

THE VOICE



"Let's Go Fly a Kite"

Housekeeping

1. School Closed: Friday April 2nd & Monday April 5th
2. Pro-D Day: Monday April 19th
3. Spirit Day: Thursday April 29th



A Message From Our Principal

Dear families, friends, and staff,

I can't believe we are already in April! It is so nice when you start to see the days getting longer and the once stark trees growing little buds on them. It is no surprise then that our theme for April is all about spring, recycling, and Earth Day. This month the children will focus on such topics as the signs of spring (animals and weather) and different celebrations in spring.

Speaking of celebrations, April is packed with fun holidays including, Passover, Easter, & Ramadan celebrations! To enjoy the festivities our Ravens, Orcas, Owls, and Bears will get to participate in an Easter egg hunt in their respective cohorts. Let's hope the weather holds up so we can enjoy the activity outside!

One very exciting piece of news fitting for spring, is that we will be getting some butterfly larvae kits for our students to study, nurture, and eventually release outside. We have done this before with much success and the students really enjoy seeing the beautiful metamorphosis that takes place. This activity also has significant meaning as our organization's symbol is the butterfly.

As you may know the Centre will be closed for Good Friday (April 2nd) and Easter Monday (April 5th). Just because we are closed does not mean the learning has to stop. If you are looking for some educational resources to use at home, Stacey Welsh, one of our First Words interventionists, recommends an App called [VROOM](#). It is a free educational app that focuses on speech development that parents can use to get tips, activities, and project ideas.

Lastly, May is Hearing Month and we will be holding a few different events to bring awareness to our organization and to raise critical revenue. Please check your inbox and our Facebook and Instagram page in the next coming weeks for more information!

Happy April!



Loretta Richardson
Principal



Promoting An Anti-Bias Curriculum (ABC)

By: Leela Downton

A summary of an article published by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

Grounded in what research has suggested about how children construct their attitudes and identity, the four goals of anti-bias education provide the framework to support a learning community in which every child can feel at home and develop an attitude of acceptance.

Goal 1: Identity—Identity is about supporting each child to feel proud of who they are, including socio-economic group, gender, race, culture, ethnicity, and religion.

Goal 2: Diversity—Diversity is about representing diversity in the books and material in the environment and supporting and promoting children's successful interactions with people from different backgrounds.

Goal 3: Justice—Justice is about building the capacity for empathy and an awareness of fair and unfair. Promoting justice also develops cognitive skills as it requires thinking critically.

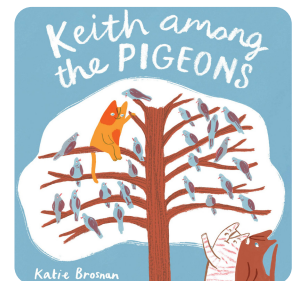
Goal 4: Activism—Activism is about fostering the ability and developing the confidence to stand up to injustice. We can give children the language to use when they are experiencing biased behaviour and model conflict-resolution skills so they learn another way to interact.

The success in the child's ability for the fourth goal, activism, depends on the child's growth in the first three goals. Which is why creating an early childhood environment where accepting each child's identity, representing diversity, and gently building the capacity to recognize injustice is the key to a successful anti-bias curriculum.

Anti-bias content and exposure comes in a variety of ways, and books are one of them. Fortunately, in the last few decades, there has been a surge in books that promote the anti-bias curriculum goals, and a Google search will give you a long list. Here are a few to explore.

Keith Among the Pigeons, by Katie Brosnan:

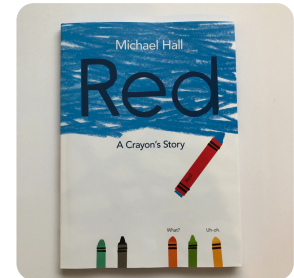
Keith is a cat that wants to be a pigeon. This story follows Keith's journey in discovering that he doesn't need to fit in anywhere. He can be himself.



Promoting An Anti-Bias Curriculum (ABC) Cont...

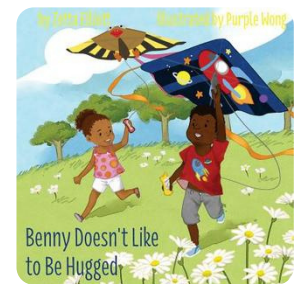
Red: A Crayon's Story, by Michael Hall:

Red has a red label, but the colour that Red makes is not red. Everyone tries hard to help him be red. Another story about finding your inner self and how our positive attitude can support others to be themselves. This is fun to read as children love to see ordinary objects they use, such as crayons, scissors and sharpeners, as characters in a story.



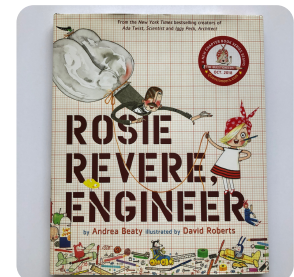
Benny Doesn't Like to Be Hugged, by Zetta Elliott:

A little girl has a friend on the autistic spectrum, and she uses rhymes to describe his traits. This book offers an age-appropriate way to highlight neurodiversity, and it is a great example of inclusivity. The illustrations present Benny's endearing quirks in a relatable way.



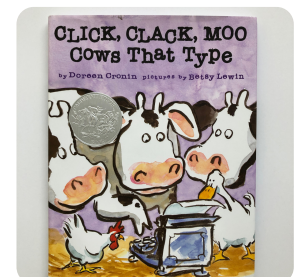
Rosie Revere, Engineer, by Andrea Beaty:

Rosie Revere, Engineer is part of a series by the author that promotes following one's passion, learning from mistakes, and breaking stereotypes.



Click, Clack, Moo Cows That Type, by Doreen Cronin:

Farmer Brown thinks he has his farm under control. But the cows learn to type and start to make their needs known. A fun and age-appropriate way to talk about what injustice is and what advocacy can look like whether it's writing letters, having meetings, or going on strike.



Reference

Derman-Sparks, L., & Edwards, J. O. (2019, November). NAEYC.

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/nov2019/understanding-anti-bias>



Orca Airline

By: Janet Weech



"All Aboard Orca Airlines"

The week of March 8th-12th our Orca class began to discuss airplanes and the airport. We sang the songs, "I'm a Little Airplane" and Zoom, Zoom, Zoom. We discussed the different areas in the airport.

The children began by packing their bags for the trip. Then they each weighed their luggage and put it through the security check on the conveyor belt. They walked through security and we discussed that some of our classmates need to be searched with a wand if they have a Kanso or Cochlear Implant. Next the children went to the gate and gave their tickets and showed their passports. They were assigned a designated seat. Once seated one of the flight crew brought them some food on a tray. As we continued to play in the Centre their imaginations and ideas continued to develop.

It is wonderful to see the students extend their play from the classroom to outdoor play. A student was pretending the climber was an airplane and he was the pilot. It was a special way we travelled in our class. We all look forward to our travels.



Walk to Renfrew Ravine

By: Janet Weech

On the way to the ravine we were doing a Flying object scavenger hunt. The children observed birds and airplanes in the sky. At the ravine they noticed clouds above the ravine and a family of ducks swimming in the river. We sat together and found a tree house in front of this bench.



April Theme:

🌻 "Spring, Recycling, Earth Day!" 🌻

There are three **BIG** ideas:

There are many signs of Spring (change) e.g. plants, animals, butterflies, weather

1

Spring is a time of new life e.g. baby animals, flowers

2

There are many things to celebrate in Spring e.g. Easter, Passover (March 27th to April 3rd), Earth Day (April 22nd), Ramadan this year on Apr 12th

3

What's Included in This Theme?

- Orcas/Bears cohort is going to do an Easter egg hunt next week, hopefully outdoors (inside if needed)
- Points of Discussion: What do you put in the eggs? Children are going to look for different sized eggs, the children collect the eggs and exchange them for erasers and stickers.



May Hearing Month Event!

MUSIC TO OUR EARS

MUSIC- BINGO PARTY

IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN'S HEARING &
SPEECH CENTRE

MAY 13TH 6PM-8PM

ON ZOOM

[CLICK HERE](#) TO PURCHASE YOUR
TICKET(S)!

AWESOME PRIZES TO BE WON!

PARTICIPANTS **MUST** BE 19 YEARS
OF AGE OR OLDER

