

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 1 5

Cochrane Creative Playschool

Learning Through Play



School Year begins with Town Hall

Please join us at 7pm this Thursday, Sept. 3rd, upstairs at St. Andrew's for our annual meeting.

Mark it on your calendar as we will be discussing information you need to know about staggered entry start dates as well as posting in-class volunteer sign-up sheets. Don't forget to arrive early to join us for a casual meet and greet with our new teacher Miss Patti, starting at 6:30pm in the classroom.

The 2015-16 CCPS Board looks forward to seeing you there!

Save the Date!

Class Photos

Oct. 7 & 8

Roz Edge Photography returns to take adorably unique class photos.

Butterfield Acres

Oct. 23

An all-school morning outing. Parents and siblings welcome at an additional cost.

Halloween

Oct. 29 & 30

Parties will be during normal class times. More info to come.

Welcome!

The 2015/16 Board members welcome you to the School year! We would like to send a special welcome to our new teacher Ms Patti Mueller. She is taking over the position from Mrs. Sarah Blackett, who as most of you know by now has retired. Sarah sends this message to all her past students and parents:

It has been a busy summer with many decisions along the way. Our home in Cochrane sold and Graham and I move to our new home in Vernon next week.

Thank you all for your help, support and encouragement over the past years of my teaching your children at Cochrane Creative Playschool. It has been a pleasure serving so many loyal families.

I wish Patti all the very best as she takes over the position of preschool teacher and I know you will give her as much assistance as you can as she settles into her new role.

*It is with sadness that I say goodbye and I send best wishes to the children, old and new,
Sarah Blackett*





Message from the Board

Welcome (back) to Cochrane Creative Playschool! We are excited to be back and look forward to all that our new teacher, Ms Patti Mueller has planned for the year. We aim to work with Patti to provide a quality program for your children. Music, physical education, special trips and activities, crafts, creative play and circle time will all contribute to your child's development over the next nine months. As a co-operative playschool we rely on our parents to help keep our standards high and our costs affordable. You help us keep our school strong when you:

Welcome!

Cochrane Creative is very excited to welcome Ms. Patti Mueller! During her time in preschool education, she has also supported children with various needs and abilities both within the school and community settings. Patti uses a phonetics approach in games, songs, and activities. We are sure your little ones will find learning to read enjoyable with Patti.

Volunteer!

PLEASE fill your classroom volunteer requirements. Due to legislation, we can't hold class with more than seven children if there is not a parent volunteer present. This is time for you to make an impact in the classroom, not just by being a "warm body", but by interacting with the students. They love meeting you and learning with you. We ask that you arrive 10 minutes before class starts on your volunteer day so that we know class can be held that day. **If you have your Criminal Record Check please bring it to the Town Hall on September 3rd or to your first day in the classroom. You need to show this to a Board Member for documentation prior to volunteering with the children.** If you have any questions please contact one of our co-chairs Kelly Bell or Joy Eaton.

Please arrive on time for the toy cleaning session you have signed up for. Our toy cleaning sessions go quickly and are relatively painless when we have a sufficient number of people working each session. Help out at field trips, special events or in other aspects of school life.



Fundraise!

Money earned through fundraisers help us purchase new materials for the school. There are multiple fundraisers planned for you to meet your \$100/student fundraising commitment. Your first chance is through the our Student Union Coupon (SUTP) books or app fundraiser starting September 1st. We will have packets available at the Town Hall meeting this week and also in the bootroom the first week of school.

We will also be running a Balzac Meat Fundraiser early in the fall. The Balzac meats are very popular with many families!!

Read Your Registration Handbook

Our policies and procedures are all contained within the 2015-2016 handbook. If you have not received a current handbook, please contact us and we will ensure a copy makes its way to you.

Help Increase our Enrolment

Encourage people you know who have 3- and 4-year-olds who are considering late admission for playschool to contact us. We still have space in afternoon 3/4 yr old split class and the morning 3 yr old class. Your recommendations are appreciated.

Parent Helper Responsibilities

- ❖ Check with the teacher to see if there is any prep work for you to do during carpet time.
- ❖ Turn off the alarm on the cell phone which will ring 10 minutes after the start of class. This signals you to lock the main upstairs door. The allen key is hanging by the right door jam. If the bar is out the door is locked, when the bar is pushed in, it is unlocked.
- ❖ Assist the teacher and students with craft activities. You may be asked to lead this activity. Upon completion tidy up the activity as needed, cleaning equipment and table.
- ❖ Help the children tidy up the classroom at end of free play.
- ❖ Check for and clean any messes or spills. Play pellets on the floor can be put into the little box under the sand table. Throw away any rice, sand or Play-Doh from the floor. If the paints are good please leave. Wash the paint brushes and return to paints.
- ❖ Attend gym, music or the park with the class. To maintain our ratio, you must stay with the group unless instructed otherwise by the teacher. Assist the children with outdoor shoes and coats, but encourage independence.
- ❖ Prepare for snack. Spray and wipe tables with a clean cloth and premixed lemon guard solution, located in the second bathroom. Set out placemats.
- ❖ Assist children with hand washing. Students must wash their hands before and after snack time, as well as after Play-Doh or sand table use and after using the bathroom.
- ❖ Clean up after snack. Wipe placemats, tables and spot clean chairs, using a cloth and lemon guard solution. Sweep floor.
- ❖ Wipe down sandbox toys using a clean cloth and the lemon guard solution. Leave to dry before returning to the sand box. (Afternoon parent helper only.)
- ❖ Turn off cell phone alarm and unlock the upstairs door.
- ❖ Take a quick look in the classroom and bathrooms to see that all is ready for the next class.
- ❖ Finally, enjoy yourself! The kids love spending time with and learning from you!

Ready to Fundraise?



Our first campaign is SUTP Coupon Books. These books are packed with savings for tons of new and everyday places to eat, stay, play and shop! Nine categories of products and services - everything from restaurants to recreation and entertainment to travel. Or try the Mobile App! The newest addition to the SUTP lineup returns upgraded and improved bringing the convenience of savings directly to your smartphone! Filled with everything the Coupon Book has to offer and so much more!

Next up we will be launching Balzac Meats early this fall!

Hello Volunteers!

As your Volunteer Coordinator for the 2015/2016 school year at Cochrane Creative Playschool, my job is to coordinate all the volunteer positions that take place for the school. There have been several positions that have been filled, so thank you to all of you who were able to sign up in advance.

If you have not yet signed up for your volunteer positions please come prepared to the Town Hall meeting on September 3rd to volunteer for an open position from the list below. If everyone comes prepared it will allow the process of filling in all the positions to go quickly and smoothly!

Open Positions

- **One Toy Committee Cleaning Leader:** Leaders organize cleaning sessions. At sessions, leaders oversee and assist parents cleaning toys to approved Alberta Health Services cleaning protocol.
- **Two Toy Rotation Committee Members:** Toys are rotated weekly in the classroom. This takes about 45 minutes any time after school Friday or on the weekend.
 - **One Toy Storage Committee Member:** Following the toy cleaning, once the toys are dry the toy storage committee will put them away each week. This must be done between Wednesday and end of class Friday following the toy cleaning.
- **One Play-Doh Maker:** One committee members take turns making Play-Doh each week. Expenses are reimbursable.
- **Class Representative for the ¾ PM Class**
Responsibilities are ongoing and include: collecting permission slips for field trips, collecting money for book orders and fundraising, etc. (ideal for a parent present at pick-up & drop off)



We do need to fill these positions in order to run the preschool this year and they are in addition to the mandatory in-class volunteering.

Lists and schedules will be available for sign-up at the Town Hall Meeting and in the bootroom. We also request that each family sign up for one or two toy cleanings throughout the year.

Thanks in advance everyone! I look forward to meeting you all,

Tara Plouffe

What's Happening in Preschool

Hello! I am Miss Patti and I am excited to be learning and exploring with your children this year.

During my time in preschool education, I have supported children with various needs and abilities both within the school and community settings. Using a phonetics approach in games, songs, and activities, I am sure your little ones will find learning to read enjoyable. Mrs. Blackett has shared activities previous students have enjoyed and consequently, Itchy's Alphabet, Jolly Music, and Show & Share remain. We will also be venturing on field trips and having class parties! However, as with any transition, it is important to communicate any issues or concerns with either myself or a board member so we can make your child's learning experience the best possible.

The first few times at preschool can be exciting and anxious for a child. To make the time a bit easier as a caregiver you can:

- have your child help you pack a favourite snack to enjoy at preschool.
- make drop-off short with a brief "good-bye" or "see you soon." Try to be excited!
- ask your child specific questions about his or her day "what song did you sing? Did you sit beside a boy or girl?"
- acknowledge that your child is scared or nervous, "It is okay to feel nervous/upset. I am going to go shopping/help Grandma/to the doctor. You can practice being brave. Your teacher is excited to meet you. Let's give it a try."

The first few weeks at Preschool are a time for learning routines and for "Getting to know You and Me." We will be practicing sharing skills, classroom expectations, and Special

Helper responsibilities. Towards the end of September we will be introducing more formal phonics with the letters C and A. A monthly schedule will be posted outside of class for reference. Numeracy and literacy skills will be revisited throughout the year in a variety of ways in our different thematic units and activities.

Please bring the following labeled items to preschool:

- Velcro, rubber soled indoor shoes (to leave in the classroom for the year)
- Peanut-free snack
- Change of clothes (accidents do happen and learning can be messy!)
- Bag to Keep change of clothes in

*I understand some children absolutely need a special stuffed friend or other toy to keep anxiety down. Please label these special friends so they do not become lost in the classroom.

Ideally, the classroom rule is a toy is for all to play with, so if the special friend comes inside it is for everyone. This may be enough to persuade your child to leave it in the cubby or at home. Another idea is to put a photo in their snack bag.

I will be in the preschool preparing for classes and I am available to meet upon request. Please feel free to email me with any comments, questions, or concerns at 8pmtkjh@gmail.com.

Have a safe and wonderful last few days of summer! I look forward to meeting you and your little one at the "town hall."

~Miss Patti



Talk to us!

We want to know what you think, good or bad. Please let us know what we need to improve as well as what we are doing well. And we always love to hear new ideas!

cochranecreative@gmail.com

403-651-7664

www.cochranecreative.ca

or follow us on Facebook!

Board member's personal email addresses follow and are posted in the boot room. Minutes from previous meetings will be posted in the boot room and include dates for upcoming meetings. Please join us, the atmosphere is casual and you are always welcome.



2015-16 CCPS Board of Directors

Co-Chair	Joy Eaton <i>Josh; 4am</i>	joy.eaton@me.com
Co-Chair	Kelly Bell <i>Anwyn; 3am</i>	ltkdbell@yahoo.ca
Treasurer	Emma Ashton <i>William; 4am</i>	emma_stage@hotmail.com
Secretary	Robyn Toner <i>Nicolas; 4am</i>	r8t51@hotmail.com
Registrar	Sam Kuperis <i>Charlotte; 3am</i>	kuperisfmail@gmail.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Tara Plouffe <i>Maelynn; 4am</i>	tmillerplouffe@gmail.com
Fundraising Coordinator	Mindy Gallup <i>Samuel; 3am</i>	mindy.gallup@gmail.com
Children's Events Coordinator	Jen Gelinis <i>Dillyn; 3am</i>	jengelinis@hotmail.ca
Communications Coordinator	Jasmine Schacher <i>Jake; 4am</i>	j_zaple@hotmail.com

Photo Credits: Pg 1 - Image courtesy of taemileland at FreeDigitalPhotos.net. Pg 2 – Charlotte Kuperis, Josh Eaton Pg 4 – Anwyn Bell, Samuel Gallup, Jake Schacher Pg 5 – Patti Mueller To see your child in the newsletter please send one or two high-res themed photos to cochranecreative@gmail.com. Next month's theme will be Fall. Not every photo will be used but every effort will be made to include each child in one newsletter. Submission automatically gives CCPS permission to distribute photos in newsletter.