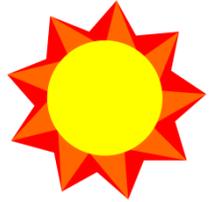




Newsletter March-April 2019

Dear parents,

Lately, the nicer temperature gives us the desire to spend more time outdoors. I hope that you have been able to enjoy it. It is also pleasant to feel the days getting longer. A reminder that, despite the warmer weather, it is important for your child to still have warm clothing at the program as the wind remains cool.



The months of February and March were busy but also interesting with the preparations for our Pink Shirt Day which was a success again this year. The entire Pommes de Reinette team was proud to see so many families participating in this special day against bullying. Almost all the children and many parents wore pink. The "semaine de la francophonie" took place in March. Many activities were organized for this special week by Anaë, our identity building educator at the NE location. Amongst other activities, the children made Franco-Alberta flags. Also, the mascot Grenouille came to sing and dance with us. The children had fun singing and dancing. Also, during that month we received Martin Libério, a professional facilitator from Quebec who specializes in the interior design of daycare playrooms. During his visit, he spent time in 3 of La Société's locations to review the play rooms lay outs and proposed new designs for each one. Those new lay outs will be permanent which means the materials and toys will continue to change but the furniture will stay put. He also recommended buying new furniture. Over the next few months, many new pieces of furniture will be added in the playrooms. His lay outs are amazing and the employees are excited about the upcoming changes. We also benefited in Mr. Libério's expertise while attending his two workshops: the first was "creating places where amazing experiences happen", and the other was on democratic pedagogy.



Our "Cabane à sucre" day took place last Thursday. We would like to thank the parents who participated. Again this year, this activity was a success. The maple taffy was delicious. Starting at the end of April, all the children will have the opportunity to take yoga classes. Those will take place in the mornings. The registration form for the yoga classes was sent last week.

For the past few weeks, you may have noticed two new faces amongst us: they are our practicum students interns who started their 6 week long practicum. Camille is in the kangourous group with Faten and Rose-Maxime is in the girafes group with Amale. They have various practicum objectives to meet and they will require parents' collaboration for some of them. We thank you in advance for your collaboration.

Furthermore, as you have seen, the daycare playrooms have been repainted to achieve a more natural looking environment. We can already feel the calmness that this new background has brought to everyone. We are now waiting for the new furniture before hanging the posters.

On another note, we would like to encourage parents to participate in our fundraiser with Team Fund which started a few weeks ago. Part of the sales of the fabulous products offered will go back to La Société Pommes de Reinette Daycare. Our goal is to raise \$3000.

Finally, an end-of-year survey has been created to gather parents' feedback. In order to continue to improve our services, it is essential for us to know the parents' opinions. An email with a link will be sent to you by the end of the week. We ask that one member per family take a few minutes to complete it. I thank you in advance for your participation.

I hope that your next two months are filled with sun and fun.

Isabelle

Increase in the number of children in the out-of-school care program

In the recent weeks, we have started the application process to the City of Calgary to increase the number of children for the out-of-school care program for September 2019. Our current license is for 28 children and we asked for an extra 17, for a total of 45. The new license would allow us to offer spots to families currently on the wait list. The school has given us permission to use the cafeteria for the out-of-school care program. As soon as we have the City's approval, we will start the process with the provincial government. We should have a final answer by June 30th.



Year-end BBQ

This year, the board of directors chose to organize the family BBQ in June instead of in September, to celebrate the beginning of summer. We will also take the opportunity to celebrate Father's Day. The BBQ will take place on June 9th at Edworthy Park, from 10am to 3pm. La Société's identity building committee will organize activities for everyone and a clown will be there to do face painting. Please set aside the date for this fun day. An email will be sent at the beginning of May regarding the tickets' sale.

New payment method

Starting May 1st, a new payment method will be offered to you. You will be able to pay by credit and debit card for the special activities and optional classes fees, late fees and all other extra fees. Please note that we will continue to accept cheques and we prefer this method because of the service fees associated with credit card use. The monthly fees will continue to be paid via pre-authorized debit, without exceptions. Finally, the post-dated cheques for the parental participation program will still be required at the beginning of September.

New Food Guide

The new Canadian food guide will be taken into account during the spring review of our menus. The new menus will be posted at the entrance of the programs as soon as the review is completed.

Renewal of the ELCC Center Funding

We renewed the ELCC Center funding for the year 2019-2020 in February. It is important to note that the political group that will win the next provincial election will have the right to cancel this funding. However, although there are no guarantee, the current Alberta Children's Services representatives do not think the ELCC funding will be canceled because the monies come from the federal government. On another note, we have received the authorization from Alberta Children's Services to use the remaining funds from the 2018-2019 funding (\$286,000 for 3 of La Société's installations) to purchase new equipment, furniture and materials to support the new curriculum framework. In the next months you will see new exterior equipment (building blocks, kitchen, bikes, sand box, etc.) as well as storing sheds, inside furniture, toys, etc. A shade structure will be installed for the outdoor playground which will give more flexibility in the outdoor time schedule as the children will be able to play in the

shade. We would have liked to be able to use a part of the surplus to reward the employees but unfortunately the governmental rules do not allow it.

Easter Closures

All of La Société Pommes de Reinette Daycare programs will be closed on April 19th for Good Friday as well as on April 22nd, for a Professional Development day for all our employees.



Group Changes

We are just in April and we are already thinking about the group changes for the upcoming year. As usual, the groups changes will take effect during the summer months. A list of the new groups will be posted on the bulletin board in the daycare by mid-June. To facilitate the formation of the groups and to minimize changes over the summer, we ask those parents who already know that their child will cease to attend their program by September 2019, to please let us know as soon as possible. Thank you.

Outings for 3 to 5 years old

Arianne and Clairissa have started planning fun outings for the children of 3 to 5 years old for the months of July and August. The children will go on outings or participate in a special activity at the location once per week. We try to plan the outings so they take place on Wednesdays. The schedule and other details regarding the summer outings will be sent out by mid-May.

Parent-Educator Meetings

We would like to thank the parents that took the time to participate in the parent-educator meetings that took place in February. The educators appreciated every minute of their time with you.



Lost & Found Box

The lost and found boxes found items at the daycare and at the out-of-school care programs are overflowing. We ask that you take a few minutes to look through them and that you collect any items that belong to your child. All items remaining will be donated at the end of April.

Termination of Services

If you wish to terminate your child's childcare services, a minimum of one month written notice must be given and services always end at the end of a calendar month.

Parental Participation program

There are only a few months left (end of June for children in the out-of-school care and preschool programs, and end of August for children in the daycare program) to earn your parental participation points in order to have your cheque returned to you. Please do not hesitate to speak to Martine to find out how many points you must still accumulate. Volunteering for outings, making play dough, recycling, etc. are still available.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns please do not hesitate to discuss them with your child's primary educator or a member of the administration team.

Thank you,

Isabelle, Martine and the entire Pommes de Reinette team