



04 November 2009

Wind & Tide Preschools Limited
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Dear Wind and Tide Parents,

Hello! This is a pretty long information letter! You will need to read it all in order to stay up to date with your child's school experience. Maybe put this in your bathroom or somewhere you can get snatches of time alone so that you can read it over the next week. We know parenting a young family provides very little time for reading newsletters!

In this newsletter we will cover the following:

1. Our first Global Awareness Project - toy drive for Union Gospel Mission
2. Full day Kindergarten program for 2010/2011
3. Photo retakes
4. We are expanding...2 new locations!!

1. Union Gospel Mission Toy Drive

Christmas is in the air and we are getting ready for our first "Global Awareness" project. Hopefully, you have all had a chance to watch the Parent Information DVD given to you either at your child's Open House or in September. On that DVD we explained that we have three central goals in our teaching at Wind and Tide. They are:

1. Social Development
2. Academics
3. Global Awareness

As with all of our Global Awareness projects, this is completely optional. If you choose not to participate as a family, your child will still feel that they are participating as a member of the class.

For the last two years we have participated with Union Gospel Mission in sending hundreds of stockings to children in Vancouver, New Westminster and Mission. This year we have a similar opportunity but we will be sending unwrapped gifts to local families in need.

These toys will be delivered to children and their parents (or grandparents) who are living beneath the poverty line. The toys sent from Wind and Tide, will be added to

Union Gospel Mission hampers that provide a warm touch at Christmas to hundreds of families each year.

Last year, Wind and Tide families sent over 1600 stockings. If we can collect a similar number of unwrapped toys we can provide a couple of toys for each child in these families. It is difficult to comprehend but the Union Gospel Mission informs us that many of these children and families will have no experience of Christmas apart from this hamper that they will receive.

If you would like to donate a new unwrapped toy or gift certificate, here is what you do!

1) Ask your teacher which age and gender your school is collecting for. In order to make sure that each age group and gender is covered, we have made specific allocations to each school.

2) Purchase a new toy or gift card using the attached form as a guide.

3) Return the item(s) to your preschool classroom no later than

- Thursday, December 10th - Three-year-olds
- Friday, December 11th - Four-year-olds

We will also require one family per school to deliver the filled toy drop boxes to one of two drop off locations for pick up by the staff at Union Gospel Mission. These boxes can be dropped off at our Parkland location (9574 160th Street, Surrey) at **3:00pm** on Monday, December 14th or at our Grace Point location (3487 King George Highway, Surrey) at **4:30pm** on Monday, December 14th. If you are interested in helping with this, please let your teacher know.

2. Full Day Kindergarten Program

As you may be aware, the B.C. government has announced that 50% of kindergartens will be offering full day kindergarten programs as of September 2010. They have also said that they will not be announcing which schools will be receiving funding for the full day programs until the Spring of 2010. Due to our registration process beginning in November, we cannot wait until the Spring for this announcement.

Wind and Tide has decided that as of September 2010, we will be offering a **full day program**. This program will run from 9:00am - 3:00pm, Monday to Friday.

Our teachers are very excited to expand the program to full day. Wind and Tide Kindergarten is action packed, and the full day format allows time for deeper reinforcement of ideas and concepts, and the building of strong relationships within the classroom.

Our registration for this program began on November 1st. We will be offering one South Surrey Kindergarten class for 20 students with our two wonderful teachers. We look forward to this new format and the families who will take part. If you or someone you

know would be interested in this program, please have them log onto our website: www.windandtide.com where they can receive more information and register.

3. Photo Retakes

This year we are using Artona for our individual and class photos. After a few initial hiccups, everything seems to be running quite smoothly now. Artona will be offering retakes at our Parkland location on Monday, Nov 23 and Tuesday, Nov 24 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. These are done on a first come, first serve basis. If those dates do not work for you, you can also take your child to Artona's studio in Vancouver at 353 W 7th Avenue on Saturday, Nov 21 from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Again this is also done on a first come, first served basis and this photo retake day is for all of Artona's clients.

We realize that there are a couple of schools that will not have their proofs returned to them in time to determine whether or not they would need retakes. Unfortunately with 20 different locations and 78 different classes, it was just not possible for Artona to schedule everyone in before retake day.

4. We're expanding...

We are excited to announce that we will be opening **two new locations** for Fall 2010.

The first location will be opening at **Alice Brown Elementary School** at 20011 44 Avenue in Langley.

The second location will be opening at **Southside Community Church** at 12642 100 Avenue in Surrey.

Registration for both of these schools began on November 1st. If you know of any families that live in either of these two areas we would love it if you could tell them that we are coming to their area next Fall. Families can register for either of these locations by logging onto our website: www.windandtide.com.

Thank you for reading through all the details!

Sincerely,

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

Rachel Cram
Director
Wind and Tide Preschools