[](https://pixabay.com/en/penguin-animal-bird-celebration-161288/)

Welcome to 2019 at GBCCC. We have an exciting year ahead and would like to share some of our news and upcoming events.

We have been fortunate to have been paired with a uOttawa student to begin a special music program with our children. Faith will visit us Tuesday mornings with her ukulele, guitar and other interesting instruments. Faith has an extensive background in music and is looking forward to volunteering with our centre.

Our Preschool swimming lessons start up again on February 1st and run until March 29th, with no lesson February 22nd due to reading week. We remind Preschool parent to please be sure to get your children changed when you arrive in the morning so we are all set to leave on time. In addition, and speaking of “on time”, we ask that you make sure to have your children here and ready to go by 9:00AM. If you come after we have left, we will need you to come find us at the pool.

We will have a visit from the librarian in the month of February and the infant program will begin visiting the library on Wednesday mornings in the spring – once the sidewalks are free of snow.

We are making a staff change. Anny and Lauren are switching groups to allow our infant group to have a francophone educator. If either Anny or Lauren are new to you, please don’t be shy in introducing yourself. Jela is embarking on some professional development and taking some courses and will be taking Tuesdays and Wednesdays to pursue her studies. Myriam will be in for her on those days. In addition, our lovely Amanda has accepted a full time position at another centre and will leave us. Feheimeh will be her replacement.

Our Friday Night Date/Movie Nights have been incredibly popular. The children and staff are really enjoying themselves. We have made nearly $900.00, which we plan to use for special programming. The first will be a visit from the Junkyard Symphony. For those of you not familiar with this group, they are a musical program that has made all of their instruments out of recycled material. Educators are planning to make some instruments with the children out of some of our recycled material in advance of our guest’s arrival to peak some interest.

As we move into February, we would like to remind you of the upcoming dates our centre is closed. Monday, February 18th, we are closed for Family Day. We do not have another holiday after that until Easter, when we close both Good Friday, April 19th and Easter Monday, April 22nd.

A little reminder of our outdoor policy. We do not take the Toddlers and Preschool children out when it is -21 or colder with Wind chill (-15 for the infants). In addition, if the university has been unable to clear the snow allowing proper egress from the playground, outdoor play is a risk. We would be unable to get the children out in the event of an emergency. On those days, alternative gross motor activities are planned. Being at the university, we are fortunate to be able to go for walks without having to go out into the cold. We also have some areas where we can play games and allow the children to run around. I assure you all, no one appreciates being able to get outside on a daily basis more than Early Childhood Educators. The winter can feel long when we have long cold snaps.

A number of you have been enquiring as to when your children will be moving on to the next program. We have quite a few toddler ready infants and preschool ready toddlers. This is common in childcare. We simply do not have the space at the moment. Our educators are well prepared for these instances and plan children’s programs accordingly. They recognize the children’s development and adjust activities to ensure no one is falling behind. Your children will move as spaces open up and in order of age/development.

In closing, I would like to wish you a happy remainder of winter – spring is coming!

Regards,

Karen