

## FAMILY INFORMATION

- Rural Roots will be closed for Good Friday on April 14<sup>th</sup> and Easter Monday on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- To secure your childcare space for summer and fall programs, please return registration by April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> is a PA Day at Holy Family School; no childcare available.
- Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> is a PA Day at Nor'wester View School. If you require care for this day please email Lisa at [rroots@tbaytel.net](mailto:rroots@tbaytel.net)
- For monthly/flex families, May childcare schedules are due by April 24<sup>th</sup>.

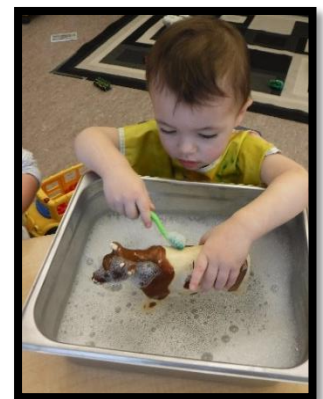
## TODDLER PROGRAM

"A bird, a bird!"

Over the last few weeks the children have shown an interest in animals, whether they are found outside or in stories. Through observations and conversations with the children we have learned that they are very aware of different types of animals. By providing a variety of materials we have been able to further provoke their conversations. Materials we have used included songs, books, a farm and animal figurines. Using these materials provided new experiences such as animal washing, painting, and homemade puzzles.

On our adventures we often talk about animals that we see and hear or could possibly see. Most of the time, the children will hear birds and say out loud "a bird". The rest of the children then stop to look. When mentioning these experiences to parents they often share how their child talks about animals they see while driving in the car.

Nicole & Lory



## JUNIOR PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

Exploring and investigating new sensory experiences seemed to keep the interest and focus of our preschoolers. We have introduced foam suds, water bubbles, ice block forms, foam goopy painting as well as coloured sand, to see where their curiosity will take them. Children spent a lot of time at these activities; whether it was calming, soothing, distracting or served as a way to deal as an outlet from their day, it helped them to channel all their senses. This supported exploration in creativity, divergent thinking and using materials in new ways, as well as an understanding of new concepts as they learn new information through their discoveries.

Madison & Rosa



## SENIOR PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

We are still exploring our 5 senses and how we use them daily. Can you imagine what it might be like to live your life without any of your senses? We have had taste tests, watched snow melt, and used stethoscopes and shells to hear a variety of sounds, explored smelly bottles and a sensory board for touching. Throughout our program the children enjoyed hands on experiences to further investigate these senses. Activities such as water play, making cookies, feely box, sand and shaving cream, finger painting, I spy games and nature walks helped to support this. We continued to talk with the children about how the five senses strengthen everyday experiences that we have, as things naturally come up in everyday conversation. Sensory play helps children to develop and improve their gross and fine motor skills, co-ordination and concentration. It also provides an opportunity to use all their senses to discover and explore their environment, develop their imagination and expand creative thinking. We are looking to what April will bring us and what we will explore next...

Thank you and Good Luck to our 1st Year student, Breann Hovi who is furthering her education at Confederation College to one day become an Early Childhood Educator. We would like to welcome our 2<sup>nd</sup> Year student, Kim Kivi, who will be joining us Monday to Friday. We are looking forward to getting to know you.



Thanks  
Tammy and Kelly



### SEEDS OF EMPATHY (Senior Preschool, Wednesday group)

During Theme 7, Friends the children were read the books "[Pepo and Lolo are Friends](#)" and "[That's What Friends Are For](#)". The book [Pepo and Lolo Are Friends](#) is about two friends Pepo, a pig and Lolo, a bird. They are friends who sometimes get angry with each other but will always be friends. The story [That's What Friends are For](#) is about two best friends, Mr. Goat and Mr. Pig, who are also neighbours. At the beginning of this story, Goat wakes up, looks out the window and sees his friend Pig in tears. Goat jumps to conclusions as to why Pig is crying and then thinks of ways to help. When Goat finally goes over to Pigs house, he learns that Pig was crying because he was cutting onions.

Our visit was full of surprises and new stages in Parkers development. We learned that with assistance Parker could stand up, when trying to sit down he would stiffen his legs showing us that he wasn't ready to sit. We explained to the children he can observe and discover the environment and children more when he is standing. Lisa brought in Parkers diaper bag to show us how she takes care of Parker when they go out. What do you think was in the bag? Parker also enjoys playing peek a boo games such as "Where is Parker" with the clutch cube and hiding an object; visual discrimination. To extend on this activity we taught Parker the Two Blackbirds song. We discovered Parker was more delighted and smiling when we sang the song fast.





## SOUTH NEEBING AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

### KINDERGARTEN AFTERSHOOL PROGRAM

March was a busy month for the Kindergarten program. Due to weather, the children spent several days in the gym for active time. We played several co-operative games and even participated in an obstacle course. Outside time was also enjoyed, and the children got to experience some different areas of the environment - utilizing trails across the parking lot, and walks around the school to slide down the hills.

This month the Kindergarten children were given the opportunity to decide on and put together their Dramatic Play area - they chose a Mad Scientist Lab / Costume area. The children have been bringing in their old Halloween costumes from home to use in the area, and will be setting it up shortly. During March Break, the Kindergarten program included some of the children from the Holy Family program allowing them to make new friends. Several fun and interesting activities were planned such as pancake making, a tea party, and growing crystals. A big thank you to our parents for remembering to send appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather (warm and rain gear). This time of year is always difficult to gauge, and we appreciate your attention in this matter.

Kristie and Megan

March Madness has come and gone, and oh, what fun we had! We were fortunate to go on not one, but two field trips! First we toured Fort William Historical Park and played some old fashioned games and then we took a quick jaunt out to Vanderwees to do some shopping and take a peek at the animals. On March break we made pizzas with Angelo from Golden Bakery, had a baking day, a movie day and we even beat our own version of an Escape Room! Now that we are back at South Neebing we are settling in to our program there once again. As the weather has turned warmer being outside more is AWESOME. Scooters are always a big hit as well as street hockey and groups of children are flocking to use the water in a variety of different ways. We are also taking an active role in cleaning up our play space

Amanda & Paula



## HOLY FAMILY KINDERGARTEN AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

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807-633-5808

HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL  
807-620-4048

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.ruralrootscentre.ca](http://www.ruralrootscentre.ca)

Paper airplanes are still being built every day. We even tested out our homemade paper mache airplane that all of the children participated in making. We are using different paper airplane books to help us make a variety of planes. "The Baking Club" has been a huge interest. So far the children have made chocolate chip cookies, cow patties, mini pizzas and chocolate covered strawberries. They are always coming up with new items to make or bake. In the dramatic play area, the animal hospital has been of interest to the children. Rescuing and taking care of different animals including nursing them back to health has been observed. With the warmer weather now here the children have been enjoying playing on the pavement outside, using skipping ropes, playing games such as soccer, tag and pass.

Lorissa

**Thank you to all of the parents who came and joined us when the Thunder Bay Reptiles came and visited the program. We all had a great time.**

## HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL-AGE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The school age children have shown a great interest in our "Baking Club". They have many different ideas of things to make. Recently we have made chocolate chip cookies, cow patties, mini pizzas and chocolate covered strawberries. Recipes for all of these have been posted on our parent table in case families would like to enjoy our creations. Some of the ideas the children have to make in the next few weeks are cupcakes, rice crispy squares, chocolate covered pretzels, fruit kabobs, donuts, and fondue. The children have also expressed an interest in puzzles. They have been working hard each day at completing our challenge of a 1000 piece puzzle. The children have been enjoying getting back outside in the warm weather! They have been participating in games such as 4-square, skipping, basketball, and soccer.

Hailey & Taylor