

Britannia Preschool Newsletter 2017/2018

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

HEAD TEACHER

Vasi Petoussis has been working at Britannia since 1996. 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.

CHILDREN ACTIVITY LEADER

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.

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 blue communication binder at our front entrance.



AUXILIARY CHILDREN ACTIVITY LEADER

Estrella Que is a proud mother and a grandmother. She has her ECE from MTI College and has been an auxiliary worker at Britannia Childcare since 2010. Estrella also works for the Vancouver School Board as a CTA 1. Estrella has supervised and coordinated the Kidsafe program at Grandview Elementary School. Estrella has many years of experience working with children and families; "working with children is my passion".

Claudia Zuniga-Blaney is happy to be at Britannia Preschool. Claudia is originally from Mexico City and is number nine of ten children in her family. Claudia studied at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) where she completed a bachelor in Communications and worked as a journalist and Public Relations specialist for 14 years. Claudia and her husband moved to Vancouver in 2004 and they have two sons. Claudia is passionate about raising her own boys and this passion led her to seek her certificate in Mother Goose and Early Child Education Assistant programs. Claudia has six years of experience working in the early years with children and parents in Vancouver.

ARTS UMBRELLA

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

Visual Arts

Wednesdays: October 4 - December 6

Thursdays: January 18 – March 8

Mondays: April 9 – June 4

Creative Dance

Mondays: January 15 – March 12

Thursdays: April 12 – May 31

Theatre Arts

Wednesdays: April 11- June 13

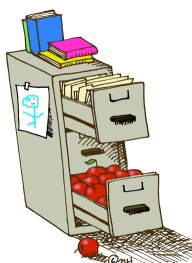


ART HISTORY CURRICULUM

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.



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.



PRESCHOOL CLOSURES

CLOSED ALL STATUARY HOLIDAYS

Labour Day	Monday, September 4
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 9
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 13
New Year's Day	Monday, January 1
Family Day	Monday, February 12
Good Friday	Friday, March 30
Easter Monday	Monday, April 2
Victoria Day	Monday, May 21

PRESCHOOL IS CLOSED THE FOLLOWING DATES 2017/2018

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

Program Planning	Friday, October 6
Program Staff Pro D	Friday, November 10
Winter Break	December 25 – January 5
<i>First Day Back Monday January, 8</i>	
Open House/Planning	Friday, February 23
Spring Break	March 19 to 30
<i>First day back Tuesday April 3</i>	

Last day of classes Tuesday June 26, 2018

SPECIAL DATES BOTH EVENTS 10AM-12PM

Winter Carnival Brunch	Friday December 22
Graduation Day	Friday, June 22
<i>Regular classes cancelled on Winter Carnival and Graduation Day</i>	

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.

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.



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.

Contact Child Care Subsidy Service Centre at **1-888-338-6622**.

Questions about registration and fees, contact Lorraine Evans at 604-718-5843 or email at lorraine.evans@vancouver.ca.

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.



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 **604-253-3575**.

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.

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:
 Fri. Nov. 3 @ 1:00pm
 Mon. Nov. 6, @ 10:30am
 Wed. Nov. 8, @ 1:00pm
 Thrus. Nov. 9 @ 10:30

