

Britannia Preschool Newsletter 2016/2017

Preschool Phone: 604-718-5838

We want to send a warm welcome to all families. We look forward to having an excellent year with you and your children.



TEACHERS' BIO'S

Randi Gurholt-Seary has been working at Britannia Child Care as the Supervisor since 1992. She retired from that position in 2014 to return to what she loves best, being a teacher. Randi is a licenced Early Childhood Educator and Child Care Advocate. She has been on various Boards and sits on the National CUPE Child Care Working group. She has a background in various forms of Art, dance, Theatre, puppetry, storytelling and has worked as an outdoor adventure guide. She lives in the neighbourhood and has a family that has enjoyed many of the opportunities at Britannia. She looks forward to working with Vasi, Monica, and all the wonderful families.

Vasi Petoussis has been working at Britannia since 1996 and is currently the Head Teacher at Britannia Preschool. She is licensed in Early Childhood Education, and has her Infants, Toddlers and Special Education Certification. Vasi is also a professional artist and has worked in the film industry. She has also preformed larger-scale set installations for special events and was an artisan of plaster, faux bois, and decorative painting. Her strong desire to inspire creativity within the lives of young children, led her to launch a mobile arts service. This enabled her to act as an Arts Programmer within a variety of community centres and elementary schools. Presently, Vasi continues to encourage creative development while spending her personal time creating new works from her Vancouver home. Her work has been showcased in several art galleries across the Lower Mainland and Sunshine Coast region.

Monica Van Schaik started working at Britannia Preschool in 2002 and loves her work very much. Monica has an ECE degree from Chile where she worked for one year in the Children's Hospital with infants and toddlers. She is a licensed Early Childhood Educator and Special Needs certified. She enjoys languages and traveling, and is fluent in Spanish, conversational Portuguese and Italian. Monica enjoys live Theatre and dances semi-professionally.

ARTS UMBRELLA

Our very special Art and Drama program will be starting up in the New Year. We will provide you with details in the near future. We are very excited about being part of the Arts Umbrella Outreach Program.



Lorraine Evans has been working in child care for 20 years and currently is the Senior Supervisor for the Britannia Child Care program. She completed the Child and Youth Care Counselling (CYCC) program at Douglas College and 3rd year CYCC courses at the University of Victoria. She has completed countless hours of professional development courses in the CYCC and ECE field. Lorraine has been at Britannia for many years and is honored to work in such a diverse, exciting and ever changing environment.

COMMUNICATION BINDER

To advise us of any changes in your child's pick-up person or to communicate any other important information regarding your child, notify a staff member verbally, and also record this information in our blue communication binder at our front entrance.



ART HISTORY CURRICULUM

Our program will include the exploration of Art Throughout History. Children will gain an understanding of art and the importance of creativity through hands-on experimentation and exploration with a variety of materials, techniques, and ideas. Please take a look at our bulletin boards located near the entrance. We will keep you updated on upcoming projects and special activities that are taking place in the preschool.



CLOSED

PRESCHOOL CLOSED ON ALL STATS

<i>Labour Day</i>	Monday,
September 5	
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 10
Remembrance Day	Friday, November 11
New Year's Day	Monday, January 2
Family Day	Monday, February 13
Good Friday	Friday, April 14
Easter Monday	Monday, April 17
Victoria Day	Monday, May 22

In order to maintain a high quality program we will be closed for program planning/maintenance days to plan and prepare accordingly.

PRESCHOOL IS CLOSED THE FOLLOWING DATES 2016/2017

Program Planning	Monday, October 31
Program Planning	Friday, November 25
Winter Break	December 19 to 30
<i>First Day Back</i>	<i>Tuesday, January, 3</i>
Program Planning	Friday, January 27
Open House/Planning	Friday, February 24
Spring Break	March 13 to 24

Last week of classes June 19-22

SPECIAL DATES

Winter Carnival Bunch	Friday December 16
Graduation Day	Friday, June 23

Regular classes cancelled on Winter Carnival and Graduation Day

STUDENTS/VOLUNTEERS

Our Centre welcomes students from several post-secondary schools to do their practicum learning and training within the Preschool program. It is our ongoing mission to actively participate in the development of high quality Early Childhood Educators. All students and volunteers undergo a thorough criminal record and health check prior to acceptance into our facility. Their bios are posted at the preschool entrance, where you can learn about their individual backgrounds and interests.

PICK-UP TIMES

Pick-up times are very busy. Children are finishing their snacks and having to pack-up their belongings. **We will be opening the doors for families to come in to help their children at:**

AM Class 11:15 (class closed 11:30)
PM Class 2:45 (class closed 3:00)

This allows families to gather art projects, their children and be out the door by class end.

Ensure that you pick-up your child promptly. Unfortunately we have a very tight schedule between classes and the Out of School Care Program. Our staff lunch break is from 11:40am – 12:30pm and the OSC program starts at 3:00pm daily.

BACK YARD RENOVATIONS

Hundreds of children have used the play space over the years. With wear /tear and drainage issues, it is now time to replace the rubber ground



flooring, rotted wood and the play structure. We have worked hard to incorporate as many natural elements and will continue with this vision. Our goal is to start work on the backyard in early 2017, after applying for grants to help mediate the cost of the repairs and update. We will keep you posted as more details become available.

FEES



Fees are processed on the first of the month.

One month's written notice, on the first of the calendar month, is required when withdrawing or changing registered days or one month's fee payment in lieu of one month's notice. For families on subsidy, your subsidy will be billed for the entire month.

If you feel you might qualify for subsidy, contact the Ministry for Children and Families by calling: **1-888-338-6622.**

If you have any specific questions about registration and fees contact our Senior Supervisor, Lorraine Evans at 604-718-5843.

BESTWAY PHOTO

Professional photographers will be coming into the preschool to photograph your children in the New Year. A list of the portrait packages will be offered to parents. The portrait packages may be viewed before making any purchase decisions. Dates will be announced.



INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PLAYTIME

We take the children into our backyard play space throughout the year, so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for rainy/cold weather. Pack indoor shoes or footwear of some sort.



ART FILE



Check your child's personal art file for any art that has been left behind to dry. It is located under the table where the communication book is held.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AREA 2

NORTH COMMUNITY HEALTH OFFICE

1669 East Broadway, Vancouver BC V5N 1V9

Ph: 604-675-3980

DENTAL SERVICES: Start preventive dental care early and visit the FREE dental program.

HEARING & VISION: If you are concerned about your child's hearing, vision, speech or language skills, contact your community health nurse at **604-215-4700 local 2241.** A speech/language pathologist, preschool teacher or family doctor can refer your child for testing.

HEALTH POLICY

Ensure your child is well enough to take part in our everyday activities at the preschool, otherwise it is best for your child to stay home and rest. We want to prevent other children from getting sick.



If your child has been diagnosed with a particular illness to which others may have been exposed, inform the preschool teachers as soon as possible.

If you have any questions/concerns, phone the Preschool at **604-718-5838** or contact the Community Health Office at **604-253-3575.**

HEALTH BULLETIN

We are a ***NUT FREE ZONE!***

Please ensure that all food items entering the Preschool Do Not Contain Nuts.

We have several children with life-threatening allergies to nuts. Remember that many items like candies, crackers, breads etc. may contain traces of nuts or nut oils, so please check packaging.

If your children (or their siblings) eat peanut butter they may get peanuts on their breath, hands or stroller, etc. Ensure their hands are cleaned and their teeth are brushed. Even the smell of peanuts can cause an allergic person to have an anaphylactic reaction.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Send your child with a healthy, **NUT FREE** snack each day. **Avoid** the following food items when preparing your child's meals:

- Popcorn
- Gummy Bears
- Marshmallows
- These below items, unless cut lengthwise
- Hot Dogs
- Grapes
- Cherry Tomatoes
- Baby Carrots

Send your child with a water bottle and utensils.

