**Fall Newsletter** 

Dear Parents,

Welcome to October. Our centre is always so busy in the early fall with new families starting. We are excited to get to know our new families and equally excited to continue the year with those who have been around for a while.

To begin, I would like to address a few housekeeping items. Please remember that our hours of operation are 8:00AM – 5:45PM. I realize some of you arrive before 8:00AM and have to wait outside. You may see your children’s educators in the centre and wonder why you cannot just come in. Please understand that there are many things that have to be prepared in advance of your children’s arrival. Our educators want to be all set up to start the day.

Equally important is the need for you to pick your children up on time. Our educators work very hard all day with your children. When their day is over, they are eager to get home to their families as well.

We also ask that you refrain from entering and accessing areas in our centre that are marked “employees only”. Entering the kitchen, for example causes a health and safety issue. In addition, taking food and milk from the kitchen causes a shortage for the children in our care. Our portions are calculated and inventory controlled based on expected consumption.

As a charitable not for profit organization, GBCCC gratefully accepts donations. If you are an employee of the federal government, you can add GBCCC as your chosen recipient through the charitable campaign at <https://uwco.ca/crm/Start.jsp?accountNumber=24737&language=en>. As well, you can donate through Canada Helps at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/bernadette-child-care-centre-incorporated-garderie-bernadet>. In addition, you are also most welcome to donate directly to us. Charitable tax receipts are provided for all donations $25.00 and over.

In partnership with the University of Ottawa, our preschool program will be participating in a swimming lesson program this year. We have two sessions planned. They will be on Fridays from 10:00AM – 11:00AM. The first will be October 5th – November 30th, with a break October 22nd due to reading week. The second will be February 1st – March 29th, with a break February 22nd again, due to reading week.

Parents are asked to be sure to provide a bathing suit, towel, life jacket and a sweatshirt for children to wear over top of their bathing suit.

The children will be in a group with their primary educator and a swimming instructor. Educators and instructors will be in the water with the children. There is a lifeguard and additional staff member on deck. Our educators will participate in a water safety training course prior to the beginning of our sessions. Please see the attached “At a Glance” in the 2-3 year old section for the curriculum planned for our sessions.

Educators are settling in well with the new groups of children and will be talking to you soon to arrange a meeting time, if you wish. At the meetings, educators like to discuss development, next steps and goals.

I am happy to discuss anything with you at any time. You are welcome to stop in to the office, give me a call or send an email.

Happy fall!

Karen