

# THE VOICE



"We sang in the sunshine, we laughed everyday"

## Housekeeping

1. First Day of School: Tuesday September 7th 1/2 day of school from 9am-12pm
2. Spirit Day: Thursday, September 23rd
3. Stat Holiday No School: Thursday, September 30th
4. Last Day to purchase CHSC Clothing: Monday, September 27th



# A Message From Our Principal & Executive Director

Dear Family, Friends, Teachers & Staff,

It is hard to believe that we are at the start of another school year. We hope you all had a lovely summer vacation and were able to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather, visit with loved ones, and recharge your batteries.

We are entering the new school year with optimism and excitement. As the vaccination effort continues, we've been able to regain some of the mobility we had lost over the past year and a half. Despite this return to "normal" we still must be vigilant about the continued risk COVID-19 and its variants pose.

Our Centre has been very fortunate to not have a single COVID-19 case during the 2020/2021 school year and that is in large part due to the amazing effort from all of our staff and parents for following and respecting the protocols put in place by the Ministry of Education and the BC Government. We truly thank you all for your support and patience during this time. Let's continue to work together to ensure that our 2021-2022 school year runs smoothly and without incident.

With that said, the protocols and guidelines governing this school year have not changed. As much as we would love to have live events, activities, and in-person gatherings, we must ask that you continue to follow the established COVID-19 protocols. We know how difficult it has been to be away from the Centre, we miss you all so much and we cannot wait for the day we can return to morning music in the gym, holiday parties, and in person meetings. We will continue to provide avenues for engagement through Zoom, social media, and email and telephone communication. We are closely monitoring the situation and when it is safe to do so, we will resume in-person gathering. We will also keep you up to date via our beautiful new website courtesy of Backbone Solutions!

Lastly, we would like to welcome a few new staff members to the team. Joining us this year we have Amarinder Mehta and Jessica Costello, both are teachers of the deaf and hard of hearing and will be serving as Itinerant teachers. We would also like to welcome back Talia Levy. She is a Teacher and will be assisting Janet with our Raven's class.

Welcome back parents, teachers, ECEs, staff, and students. Let's have a great year!



**Dawn McKenna**  
Executive Director



**Loretta Richardson**  
Principal



# Inaugural Summer Childcare Program a Great Success!

Every year, at the end of June, we say goodbye to our students and wish them a happy summer. Contrary to popular belief, the champagne bottles are not popping at the sound of the last school bell. It's actually a time of mixed emotions. On one hand teaching staff are excited for their much needed (and well deserved) vacation, but also sad to say goodbye to the children. For the Administration team, it's the start of our busy season, where we use the two months to prepare for the upcoming year. For the few of us who remain over the summer, the Centre can be an odd place to work. The halls are eerily quiet without the cacophony of laughter, music, yelps of excitement, and the general clamor of school life, but this year was different.

This summer we ran our Childcare program to great success! This program, which launched back in September of 2020 was developed out of a need expressed by families for quality childcare programming and it serves children with hearing loss as well as typical hearing children. Known as the Beaver class, a moniker given to differentiate it from our other Canadian critter themed classes, it ran Monday to Friday throughout the summer.

I recently reached out to the summer Childcare team; comprised of our two amazing ECEs Leela and Marie as well as Jade, our fabulous ECE assistant hired through the Canada Summer Jobs program, to get their reflections on how the program went.

Over the course of the summer there were many memorable moments. For some it was watching the children grow and learn new skills, for others it was connecting with parents and fostering a sense of trust and rapport.



# Inaugural Summer Childcare Program a Great Success! (Continued...)

“My most memorable moment was seeing the reaction of the children when we made elephant toothpaste! Throughout the summer, we did a lot of experimentation with liquids and materials, and it was always rewarding to watch the way the children interacted with the liquids and materials as they explored the textures and watch the reactions.” (Leela, ECE)

In addition to memorable moments, there were some learning curves along the way, which is normal for any new program. The big item this year, came down to staffing.

“Our number one challenge was the lack of another ECE to cover breaks and sickness. Leela and I did not get any breaks, but we had managed to squeeze in a little bit of time away from the children by having at least a 10 min "break" during quiet time, where we alternate taking some time to sit and "relax" a bit. It also helped that Jade was very capable and flexible. She was a great help during the duration of the program.” (Marie, ECE).

Along with logistical matters, there were also personal hurdles to overcome.

“One thing I learned through my experience was to not be a perfectionist, but to let things develop organically with the children.” (Jade, ECE Assistant)

There are many directions the program can take and both Leela and Marie would love to see the program expand and have great ideas on how to do so, from parental feedback to more opportunities for field trips.

“I think I would like to hear feedback from the parents of the children that we had this summer. It is only through them that we can find which areas need improvement(s). We could ask them what they would like to see next. If we have parent engagement, we could further assist the children in those areas that they need help with, and this will enable us to have a strong partnership with the parents. We should also think of what our objectives will be for next time, i.e.: how important is rote learning? What do we aim to accomplish in this program?” (Marie, ECE)

One thing is for certain, that overall the experience was very positive for both staff and children and we definitely plan to run it again next summer!

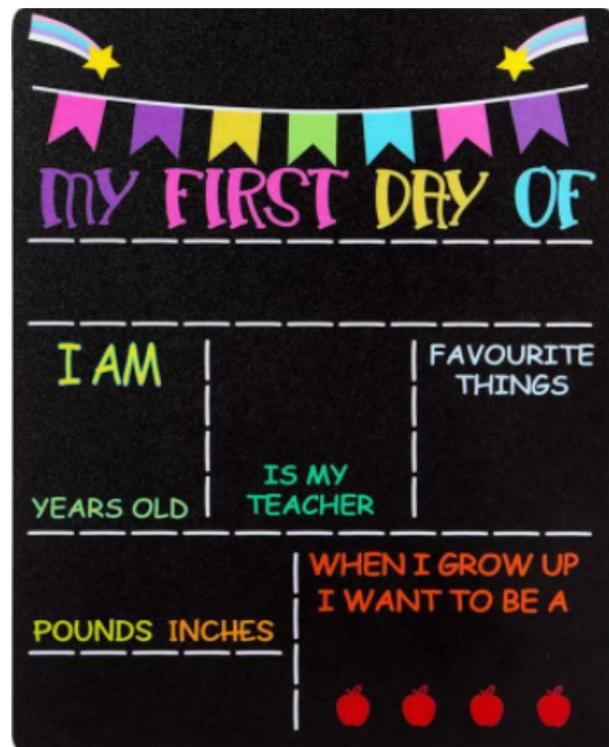


# Be Cyber Smart!

It's back to school season and with it comes the barrage of back to school pictures on Facebook and Instagram. Proud parents posting photos of their children in their back to school outfits, oftentimes accompanied by an adorable chalkboard sign filled with a plethora of information.

Everything from the school and teacher's name to the child's favorite snack is neatly scribed in bright colours.

At first glance these posts seem benign, even harmless, but what many parents don't realize is that this information in the wrong hands, is an opportunity for predators and scammers. With all that personal information available and a picture to connect it to, you may be placing your child in a situation whereby strangers know a lot about your child and can exploit that information with potentially dangerous consequences.



Aside from the potential for physical harm, there is also an increased risk of identity theft. All that information provides scammers with the details they need to create accounts in your child's name or potentially gain access to existing accounts they hold. Scammers might be able to answer security questions or guess passwords based on the content shared.

Lastly, you may also run the risk of sharing unintended information, depending on where the photo is taken. Addresses, street names, and license plates may unwittingly get captured in your photo.



## Be Cyber Smart! (Continued)

However, there are safe ways to capture that precious back to school photo:

1. Don't include any personal information. If you want to incorporate a sign, just have it state "First Day of School"
2. Use a clean, solid back drop to avoid any unintentional additions to your photo (i.e. addresses, license plates, that hydro bill on your counter)
3. If your child wears a uniform, ensure there are no discernible logos visible
4. Tighten up your social media privacy settings (not fool proof)
5. Have ongoing discussions about cyber safety with your children and get their feedback and opinions on the posts you make of them.

Tik Toker Cathy Pedrayes provides some informative clips on ["what not to post on social media"](#). Although in hindsight they seem like no brainers, we don't always think about the consequences of our actions in the moment, especially when our intent is to just share and connect with friends and loved ones!

Happy back to school everybody!



Hi Families!,

We are selling our fabulous CHSC Apparel online! [Check out our pop-up shop!](#) If you're curious about sizes, a Youth XS should fit most of our students. a sample size is available to view up at the front desk. Shirts will also shrink when washed in warm water and put through the dryer.

Order your shirt [TODAY!!](#)

**IT'S FINALLY HERE!**

*CHSC's  
2021/2022  
Clothing  
Collection!*



Fabulous Styles For the Whole Family!

**AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE  
ONLINE FROM  
AUG 17-SEPT 27, 2021**

<https://urstore.ca/group/chsc-apparel-pop-up-shop>

Free shipping to our centre!  
Get your items in time for Spirit Day on October 28th!

