

# THE VOICE



## "Let the Sunshine In"

### Housekeeping

1. School Closed: Friday February 12th & Monday February 15th
2. IEPs No School for Preschool & Primary Classes. Childcare is OPEN:  
Tuesday February 16th
3. Chinese New Year Celebration: Thursday February 18th
4. Pink Shirt Day: Wednesday February 24th
5. Spirit Day: Thursday February 25th



# A Message From Our Executive Director

Dear families, friends, and staff,

I know I say this every month, but I cannot believe we're already in February! I feel like every time I blink we're in a new month.

There are lots of things going on this month that's keeping staff and students very busy. We have our IEP meetings coming up on February 16th, teachers will be arranging virtual appointments with you if they haven't done so already. Please contact your child's teacher for more information if needed. Just a friendly reminder that on February 16th school will be closed for our Preschool and Primary classes ONLY, our Childcare program will be business as usual. However, our centre will be closed for everyone on Friday February 12th & Monday February 15th (Family Day).

February is also Chinese New Year! Like many events this year, we cannot have our big celebration. Festivities will be kept small and at the classroom level. We are looking forward to the day we can come together and celebrate with everyone again!

February has also brought some staff changes. Last month we said goodbye to Niamh, an ECE in our childcare program, who has decided to move back home to Ireland to be closer with family. Although we are sad to see her go, it is with great pleasure that I introduce you to Leela Downton our new temporary ECE. We have also hired a new full-time ECE to assist in the Bear's classroom, Marie Casas. Lastly, we are very excited to announce our new Teacher of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Jessica Costello. Jessica will be starting in September of 2021. We are so excited to have Leela, Marie, and Jessica on board, welcome to the CHSC team!

On a related note, we will be temporarily saying farewell to our beloved Tara, as she embarks on her journey of mommy-hood! We wish her and baby all the best!

Happy February!

Dawn McKenna



Executive Director



# Black History Month & Hearing Health!

The success of our centre, and more importantly listening and spoken language deaf education in general, would not be where it is today without the incredible work of some amazing men and women who pioneered social, technological, and educational advancements that have paved the way for our cause and the work we do.

This Black History Month we are recognizing the incredible contributions made by Black individuals in the deaf and hard of hearing community!

## Dr. James E. West



Research professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. He co-created the foil electret microphone with his research partner Gerhard Sessler in 1962 while working as a scientist at Bell Laboratories. 90% of all microphones today use this technology and it can be found in a wide range of devices including: telephones, music and sound recording equipment, and of course hearing aids!

## Andrew Foster



First African American to earn a B.A. from Gallaudet University (later earned 2 master's degrees). He went on to establish 32 schools for the Deaf spanning across 13 African countries. He overcame numerous obstacles. He lost his hearing as a child caused by Spinal Meningitis. He also faced educational barriers due to segregation in the south. Through his perseverance and determination he went on to establish Deaf education across Africa.

## Capt. Derek Dunn



A captain in the U.S. Public Health Service, he held the position of Division Director and later Associate Director for Science at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). Throughout his career he was a strong advocate for occupational hearing health and along with Dr. Marvin Mills, became the driving force behind project IMHOTEP, a cooperative project to "increase the knowledge capacity and skills of minority students in biostatistics, epidemiology and occupational safety and health."





## About: Leela Downton

We are so excited to have our new ECE Leela Downton join the CHSC team! Here is a little information about Leela to get to know her better:

Leela is a U.S. citizen who grew up in India. She is married to her husband Jeff and has a daughter. She has been a stay-at-home mom and a freelance web content writer until she moved to Canada in early 2018. With her daughter all grown up, she took the opportunity to further her life-long interest in early learning and play-based education to become an Early Childhood Educator. She has spent the last year and a half at Langara College and is presently completing her final practicum here at CHSC to graduate with her Diploma in Early Childhood Education. She is also working on her Special Education citation from Langara.

Leela loves to cook a variety of cuisines, hike in the mountains, and walk the seawall listening to podcasts.

Welcome Leela!





# February Theme:

## "Love Builds a Community"

Every month the centre chooses a theme to build activities, lessons, and vocabulary around. The month of February is all about love, friendship, and emotions, including using good manners and acts of kindness. What a perfectly fitting theme for the month that holds Valentines Day!

There are three **BIG** ideas:

There are many  
ways to express  
kindness

1

There are many  
kinds of human  
relationships

2

People experience  
a range of  
emotions

3

Other themes and sub-themes that will  
be explored include:

- We experience a range of emotions
- There are many ways to demonstrate kindness to others
- Friends make us happy
- Valentines day is a special day when we celebrate friends and people we love
- Everyone has a family and all families look different





**CHSC**  
**Summer  
Adventure Camp**

**Join Our  
Adventure  
Program!  
(For ages 6-9)**



**Registration will open  
shortly. More  
information to follow!**

**July 12<sup>th</sup>  
to the 30<sup>th</sup>  
2021**



## Recipe Corner

### Chinese Scallion Pancakes

Get in the Chinese New Year spirit with these delicious scallion pancakes or Cong you bing. This is sure to be a crowd pleaser at the dinner table!

[Click For Recipe](#)



**Happy year of the Ox! Xīn Nián Kuài Lè - Gong hei fat choy  
Gong Xi Fa Cai**





## Kids Corner

### Instructions:

1. Print
2. Colour
3. Hand in to your teacher

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