

Britannia Preschool Newsletter 2018/2019

Preschool Phone: 604-718-5838

WELCOME

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

HEAD TEACHER

Vasi Petoussis has been working at Britannia since 1996. She is licensed in Early Childhood Education, and has her Infant/Toddler and Special Education Certification. Vasi is a professional artist who has worked in the film industry in various departments. 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 which 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 internationally.

CHILDREN ACTIVITY LEADERS

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 and conversational Portuguese

Michelle Chenoweth graduated from college in 1995 with her Early Childhood Education Certificate. Following that she worked in daycare, was a nanny and worked at Eagle's Nest Aboriginal Headstart Program. She started her Child Care work with Britannia in January 2000. She first worked at Grandveiw Daycare and Out of School Care Programs. After having two children she moved permanently to the Britannia Out of School Care Program. Michelle looks forward to this new chapter in her life and working with all the families, children and staff at Britannia Preschool.

SENIOR SUPERVISOR

Lorraine Evans has been working in Child Care for 20 years and currently is the Senior Supervisor for the Britannia Child Care program (OSC & Preschool). 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 communication binder at our front entrance.

ART HISTORY CURRICULUM

Our program will include the exploration of Artists Throughout History. By using hands on experimentation and exploration of a variety of materials, techniques, ideas and information, we will experience styles developed by influential artists throughout history.

Children will experience arts and culture from around the world, and practice creativity, and freedom of artistic expression.



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.

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.

ARTS UMBRELLA

Our very special Art and Drama program will be starting in January 2019. We are very excited about being part of the Arts Umbrella Outreach Program.

Winter Session: Creative Dance
Mondays: January 14 – March 11
(No class Feb 18)

Winter Session: Visual Arts
Thursdays: January 17 – March 7

Spring Session: Creative Dance
Thursdays: April 11-May 30

Spring Session: Visual Arts
Mondays: April 8 – June 10
(No class April 22 & May 20)



PRESCHOOL CLOSURES

CLOSED ALL STATUARY HOLIDAYS

Labour Day	Monday, September 3
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 8
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 12
Family Day	Monday, February 18
Good Friday	Friday, April 19
Easter Monday	Monday, April 22
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20

Winter Break December 24 –January 4
First Day Back Monday January, 7, 2019

Spring Break March 18 to 29
First day back Tuesday April 1, 2019

CLOSED THE FOLLOWING DATES/CLASSES

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

CLOSED for Program Planning

Fri	October 19	AM class only
Fri	November 16	PM class only
Wed	January 23	AM/PM class
Fri	May 17	PM class only

CLOSED for Open House

Fri	February 8	AM/PM class
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STAFF PROFESSIONAL TRAINING DAY -TBA

LAST DAY OF CLASSES
TUESDAY JUNE 25, 2019

SPECIAL DATES

BOTH EVENTS 10AM-12PM in GYM D

Winter Carnival Brunch Friday December 21
Graduation Day Friday, June 21

Classes cancelled on Dec 21 & Jun 21

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.

FEES

Fees are processed on the first of the month.

One month's written notice (email is good), on the last of the calendar month, is required when withdrawing 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.

NEW AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE BENEFIT

The Provincial Government has made very important changes to the current Child Care Subsidy program, now called Affordable Child Care Benefits (ACCB). These changes could mean that your family now qualifies for benefits. We strongly advise that you visit the new Affordable Child Care Benefit online platform to see if you qualify. See staff or the Senior Supervisor for the Child Care Arrangement form.

Affordable Child Care Benefits,
Toll Free at 1 888 338-6622.

Senior Supervisor Lorraine Evans at
604.718.5843 or lorraine.evans@vancouver.ca



INDOOR AND OUTDOOR PLAYTIME

We take the children into our backyard play space daily throughout the year, so please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for rainy/cold weather. Pack indoor shoes and a change of clothes, should they get wet/soiled!

COMMUNITY HEALTH AREA 2
NORTH COMMUNITY HEALTH OFFICE
1669 East Broadway; 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 **604-675.3980**.

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 as they can be a choking hazard:

- 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.

PHOTO EXPRESSIONS

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. We will let you know the dates once booked.

