

Springbank Cottage Childcare Ltd.

September 2013 Newsletter

Parents,

Welcome back to all returning families and a big hello to our new families. Now that we are back into school mode there are a few reminders. When dropping off or picking up your child you must remember to sign them in and out everyday and at the end of each week. Each room has the child's sign in sheets, if you are dropping off more than one child please make sure to sign them both in and out.

Locked Front Doors

For all of our new parents as part of our safety procedures our front doors are locked from 9:00 am – 3:00pm each day. You will find a door bell to the left of the doors that will allow you entrance in during these hours.

Events calendar and Snack List

As you enter the building you will find a big chalk board up on the wall to the right as you come up the stairs. This is where we post the weekly am and pm snacks as well as two one month calendars with future information. This will help keep you informed of upcoming events. Our newsletters go out every two months. The next newsletter will be sent out the end of September and will cover October and November.

AM and PM Snacks

We supply morning snack for all children going to school from 7:45- 8:15 every morning and all other children that stay at the center will receive their snack at 8:30 each morning. Please keep in mind this is a snack not a full breakfast, please make sure that your child has eaten breakfast before coming to the center as they may not want the snack that we are supplying. The last thing any of us want would be a child going to school hungry.

Post Dated Cheques

I have attached the fees schedule showing the increase effective September. Please review when writing your cheques. When writing posted dated cheques remember to reduce September's cheque by your deposit amount. **Cheques should be dated for the first or the fifth of each month.** Receipts are located in the family name mail box cubbies located on top of the desk in the hallway next to the daycare room. When taking your receipts please leave the envelope.

Statutory Holiday List

Our first Stat Holiday of the year is Monday September 2nd 2013. The center will be closed. I have attached a copy of our closure dates which will also be posted in the rooms as well as the hall on the Parent Board.

Illness

The health and wellness of the children is very important to us. If your child is vomiting in the night, they should stay at home the next day. Alternatively, if they wake up with a fever, green mucus running out of their nose, pus in their eyes, a wet cough, please don't bring them to cottage. If your child is "out of character" we will take their temperature, if their temperature is 39 degrees Celsius or higher we will be calling you to pick your child up. **We do not administer Tylenol or Advil at Cottage.** If these medications are needed your child should not be at daycare where they may spread possible virus and infections.

Any prescribed medication must arrive at the center in the original bottle with applicator- please do not measure and bring us prefilled medication syringes as indicated in the Parent Handbook.

We are a nut free center: we have children in our center that are highly allergic to them and all nut based products. We are asking for your diligence that cottage stay a nut free zone.

Extra- Curricular Activities offered in the Fall:

Dance Class : Classes will run on Mondays here at the center, if you are interested in putting your child into dance classes please contact Devon Rogers. I have attached an information sheet for you to review.

Devon Rogers – www.springbankdancers.com

Karate Classes- Arashi-Do Martial Arts: Classes are offered in the white hall directly behind us. Trevor has arranged classes on Tues. and Thurs. at 4:45 for all of the children from the center. We have arranged a drop off of children for Tuesday and Thursday and you will need to pick up after the class. There are others days offered but you will have to arrange to get your child to and from the classes. For further information please contact Trevor at **Trevor –www.arashido.com**

Zumba Classes- We will continue to offer Zumba classes every Friday at 2:30- 3:00- for 3yrs – grade 1

3:00-4:00- for grade 2 – grade 6

Movie Night – We had hoped to offer summer movie nights but the summer was just too busy. We will start the movie night again in September. We are running our first movie night of the school year on **September 20, Friday 6:00p.m. – 10p.m.** If you can't sign up for this one these are offered every month. Next week we will post on the easel as you enter the building movie, meal and the girls running the night.

GoodBye and Hello

It is time for us to say good bye to some of our staff. We have enjoyed having Carly and Max. They are both heading back to school; they will be back in the spring and maybe at Christmas Break. There will be a few changes in our rooms. Terry will be helping in the kindergarten grade one room in the afternoons. Some of you may remember Brandy, she is returning to the Bas room with Melissa and Cathy. We have a new friend joining Nina in the daycare room. Florencia (Flor), she comes to us with many years of working with children. Flor is replacing Sarah who will be going on an adventure. Flor works closely with Sarah's younger siblings as a Nanny and will join us in the afternoons. She comes highly recommended.

Daycare Room

Welcome!!! Welcome back families and special welcome to new families! We have had a fun summer, enjoying the weather, water fun and many field trips. The daycare is home away from home. It is very important to us that your child spends their day in a safe, nurturing, stimulating and developmentally appropriate environment. The children learn daily about science, math, literacy, music, art, physical activities including fine and gross motor through fun activities and play. We use the emergent curriculum to plan our weekly themes based on observations we make during daily activities. If you have a work or cultural experience you would like to come in and share with us , we would welcome you.

If your child will not be coming due to illness or appointments, we appreciate a phone call or email letting us know.

As Fall approaches, temperatures will cool down, please ensure your child comes well equipped for each day. Create a fun evening activity checking your child's backpack contents to ensure they have a complete change of clothing, hat, water bottle(to go home every Friday for a good wash) and a jacket. Towels and bathing suits are no longer a requirement for fall. The children require a separate pair of Velcro runners to be left in their cubbies at cottage. Outdoor(or shoes worn outside) must be removed and stored on the blue boot racks inside the front entrance. The children should come into the daycare room in their socks and change into their indoor shoes. **The consistency of this routine helps the children develop independence, a sense and ownership and pride.** Please help your children by guiding them through this process. Wearing their "indoor shoes " home confuses the children when routines are not consistently followed and reinforced. Please provide Velcro runners (no crocs or flip flops) because they provide safe footwear for running and playing and help the children develop self-confidence as they master the art of putting their shoes on.

Birthdays

Birthdays are very special, if you wish to send treats for the group to share at snack time to celebrate on your child's special birthday, we are happy to make snack time special on the day.

"MUST HAVES" FOR DAYCARE-EACH DAY PLEASE

Please label all of your child's belongings

*Ice Pack *Hat *Water Bottle * Indoor Velcro Runners & outdoor shoes

* Jacket * Complete change of clothing; underwear, pants/ shorts , shirt

Lunches and Snacks

In the daycare Room, popcorn is not permitted due to choking danger in younger children. No nuts or nut products what so ever- Nutella, peanut butter, granola bars containing nuts, cereal with nuts, cookies that may contain etc. Please check food labels, we have children that have severe allergies and carry epipens with them. If they encounter cross-contamination from the oils on the children's hands, the result could be critical. Lunch is a very important part of the children's day, please send foods the children enjoy. When making your child's lunch please keep in mind that we must follow the Canada Food guide.

Lunches Should Contain:

- . Main course " growing food" (pizza, sandwiches, soup, macaroni, etc.
We have a microwave and are happy to heat or reheat as necessary**
- . Raw and or cooked vegetables (carrots and similar vegetables need to be sliced lengthwise)**
- . fresh fruits (grapes, cherries and similar fruits pitted and halved)**
- . yogurt tubes/containers, granola bars(nut free) , yogurt drinks, cookies**

The indicated food prep is a licensing safety requirement and are very busy trying to prepare lunches for many hungry little people, thanks so much for your help and understanding.

Registration Forms

We will be asking you to check, confirm and change or update any information as necessary on your registration forms, including your emergency contact who must be accessible to us five days per week and can get to the center in an hour or less- regardless of weather or time of day.

Volunteer Forms

We love volunteers at the center, however, if you want to join us on a trip or spend time in the classroom, we require you to fill out a volunteer form and provide us with a current Police Check as indicated in the Parent Handbook.

Show and Share

Show and share is on Wednesday and is a very important occasion to the children. As the children are learning and becoming aware of the days of the weeks, please help them remember Wednesday and select **one** item to bring in to share with their friends. Show and Share is limited to one item so we have time for everyone to have a turn. Small objects such as marbles, Lego or tiny toy parts (smaller than two inches) are not permitted due to the choking hazard of our younger children. Toys and “blankies” brought any other day will have to stay in their cubbies which can be frustrating for the children.

Illness

We have described our illness policy in the first page of this newsletter please review. Also please review Parent Handbook.

Family Wall

A fun and very important area in the Daycare Room is the Family Wall! This is a collection of pictures of all children and their family members, the children love to look at, talk about and visit the Family Wall. Please send in a few photos single/individual shots, so we can begin building this wall. The family wall is also a great source of comfort to a child who is missing a parent, they can visit the wall and we talk about family, work etc. Thanks for making this project a great success!

Sign in and out

Please remember to sign your children in and out each day!

We look forward to working and playing with your children. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let us know.

We are so excited to explore and learn with you child!

Nina, Terry, Flor and Cathy O.

Kindergarten and Grade one Room September Newsletter

Welcome to our new friends and welcome to our returning families. We hope that you had a great summer we sure did. We can't wait to have all of our friends back in the room. There are so many new ideas we have to share with you in this up coming year. There are just a few housekeeping things we need to get out of the way before we can start our great year together. As you know we have increased our numbers and with that we will now be combining our Kindergarten and grade one children in the Kindergarten Room. The nice thing about this is that if your child was in this room for ECS or as a four year old they get to stay in their room. Our Kindergarten will now be under to Before and After school Umbrella. With this new change you are being asked to review the Before and Afterschool care Parent Handbook Once you have read it if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us.

Please make sure your child has the following at daycare....

- . **indoor shoes(suitable for running in the gym) not crocs**
- . **water bottle(this stays in the room and is sent home on Friday for a good washing)**
- . **change of clothing (kept in their locker/cubby for spills or accidents that may happen)**

Absent Children

If your child is going to be away please let us know so we are not looking for your child at kindergarten or during our afterschool pick up. Please phone and let us know or email us. If you choose to email please keep in mind that we may not receive it right away, try to send as soon as you know. It is a very busy time during our kindergarten pick up as well as our after school pick ups. Please let us know before 2:00 pm.

AM&PM Snack

Please review snack procedures as posted on the first page of this newsletter.

Lunch

We are a nut free center, no foods that may contain nuts will be allowed in the building.

Please make sure to pack a nutritious lunch we follow the Canada Food Guide
There is a microwave in the room if your child brings a lunch that needs to be heated. There is no need to send cutlery as we have lots. Please make sure to put an **Ice Pack** in your child's lunch to keep in nice and cold.
If your child is going to Kindergarten you must pack a separate snack for school that will stay in their back pack.

Children's Birthdays

Each child and their birthday are very special. If you wish to bring a special snack for your child to share with the room it will be served at snack.

Illness

We have described our illness policy in the first page of this newsletter please review. Please review Parent handbook.

Pick up and Drop off of Children

All morning Kindergarten children that we walk down each morning will be taken to their assigned door and will line up with their class and teacher. We will then pick them up at their classroom and return to the center for lunch.

Pm Kindergarten Children are taken down to school after lunch and brought to their classroom. At the end of the day we will return and pick them up at their classroom.

All grade one children will walk down to school in the morning and line up at their assigned door with their class. Once the bell has rung and they have gone into school the staff will return to the center.

All grade one children will be picked up at the assigned picnic tables located just outside the kindergarten doors (the school calls this the outdoor classroom).

Our Family Wall

Please send a family photo and an individual picture of your child. We will be hanging your family photos on the wall in the quiet center and the individual photos will be used on the cover of your child's memory book which we will be creating throughout the year.

Show and Share

The children are invited to bring one toy or special object from home on Wednesday to share with their friends in the room. We encourage these objects to be items pertaining to our interests for that week. We will be sending out a weekly newsletter the end of each week for the following week's activities to help your child in selecting this object.

Planning

You will notice that there is no planning for the month of September. The children's activities are planned from the children's interests and as we get into full swing we will be posting our activities on door as you enter the room . Also you will receive an email giving our planned activities for each upcoming week .

Family Questionnaire

In these next few weeks your child will bring home a family questionnaire, please fill out and return. This will help us get to know your child better and provide us with the answers to some of our all about me questions.

We are looking forward to creating with your children!

Lee, Rachel and Terry

**Before and Afterschool
Grades two to six
September Newsletter**

Wow summer has come and gone, with this comes a new school year. This means reuniting with friends, waking up earlier and back to homework. This also brings a consistency for parents like early bed times which all parents miss in the summer. We hope you all enjoyed the great summer we had and are ready for a great cottage year.

Our program is full for another year. We are very pleased that our program gives the children/parents an experience that keeps them returning. This year is looking like it will be another great year filled with fun activities to keep your children interested and involved.

Clothing

As we move into the beginning of the school year, fall is not far behind, with this comes very unpredictable weather. Please make sure that your child is dressed for the weather. This means that it may be forecasted for a warm day but we still need a jacket in the morning. We also need to remember that your child needs indoor and outdoor shoes.

Meeting Place

As all of our families are returning we want to once again remind the children where we meet after school. We ask that all children meet us at the picnic tables (the school calls this the outside class room) These are located just outside the kindergarten doors. Please make sure that your child understands how important it is to meet us quickly afterschool, this is a very important on colder days. Last year we had a few consistent stragglers that left the rest of us waiting in the rain or snow for long periods of time. If anyone is unsure where to meet please ask a staff member before your child starts.

Planning

We have not included any planning activities for September as we like the children to do brain storming and come up with themes and activities. So keep an eye open for our great planning located just outside our room on the planning board. We do ask that your child brings in a family photo (please make sure that if you have more than one child in our program that they both have a copy of the picture). Please note that we will not be returning these photos.

Technology Time

This year we will only be offering the children set times to use their technical devices such as their DS, Cell Phones, iPods or iPads on Professional Days when the children have no school. In the past it has been very difficult to plan activities with all these devices out and in use. We are trying to encourage more physical activity and less sitting on the couch.

Show and Share

Show and share is on Friday, this way they will have more time to use the items that they bring in to share. This gives the children a chance to bring in a toy, game, or pictures from home to share with their peers. As we have many exciting activities planned over the week, we not allow these items to be brought in on any other day.

Signing in and out

Please make sure you have signed your children in and out each day. Although our staff are aware of how many children are in the room it is very important that you have signed your child in when dropping off and signed them out when picking them up. We can then put names with our numbers.

Indoor shoes

Indoor shoes are a must at the center. Your child must have shoes that they leave here and wear only in the building. We have many unscheduled fire drills. We also ask that your child have shoes so that they can play in the gym. We play a lot of running games and improper shoes can be very dangerous. Runners are best for indoor shoes. Crocs are usually the shoe of choice but these are not safe footwear for the gym.

Absent Children

This is on of the most important items for staff, children and parents. If your child is going to be away from the school or you are picking them up from school you must let us know by 2:00 pm that day. This will alleviate any stress for the staff and you as a parent when your get a call from us saying we can't find your child. Please send us an email or call and ask for the staff in your child's room. When sending email please keep in mind it may take some time to get to us, in the past we have been sent emails at 2:00 and not received them until well after pick up.

Illness

We have described our illness policy in the first page of this newsletter please review.

.If your child is too sick to go to school then they are also too sick to join us at the center

.Please do not medicate your child so they can attend the cottage as this only lasts a few hours and symptoms return.

Staffing

As most of you know all of the cottage staff we do have a few changes to the before and after school program. We have said good bye to Kelsey, Max, and Carly. Some of you may remember Brandy from a few years ago she is back to join us in the BAS room along with Melissa and Cathy O.

We look forward to a year filled with fun and adventure!

Melissa, Cathy O, and Brandy

