



19 January 2010

Wind & Tide Preschools Limited
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Hello Wind and Tide Parents

Hopefully you had a good holiday and are eager for all the New Year will offer. If not, well at least we can consol ourselves with the knowledge the hours of sunlight/day are increasing and spring is only months away! As we head into our new semester of school we have some information to keep you in the loop of all the Wind and Tide happenings.

Please take time to read the following 3 updates on:

1. The Bare Naked Book
2. The Dance-A-Thon
3. Wind and Tide's Kindergarten Program

1. The Bare Naked Book

In February we study the Human Body in our 4 year old Science Program. We discover the marvelous workings of our heart, bones and lungs as they work together with our other body parts to keep us living and playing.

The Ministry for Children and Families has asked educators of young children to teach an age appropriate curriculum on the Human Body as prevention against sexual abuse. In order to do this properly we are going to add the reading of the Bare Naked Book into our February teaching unit for the 4 year olds. We will also be introducing it into the Kindergarten Program. It is an excellent book for young children in simply showing (cartoon version- very basic) and naming all the main parts of the body. Research has proven that children who can use the correct names for their body parts are at considerably less risk of initial and ongoing sexual abuse. We definitely want this for all of our students! If you would like to preview the book in the classroom you are very welcome to do so. Each teacher will chose a day or days to read the book with the children. If you would prefer not to have your child attend on these days, of course that is your decision. As a parent and educator I feel very good about how and why we will cover this area of learning. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

2. The Dance-A-Thon

If you attended our October Parent Night, or watched the introductory DVD, you know that Wind and Tide Staff teach Global Concern, both environmental and humanitarian.

We have developed the phrase, "Give to a child, and you change their life. Teach a child to give, and they change the world!" We know that within our students lie the potential of great leadership in our world. How wonderful it is to work with them during this formative time in their life! It is our wish to help inspire mercy, love and justice into each of our students.

For many years now our Valentines party day has been a dance-a-thon for World Vision. The exceedingly generous responses from families (over \$300 000 in the last six years!) have allowed us to complete several significant projects in Africa. Children are always World Vision's focus. This year we are beginning a project aimed specifically at preschoolers in Ethiopia. Ethiopia has among the highest under-five mortality rates in the world - 166 deaths under five years of age for every 1000 live births. The Canadian ratio is 6 deaths for every 1000 live births. For the children that do survive, malnutrition and disease reek havoc with brain and body development. The Program is call 5 for 5. (Initially it was called Survive to Five, if you recall that name.) In the next few days we will have a link from our Wind and Tide website (windandtide.com) to a WV site that gives more information.

I was in Africa this summer. Poverty and the problems in Ethiopia are so complex, but I am impressed with World Visions diligence and dedication to meeting the immediate and long term problems for children. It is a privilege to be able to give in this manner and equally so to do it along with our Wind and Tide families!

Today your child is bringing home a Dance-a-thon sponsor envelop. If you choose not to participate in donation your child will still enjoy being a part of the dancing and learning. We do not want you to feel any pressure. If you chose to participate we thank you and know your money will be gratefully received and utilized!

3. Wind and Tide's Kindergarten Program

Are you a little uncertain of your child's educational plan for the fall? Wind and Tide offers a wonderful option for you to consider! Established in 2001, our Kindergarten academic year begins right where your four year old program ends. In all curriculum courses, your child will continue to build upon their current preschool experience. We have established interactive, exciting, educationally advanced teaching methods for Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, Art and Music.

The Kindergarten was designed to provide children with one final year of accelerated learning before they enter grade one. Child Growth and Development Specialists define birth to six years as the most influential period of our lives. We want to provide programming that makes the most of each child's learning capacity during this highly significant life stage, and then launch them, ready for success, into grade one.

One of the ways in which we reach our academic goal is through our teacher/student ratio. A full Kindergarten class provides space for 20 students, who will be instructed by 2 loving and experienced teachers. Children learn best in an atmosphere of warmth and positive attention and you will not find two more loving women! Teachers Janet

and Aideen, are a dynamic pair! If you would like to go and watch them in action you will be amazed! This year we are excited to announce we will be running a full day program! (9:00am-3:00pm)

Frequently Asked Questions about Kindergarten:

Will my child be bored in Grade One if they have an advanced Kindergarten experience?

The reality of every grade one class is that the children enter with a wide range of academic and social abilities. A good grade one teacher is trained to handle this diversity. We feel that it is best for a child to begin their schooling journey viewing themselves as a student who achieves at the top of the class. Most often this can be accomplished in a richly enhanced preschool/kindergarten experience, thereby setting the stage for the future educational years.

Will my child have difficulty making friends in Grade One if he is coming from an outside program?

The parents of our graduates have sometimes found the transition tough for the first few days of grade one, but the children have always adapted to the new school and friends very quickly. Children are amazing when it comes to making friends! Realistically there are always new children beginning grade one and teachers are well equipped to help them join in quickly and warmly.

Does Wind and Tide offer morning and afternoon space?

No. This year we will be doing full day classes only.

Does the Kindergarten include the Ready to Read Program?

Yes it does. The first hour of class on Mondays/ Wednesdays/Fridays is devoted to teaching the children to read. If you are currently enrolled in one of our Ready to Read classes you will be given a transfer into the Kindergarten because the program is included.

What is the cost and is it tax deductible?

The Kindergarten tuition is \$550/month plus a registration fee. (This is a newly reduced rate. If you have already enrolled you will be receiving notice about the reduced rate. We happily found out we will be receiving some government funding to help supplement costs!) It can be used as a tax deduction if you include it into daycare expenses.

How do I get more information on the Kindergarten program?

Our wonderful registrar Cari is a wealth of information and will be happy to assist you with further inquiries! (cari@windandtide.com).

Currently we have 2 spaces available for September 2010.

4. Parenting Course

Grace Point Community Church is running a Parenting Program called "Raising Truly Great Kids" on Friday Feb 5th and Saturday Feb 6th. If you are interested please look at the information on your school bulletin board.

Once again I thank you for reading through a lengthily news letter! Best wishes for the New Year!

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Cram', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rachel Cram