

Fallingbrook Community Elementary School PTC Community Report

Presented by: Cathy Miles, RECE Director, Global Child Care Services

February 2023

Program News:

Throughout the month of January and the beginning of February, the kindergarten program had a focus on friendship. They created a “friendship flower”, with each petal displaying tips on how to be a good friend. They enjoyed some winter art, creating traditional paper snowflakes, ice painting and an adorable melting snowman craft. RECEs Melanie and Kahley started the Senior Kindergarten Reading Program this month and the children are, as always, excited each week to sit in the “teacher chair”, hold the book like the educators do and show off their newly emerging reading skills. This group also engaged in some winter science, learning salt melts ice quickly.

The school age group have been quite involved in making creations with the Magnaformers. These are various-shaped, colourful magnetic toys that the children are creating their own version of mini houses for their small toy pets. The imagination and creativity is astounding. The large hollow blocks are popular in this program as the children create stores, houses or school classrooms with them daily. Whatever their preferred creation of the day was, RECEs Erica and Tracey supported the play with additional requests from the children for cash registers, dolls, dress up clothes or whatever was required of the children to make their play meaningful.

The Discovery Zone, for several months, have been completely engaged with the Littlest Pet Shop toys, creating homes out of Lego, using them with the dollhouses, or simply using them as table top toys. It is nice to see these oldest children using their imaginations in such a creative manner and this month was no exception. This group also enjoyed several new board games. They have been playing Triple Triumph, a stacking pyramid game and Rapid Rumble, a fast-paced letter game. A special highlight this month was the Snap Circuits activity. Snap Circuits teaches basic engineering, electronics and circuitry concepts by using building components with snaps to assemble electronic circuits on a simple “rows-and-columns” base grid. The group has managed to assemble a music speaker, a helicopter and a doorbell.

We had planned a Winter Fun Day for the Friday January 26 PA Day but unfortunately Mother Nature had other ideas for us as rain forced us to alter our plans. As an alternative, we spent time playing games in the gym. We have postponed our Winter Fun Day to the February 16th PD Day.

During the week of January 22, we celebrated Literacy Week. The children in each program were invited to bring in their favourite book on the Friday PA Day to share with their peers. The kindergarten program visited the Discovery Zone to have their books read to them by their “Buddies”. The school age program shared their books together, wrote comic strips and made colourful bookmarks throughout the week to mark the occasion.

The programs received several new items, purchased by our Executive Director for all Global’s Child Care programs. The children (and staff) were absolutely thrilled to receive these gifts. Everything from the child sized armchair to the brand-new carpet, from the sensory blocks and floor mats to the sorting trays, are all being used and appreciated by the programs.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

On January 31, I participated in a virtual workshop presented by Lindsay Lapaquette through Early Childhood Community Development Centre (ECCDC) entitled *Igniting Professional Growth with Brave Performance Feedback that Works*.

COMMUNITY LIAISON:

I participated in the Fallingbrook Community Elementary School’s Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) club meeting.

On January 31, Melanie Kinnear and I attended Kindergarten Information Night at Fallingbrook Community Elementary School. This event was well attended, and several new families expressed interest in care with us for the upcoming 2024/2025 school year.