with an accredited aviation curriculum. The scholarship is limited to Cook County or Lake County residents who are at least 15 years or older. The scholarship winner will be announced at the discretion of AEAO. Each applicant will receive a mini-poster of the epic poem "High Flight."

AEAO is comprised of individual aircraft owners and others interested in aviation. Our mission is to support Cook County's airport and aviation tradition through promoting aviation events, airport enhancements, youth-oriented activities and opportunities, and to encourage community use and a friendly atmosphere at the Cook County/Grand Marais airport.

For additional information please contact Mike Raymond, Red Pine Realty, 218-370-0373.

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## Accurate Information Helps People Make Important Choices During Emergencies

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June 24, 2020 - Trusted, accurate information during this pandemic is key. One of the fundamental principles of emergency management before, during and after incidents, is getting the right information, to the right people at the right time, so they can make potentially lifesaving decisions. This goes for the emergency response teams, decision makers and most certainly the general public.

Social media in today's world is a blessing, but also a curse in some ways. It's an amazing tool for authorities to self-publish information, getting critical messages to masses of people almost instantly. But what happens when people post and share misinformation or jump-the-gun and post something before they have all the facts out of an emotional reaction? Or how do you know if something is a scam when it looks official?

At Lake County, we want our residents to have the facts in a timely way. Whether it's COVID or other disasters, we're all in this together and we want clear information. Here are some tips to help navigate these challenging times when we're overwhelmed with information from all directions:

- Rely only on trusted sources of information
- (For COVID-19, these MN Dept of Health, MN COVID Dashboard and CDC COVID websites.)
- Think before you share
- Be mindful when posting personal information
- Be wary of emotional content
- Report scams to authorities

Go to [coronavirus.gov](https://www.coronavirus.gov) for more information.

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