

Bettye Hyde Newsletter

February/March 2006



Emily Dickinson (1830–86). Complete Poems. 1924.

Part Two: Nature LXXXVII

DEAR March, come in!
How glad I am!
I looked for you before.
Put down your hat—
You must have walked—
How out of breath you are!
Dear March, how are you?
And the rest?
Did you leave Nature well?
Oh, March, come right upstairs with me,
I have so much to tell!

I got your letter, and the bird's;
The maples never knew
That you were coming,—I declare,
How red their faces grew!
But, March, forgive me—
And all those hills
You left for me to hue;
There was no purple suitable,
You took it all with you.

Who knocks? That April!
Lock the door!
I will not be pursued!
He stayed away a year, to call
When I am occupied.
But trifles look so trivial

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As soon as you have come,
That blame is just as dear as praise
And praise as mere as blame.

A Message from the Treasurer

Requests for tax receipts will not be taken after March 31st. Charlotte will be away for the entire month of April.

A Message from the Registrar

Early registration is starting.

All families will receive a letter and a form to fill out. Returning families have priority over new families on waiting lists but to keep their spots, each family must return its pre-registration form. Information is requested from non-returning families, so that we can calculate how many new spots are available. The **form**, plus a **\$60 non-refundable cheque** (made out to BH and dated April 1 2006) are due on **Friday 24 March, 2006**.

Questions? Concerns? Contact Monika at 230-5492.

Related Registration Considerations

- 1) **Returning families must submit all of their post-dated monthly cheques for the 2006-2007 school year** (NOT including optional fees, since busing schedules won't yet be finalized) **by 1 June 2006**. If your cheques are not submitted by this date, you will risk losing your child's spot for September.
- 2) You may notice that the registration fee (\$60) has increased \$10 from last year. Some explanation is in order. The insurance umbrella group to which Bettye Hyde had belonged for several years (the Ottawa Valley Cooperative Preschool Association) no longer exists; we would like now to join our fellow non-profit cooperative nursery schools in Ontario by becoming members of the **PCPC (Parent Co-operative Preschool Corporation)**. The PCPC defines itself as

“a non-profit charitable organization that values and encourages the involvement of its shareholders. Incorporated in 1974, PCPC is supported by volunteers, parents, and educators who are dedicated to the goal of quality early childhood education and parent education”
(email communication to Cindy).

When the cost for membership in this organization is divided among the families presently attending Bettye Hyde, the portion per family comes to approximately \$10; hence, our \$10 increase in the registration fee.

The PCPC provides many benefits to its members. Non-profit preschools are entitled to resources in terms of Networking, Consultation, Professional Development, Special Needs Resources, Insurance, and a Vote in the membership

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(three votes per centre). The following list only scrapes the surface of the benefits available to us: website (free listing of our school and valuable links), discounts on publications and professional development events, an annual salary and benefits survey, marketing and fundraising strategies, and dozens of attachments via email (on everything from allergies to playground inspectors to human rights).

The PCPC is affiliated with the following reputable groups: the Organization for Parent Participation in Childcare and Education, Ontario (OPPCE,O), which is the provincial organization of co-operative preschool councils; the Parent Cooperative Preschools International (PCPI), which is the international organization of co-operative preschool councils; the Association for Early Childhood Education, Ontario (AECEO); and the Canadian Association of Family Resource Programs (CAFRP); and the Ontario Co-operative Association. For those interested in doing further research, go to www.pcpctoronto.org.

Open House

Even though the Board members ate most of the goodies on the snack table, our Open House on **February 28th** was packed—a huge success! Monika was kept busy all evening with Registrar's duties, working through the long cue of parents wanting to add their child's name to our waiting list. Thanks to Sarah Pantin for publicity, and thanks to all of you who spread the word and encouraged friends and neighbours to attend. Bettye Hyde must be the most popular preschool destination in Ottawa. We know why!

SPRING FAIR NEWS

Our Spring Fair meeting on Wednesday February 22nd generated a lot of enthusiasm in anticipation of **June 3rd**. Following a “pep talk” by Carm, parents gathered in groups to brainstorm about their specific areas of responsibility: bake sale, yard sale, et cetera. Some excellent planning went on, and we look forward to another successful spring fund-raiser. We will be providing Spring Fair updates in forthcoming newsletters. For now, please take note of the following:

KIDS are the FOCUS: This year's Fair, more than ever, will be directed towards the children. With that focus in mind, please plan your **Yard Sale donations** accordingly: kids' clothing, toys, CDs and DVDs, room furnishings, et cetera. The April newsletter will feature a detailed list of the items we encourage you to donate.

Wanted: Old cotton bedsheets, to make old-fashioned bunting for our Fair! Do you have white or pale-coloured cotton sheets that you could donate to BH? We would like to cut them into triangles and have the children decorate each triangle with fabric paint. We will then string all the triangles together and hang them from the trees, et cetera, to provide a festive atmosphere! Please check your closets, and give your sheets to one of the teachers. Thank you.

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Spring Fair Sale Items

If you can spare any of the following to assist with the sorting and selling of goods, please drop them off at the Bettye Hyde Nursery School:

Bins	Racks	Hangers
Boxes	Elastics	Zip Lock bags (large)
Plastic bags to carry items	Masking tape	Markers (sharp point)
Rope or cord to hang items on	Stickers for pricing (colored)	

Donations for Bettye Hyde Spring Fair Sale

Donations will be coordinated through Bettye Hyde Nursery School. Donors should call the school for details on drop-off locations.

Deadlines for Donations

31 May 2006	Last day for clothing donations
02 June 2006	Last day for household items, toys and heavy items

Please call Carol Smith if you have any questions: 234-3689.

Bettye Hyde Want Ads

Looking for a part-time caregiver for a newborn (on Blackburn Avenue). Please contact Amanda McKay at 842-0706.

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Reducing Problem Behaviours through Responsiveness: Let the Child's Behaviour Cue You

Prepared by Sarah Glover, September 2005, Children's Integration Support Services—a program of Andrew Fleck Child Care Services

Add the following responsive behaviours to your usual behaviour management techniques. Use them consistently and children will be more likely to listen to you and to display fewer problem behaviours. Use **responsive interactions** with hardest-to-manage children; you'll soon see a difference!

How to be responsive when:

1) A child tries to interact with you (in a good way):

- Follow the child's lead! Let him/her guide you on how to play and talk to him/her.
- If the child asks you a question, take the time to answer it. If you don't have time, let him/her know that you will answer later ... then don't forget!
- If a child asks you to join in play, join as soon as possible, even if it is only for a few minutes.
- When a child starts a conversation with you, keep it going. Make eye contact and remain interested.

2) A child's behaviour is neutral (not good but not bad):

- Ask him/her specific questions: What are you making? How was your soccer game last night? Can you show me how to play this game?
- Find a way to join in with his/her play: Can I share the Lego with you?
- Mirror the child's play. If the child is playing with blocks, build a tower next to him/her.
- Praise and reinforce often.
- Smile and pat him/her on the back during play.

3) A child's behaviour is inappropriate:

- Set limits and state clear expectations. Follow through or redirect where necessary.
- Use time out as a last resort or for specific behaviours that are decided ahead of time.

Next Board Meeting: Thursday March 23, at 7 p.m. at Drumlin's.

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2005-2006 Board Members

Debra Nolan	(President)
Shirley Diener	(V.P.)
Monika Michalska	(Registrar)
Doug Ainslie	(Secretary)
Terri Da Silva	(Parent Volunteer Coordinator)
Charlotte Masemann	(Treasurer)
Sarah Pantin	(Publicity)
Gwendolyn Guth	(Newsletter Editor)

Newsletter content and suggestions are always welcome

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