



# Britannia Preschool Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2019-JUNE 2020

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.**

Our playroom and curriculum is based on Learning Through Play. Our environment is set up with play centres for children to move freely through and engage with others in social interactions with their peers, facilitated by our Licenced Early Childhood Educators. We know that if children enjoy and participate in their learning, they become lifelong learners.

## **WE WANT YOU TO JOIN**

### **Britannia Child Care Renewal Committee**

Britannia Community Services Centre is currently going through a renewal/redevelopment project in which the City of Vancouver in 2014 earmarked capital funds to revitalize the 18-acre site.

There have been many consultation processes within the Britannia community. The Planning & Development Committee meets monthly and reports to the Britannia Board of Management. Subcommittees have been formed from different departments such as the Seniors and Arts & Culture sectors.

Britannia Child Care (Out of School Care and Preschool) would like to start a child care renewal subcommittee where we can ensure that child care voices are heard and remain a focal point moving forward. The goal of the committee will be to ensure:

- ✓ The current/existing Child Care levels/spaces are maintained in the program.
- ✓ New spaces that reflect the needs of the community
- ✓ Child Care maintains a priority focus as the renewal progresses
- ✓ Child Care space allocations are innovative and allow all children from infant/ toddler to school age to have their own purpose built space that reflects the needs of different age groups and developmental needs.
- ✓ All child care Staff are valued and have working environments conducive to meet the needs of their professional work.



To join the committee or get more information, please contact Lorraine Evans at 607.718.5843 or email her at [lorraine.evans@vancouver.ca](mailto:lorraine.evans@vancouver.ca).

**First meeting will be in October 2019 date TBA**

## **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 Preschool Teacher verbally, and also record this information in our communication binder at our front entrance.

## **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 performed 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 & Youth Care Counselling (CYCC) program at Douglas College, 3rd year CYCC courses at the University of Victoria and has her ECEA license. 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.

**To make any changes to registration, get information on billing, subsidy or any other enquiries, please contact Lorraine at 604.718.5843 or by email at [lorraine.evans@vancouver.ca](mailto:lorraine.evans@vancouver.ca)**

## 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.



## 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.

## PRESCHOOL CLOSURES

### CLOSED ALL STATUARY HOLIDAYS 2019/2020

Labour Day	Monday, September 2
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 14
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 11
Family Day	Monday, February 17
Good Friday	Friday, April 10
Easter Monday	Monday, April 13
Victoria Day	Monday, May 18

**Winter Break** December 23 – January 3  
First Day Back Monday January, 6, 2020

**Spring Break** March 16 to 27  
First day back Monday March 30, 2020

### CLOSED THE FOLLOWING DATES/CLASSES

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

#### CLOSED

Wed	October 9	AM class only
Fri	November 8	AM/PM class
Wed	May 6	PM class only

#### CLOSED for Open House

Fri	February 7	AM/PM class
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## SPECIAL DATE

**Winter Family Brunch** Friday December 20  
EVENTS 10AM-12PM in GYM D

**No classes on December 20**

## INDOOR & 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!

## END OF YEAR

### GRADUATION PARTY

#### LAST DAY OF CLASSES

Each class will have individual graduation days. We ask each family to bring something to share for the potluck. Since the teachers will be focusing on hosting this celebration, we ask that a parent or guardian join each child at our Grad potluck party. Please note the time change for each class.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 19**

**AM class @ 9:30-11:00**

**PM class @12:30-2:00**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24**

**AM class @9:30-11:00**

**PM class @12:30-2:00**

## 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.

## ARTS UMBRELLA

Our very special Art and Drama program will be starting in January 2020. We are very excited about being part of the Arts Umbrella Outreach Program.

### Winter Session 2020

Creative dance on Mondays: Jan 13<sup>th</sup>- March 9<sup>th</sup>

Visual Arts on Thursdays: Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – March 5<sup>th</sup>

### Spring Session 2020

Creative Dance on Thursdays: April 9<sup>th</sup> – May 28<sup>th</sup>

Visual Arts on Mondays: April 6<sup>th</sup> – June 8<sup>th</sup>



## 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.



## 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**.





### 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.

### 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 Preschool Teacher 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](mailto:lorraine.evans@vancouver.ca)

### HOLIDAYS PROJECTS

We celebrate different occasions throughout the school year such as Mother and Father's day. Due to different circumstances and family structures, we present these activities on an individual basis. We introduce the activity as making gifts for anyone who is important to them. So the child can decide who they want to make the activity for.

### VALUES OF PLAY

Play has a unique meaning for each individual child.

All children have the extraordinary ability to learn new skills, develop their unique strengths, gain autonomy, enhance their critical and creative thinking, and reach their full potential.

Play is the vehicle for learning about the world and the environment around them. Play is the way in which children take part in their own growth and development; it is the very essence in which they celebrate learning.

### 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!

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.

### ALLERGY ALERT!!



We currently have an **allergy to Sesame and Eggs that require an EPIPEN.** Please do not send /pack these items for snacks

### NEED HELP WITH YOUR SUBSIDY?

Call, email or walk in to **Westcoast Child Care Resource Centre**, Monday through Saturday from 9am-5pm. Room 225, 3665 Kingsway. Contact: GRACE PAN  
[gpan@wstcoast.org](mailto:gpan@wstcoast.org)  
604-709-5699 ext 246.



### PHOTO EXPRESSIONS



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

Individual and group photos  
Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> @ 10am & 1pm  
Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> @10am & 1pm

## **KINDER-READY, PARENT-READY**

Kindergarten is an exciting milestone for your little one! It can also be a time filled with anxieties and challenges. To make the transition easier on you and your child, Eastside Family Place will offer a free kindergarten-readiness program for children entering Kindergarten in the fall of 2020.

The program will be offered in 2 sessions of 8 weeks each, in the fall 2019 and winter 2020. It is recommended to plan on attending all 16 weeks, but you are welcome to sign up for just one term. The program will run every Wednesday late afternoon and begin with a nutritious snack followed by a parent workshop and kinder ready program. The parents and children will then come back together to re-connect through cuddling up to read a book or talking about their day before heading home. We hope that by the end of the program, your child will be more ready and excited to go to school.

### **Fall Session Dates:**

September 25, 2019 to November 13, 2019

### **Winter Session Dates:**

January 15, 2020 to March 4, 2020

**Time:** Every Wednesday (doors open 4:00 pm) program runs from 4:15 to 6:00 pm.

**Location:** Eastside Family Place, 1655 William St

### **More Information & Registration:**

T: 604-255-9841

E: [info@eastsidefamilyplace.org](mailto:info@eastsidefamilyplace.org)

Please check our website for more details: [eastsidefamilyplace.org](http://eastsidefamilyplace.org)



## **COMMUNITY HEALTH**

**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.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT GLITTER IS  
MADE FROM PLASTIC!**

- Glitter is a micro plastic that is difficult to recycle
- Glitter ends up in the drains and then in the oceans and rivers
- Micro plastic is dangerous for sea life and birds

Britannia Child Care decided to end the use of glitter in our art projects to help our sea creatures and birds!



## **FIND US ON THE WEB @**

[https://www.britanniacentre.org/services/licensed\\_childcare/britannia/articles/375.php](https://www.britanniacentre.org/services/licensed_childcare/britannia/articles/375.php)



## **CHANGE OF INFORMATION**

Please advise us if you have changed any of your personal information on file for your child since you originally registered:

Such information includes:

- Address/ phone numbers (changes or additions)
- New persons authorized to pick up your child
- Immunization Records
- Dentists, Doctors
- Allergies
- Emergency contacts



To make a change see a Preschool Teacher!

## **INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS**

If you would like to meet with a Preschool (PS) teacher to find out more about the progress of your child or any other concerns or questions, please call **604.718.5838** and a PS teacher will connect with you at a mutually agreed upon time via phone or in person.

