[](http://www.google.ca/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjNtN_T0dneAhVJ3IMKHQCRC2EQjRx6BAgBEAU&url=http://clipart-library.com/winter-cliparts.html&psig=AOvVaw2iDX8VcYlJeP_tB_5KDa2A&ust=1542482612755271)

Hello to all,

The days are shorter, the nights are colder and the snow has started. We are well on our way towards winter. I wanted to bring you up to date on what’s happening at GBCCC.

We are so excited for our annual Snack with Santa, which we will hold on Wednesday, December 12th at 3:00PM. This year, the children will be entertaining you with a small concert. They are very excited and have been practising lots. In addition, we will be having a Silent Auction and welcome any donations of items to be auctioned off. Details of our fundraising efforts, including the Silent Auction are attached.

Our Friday Night Movie Nights are turning out to be a huge hit. This fundraising activity initiated by our amazing educators is as much fun for them as it is the children. We are planning another in December only instead if a Friday night, we will do a Saturday morning or afternoon – or potentially both if there is enough interest. The intent of this one is for parents to have an opportunity to do some holiday shopping, wrapping or even go home to take a nap. Please let us know if you prefer a morning or afternoon.

We have been asked about holiday closure of our centre. We will be closed December 24th, 2018 to January 4th, 2019 inclusive. This is always such a nice time for everyone to get a nice break at the same time and come back fresh and ready for the new year. We will be excited to have Melanie back in the kitchen after her yearlong maternity leave and Rayanne will follow soon after. We should be business as usual come January. We would like to thank you all for your patience as we navigated the kitchen with your children’s educators. They are to be commended for their flexibility and commitment to the children’s needs.

Speaking of January, we have some good news for you. We will not be increasing childcare fees this year. We have had a good year financially speaking; as well, we have received an increase in our provincial funding. The priority for this funding is to assist with childcare affordability and accessibility. In terms of better accessibility for families, we would potentially be looking at increasing the number of hours we are open. We notice that many parents are waiting at the door right at 8:00AM and wonder if opening at 7:30AM and closing at 6:00PM would help serve you better. Please send an email to me at [dirgbccc@uottawa.ca](mailto:dirgbccc@uottawa.ca) if this is something that is of interest to you.

As we embark on the busy holiday season, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and happy holiday.

Kind regards,

Karen