



## Bettye Hyde NEWSLETTER - October 2011

### Message from the Director

**Thank you** to all our new Bettye Hyde families that came to the orientation meeting on Sept. 27. After 18 years of holding these meetings at Bettye Hyde, it never fails to amaze me how lucky I am to work with, and for, such an enthusiastic group of people. We are looking forward to getting to know all our new families better, and catching up with all of our returning families.

As you may or may not know Bettye Hyde is experiencing many changes this year. With full-day learning slowly being rolled in to our neighbourhood we had to find new ways of keeping ourselves busy. The Board of Education will offer all kindergarten children "full-day learning" by 2015. One of our area schools, St. Brigids, introduced the program last year and our afternoon enrolment was immediately affected.

In order to keep our numbers up, and keep our wonderfully dedicated teachers employed, we introduced a School Age Program called the **Clubhouse**. Starting off with 15 Grade One and Grade Two children, we have now added Grade Three. We will continue to add a grade each year as long as the same children want to stay! Janet and Lisa share this creative and energetic program. Any of us would love to tell you more about it if you know any families that may want to enrol. We presently have **five spaces available**.

Also this year we have taken on a new challenge in running a 40-space After school Program at Rockcliffe Park Public School. This program is run in the library, large gymnasium and computer room at the school. Needless to say this 40-space program filled immediately, and we quickly had to scramble and hire five new staff!

With the size of Bettye Hyde School more than doubling in the last year you will be seeing less of me singing, reading, and mucking in playdough, art and snack with the children. These changes are bittersweet for me. My heart is still very much into facilitating the children's learning through their play, but I know I am leaving these responsibilities to some of the best ECE's in the field.

Even though I may not be immediately obvious when you are in the school, please be assured I am always available and more than willing to help with any questions or concerns you may have. My door is always open – literally, it is the door to the Bettye Hyde kitchen!

## What's Happening in the Clubhouse

**A message from Janet and Lisa:**



**Welcome to** another great year at Bettye Hyde's School Age Program — also called The Clubhouse.

We are both excited to be a part of this program as it begins its second year. The two of us will work together to plan fun and exciting activities for our "School Agers".

Some things taking place in October are:

- Park Trips — we will take advantage of our proximity to great parks with regular visits to Strathcona Park and Chapel St. Park.
- Reading Program — We have started a group reading time where we will read aloud chapter books together. Fantasy books were a popular choice, so we are ordering the Narnia set from Scholastic to kick off our reading program.
- Library visits — to compliment our reading program, and to enhance our book corner, we will go on regular visits to the Rideau Branch of the Ottawa Public Library. This will be an opportunity for each child to sign out books of their choice.

- Birthday Celebrations — Downstairs in the Nursery School, we love to celebrate birthdays, and plan to carry on this tradition in the Clubhouse. Soon we will be embarking on a paper mache project.
- Birthday Pinata — This group art project will be re-used throughout the year, filled with little treasures and treats in celebration of another birthday.
- A Place of their Own — Each child has their very own cork board to decorate with personal mementos, and favourite things. Photos, medals or any other special token from home are welcome. At the end of the school year, the boards will go home, where they can be enjoyed as a keepsake.

The Clubhouse cell phone, 613-979-3108 is turned on daily from 2 p.m. to 5:45 pm. Parents are welcome to phone the school's main line at 613-236-3108 to leave a message about your child's absence outside of those hours.

We are looking forward to the year that lies ahead!



## The Greening of Bettye Hyde

The new sod that was laid around the Bettye Hyde play area this summer has taken root and seems to be weathering well the wear and tear that Mother Nature and the BH students have been able to dish out.

In other BH Green News:

- Litterless Lunch Program — To encourage a garbage-free lunch, students are asked to please use the green bin for compost, as well as the blue and black boxes for their other waste. Please note we have removed the garbage cans from the lunch area and all garbage will be returned in children's lunch boxes.
- We promote litterless snack and encourage parents to choose earth-friendly options such as: large bottles or cans of juice rather than individual drink boxes, a block of cheese cut up rather than individually wrapped cheese strings, etc.

- We re-use common household items in our art area. (corks, frozen concentrate juice lids, jewellery store boxes etc.)
- We re-use one-sided paper in our Free Art area and would welcome any such donations from parents' offices.



- We re-use toys. Many of our toys at have come straight from the alumni themselves as they grow.
- We encourage a pesticide-free environment. This is one of the main reasons we ask all children to have indoor shoes so no pesticide will be tracked into the school from outside.

# in the SPOTLIGHT

## BH's New President Hasan Zaidi and Vice-President Abeeha Hassan

*How did you come to choose Bettye Hyde for your daughter Aila?*

**A: When Aila was born, child care became a major priority for us. We wanted our child to have the opportunity to interact with other children, as opposed to spending all day with just one adult. Moreover, we wanted an institution with a reputation for delivering excellent early childhood education. After our first visit to Bettye Hyde, we knew this was the place for our daughter. We added Aila to a waiting list when she was four months old and 26 months later a spot finally opened up.**

*Aila only started school last spring but you volunteered to be president and vice-president only a few months later - what inspired you to take that step?*

**H: When my wife and I were newly married and starting planning for a family (children) the topic of how to raise and support our family obviously came up. We both grew up in family settings where our moms stayed at home to raise the kids and our fathers went to work to support the family. My wife and I both being career oriented, came to the conclusion that this type of setting just wouldn't work for us. Therefore, we made a decision that we would both continue working but at the same time, we would take a active role in our children's lives. Thus, we decided to participate to the best of our abilities in our child's early educational development.**

*What are your main goals for the coming year?*

**H: Our main goal is to contribute in maintaining Bettye Hyde's high level of service in the field of early childhood education/development. With the BH collective working together, we can hopefully only improve on the well-developed programs and events already in place. This is does not mean that the new year doesn't bring new challenges. Thanks**

to the excellent guidance and support from our predecessors, Tamara Rader and Sean McNamara, they've outlined certain key issues that need to be addressed this year.

The most important ones being: (a) developing a scholarship program for underprivileged children who may not be able to afford to come and join the Bettye Hyde family & (b) finding a suitable alternative location for Bettye Hyde if the need ever arises.

*Tell us a little bit about yourselves and your family?*

H: Both my wife and I are of Pakistani decent. We met through mutual friends and lived in Montreal for a year before coming to Ottawa in the winter of 2006. As in most cases, the move was spawned by a job opportunity. The year 2005 had already been a year of big change for us; we had gotten married that summer and were getting used to married life when this opportunity arose. To be honest, I had reservations about a move to Ottawa



but with the help, support and encouragement of my lovely wife, we decided to take the plunge. Adjustment in the first year was a little difficult. We both had new jobs; I now worked as a Procurement Coordinator at the House of Commons and Abeeha as a HR Coordinator at Decima Research. We found ourselves busy all week with nothing to do on the weekends. So we did the only thing we could think of.....we ran back to Montreal almost every weekend. However, this trend diminished as time went on and we started spreading our roots in the Ottawa

community, so to speak. A few years went by and we realised that Ottawa was a great city in which to raise a family. A mere 20 months after Aila was born we were blessed with a baby boy Eshaan.

*Briefly describe your interests/hobbies/passion? Favourite teams or sports etc.*

H: Growing up, my father encouraged sports. I believe my father understood the wonderful attributes that can be derived from the world of sports. Attributes such as discipline, teamwork, individuality, self worth etc. These attributes are what shaped me into the man I am today and are something I hope to pass on and share with my children.

I'm a huge Montreal Canadiens fan. I know some of you out there probably don't like this fact but it is what it is. My daughter and I don't miss a game.

However, my wife misses every single one! She's never been big on sports or television for that matter but not to worry because what she lacks I make up for. Abeeha's hobby is to dance. She loves every style from classical to things straight out of a Bollywood movie. She's actually quite good if I say so myself.

*Describe a perfect Saturday for your family?*

**A: The key ingredients to a perfect Saturday are as follows: Music, coffee, breakfast, playtime, loud lunch, playtime, nap, snack, quiet supper, bedtime, a relaxing movie for the husband and I to watch ALONE!**

*We are in the midst of a provincial election - what message about early childhood education would you give to a candidate who appeared at your door?*

**H: Government assistance/funding for early childhood education should be a subject of utmost importance. This is an investment in not only our children's lives but in all of our futures. We've all seen the research that has been put into finding better ways to develop our children's abilities in areas such as education, nutrition, social interaction etc. The results of such research have taught us that the programs that help implement these attributes in our children need to stay dynamic and keep up with the ever changing times our society faces. In order to stay up to date, funding needs to be provided to make sure these programs have the necessary tools to best prepare our children for the world that awaits them.**

*What might people be surprised to learn about you?*

**H: Both my wife and I love to travel. Abeeha has travelled more extensively than I have and thus some of the places we've been to together (Syria, Dubai, Bahrain), she's visited for the second or third time. She's been to many countries on every continent except for Australia and she's eager to have a chance to finally visit. We're presently in the midst of a, let's call it 'debate', over where to take our next family trip. She would obviously like for us to go to Australia, I on the other hand would like to go to Disneyland. At this point we are at a standstill so any suggestions from our extended Bettye Hyde family would be greatly appreciated. Oh and I should mention that if you choose Disneyland, I'd be open to bringing back souvenirs for people that support my position!**

**A: My pitch for Australia is very simple and it's one that the mothers at Bettye Hyde will hopefully appreciate.....free babysitting hours!!**

## Help Bettye Hyde help other families through directed donations

**Child care** subsidies for the school have been cut to a maximum of three for all of Bettye Hyde's programs when the need for these subsidies has never been met and continues to climb.

We have a long waiting list for these coveted spaces and would like to try and help ease the burden on families in need.

As a result Bettye Hyde is trying to raise funds for a bursary to help a family enrol their child at BH and you, as a parent, can help through the United Way!!

### How?

You can direct where you want your United Way contribution to go by simply following these steps:

1) As a Public Servant, select option five on your gift form and fill in Bettye Hyde's registered charity number: BN 106790819, RR 0001.

You will also be asked to provide a short description of how the funds are to be allocated i.e. The Bettye Hyde Bursary, in the box on the form.

2) As a non public servant, go online ([www.unitedwayottawa.ca](http://www.unitedwayottawa.ca)) and select Donate Now, then one-time gift, then fill in section "C" and fill in the registered charity number: BN 106790819, RR 001. As with the public service you will be asked to fill in how you want the funds to be allocated.

Further to this effort to assist Sandy Hill families in need, we're looking for a volunteer who is interested in researching the logistics of a Bettye Hyde Endowment Fund to serve as a long-term source of funding for deserving students.

Anyone interested in this initiative can contact Cindy.

We'd love to be able to have the first child start in January!

Thank you for helping.



**November 18th - Professional Development Day**  
**November 19th - Trivia Night Fundraiser**  
**December 6th - Festival of Lights Holiday Celebration**

**February 17th - Professional Development Day**  
**February 21st - Bettye Hyde Open House**  
**March 12-16 - March Break**

**June 2nd - Spring Fair**  
**June 12th - Annual General Meeting**  
**June 27th - Graduation**

**\* Please note the school follows the Ottawa/Carleton School Board calendar but only takes one PD Day per term.**

What is Trivia Night? A fun night out sans enfants that will give your brain a workout with team competition interspersed with plenty of time to socialize, bid on fabulous auction items or buy tickets for great raffle prizes! Cash Bar. Start recruiting your team now!

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE\*\*** Each Bettye Hyde family is responsible for contributing one raffle/ auction item OR a \$40 tax-deductible cash contribution as this is one of the school's two main fundraisers for the year.



## What's New

**The Real Estate Working Group of the parish of All Saints' Sandy Hill** has offered to organize a "Charrette" on **Nov.11-12** to assist the parish in its discernment of options in the face of unaffordable repair costs.

Bettye Hyde is looking for a volunteer parent to attend the two-day event. A charrette is not a decision making process; but rather an intense, collaborative, creative exercise which brings together professionals and stakeholders to address a particular issue.

**For more details contact Cindy Mitchell @ 613-236-3108**

### Here are a few articles you might find helpful

- [This story says a flu shot for your preschooler cuts chances of an ER visit](#)
- [Forget the tutor Here's a Globe and Mail story about how physical exercise is a powerful way to enhance brain function](#)
- [Then again, maybe there's a downside to all the working out](#)
  
- [This story is about kids going online earlier than ever](#)
- [Cooking with kids means quality time with the youngsters and good food to](#)
- [Believe it or not the holidays are around the corner so maybe this hot-toys story would interest you](#)



## Reminder

**Contribute to the BH Family Tree:** Please bring in a photo of your family to share with the class and post on our family tree.

### Seeking a nanny sharing arrangement.

I work full time, and my two-and-a-quarter year old will be starting at Bettye Hyde soon - so I'm looking for afternoon care. I would love to talk to anyone who might be interested in sharing a nanny (either one they already have, or one we found together). We don't live in the neighbourhood, so I would need to share with someone who is close enough for a caregiver to pick-up from Bettye Hyde at lunch time. Please let me (Amanda Edmunds) know if you're interested or have suggestions - you can reach me at 613 686-5772 (evenings) and [Amanda@antiflux.org](mailto:Amanda@antiflux.org)

### ALSO - Parents

- **PLEASE** do not give your children the code for the main entrance door!

Every year it inevitably happens that children start shouting out the code to each other, sharing with other kids and we are forced to change it for everyone's safety!

- **PLEASE** remember that if you choose to stay in the yard with your child at pick up time - you are responsible for their care. We need to stick to very strict ratios and do not have staff available to help with children beyond their scheduled pick up times. **PLEASE** monitor your child's behaviour in the yard and leave the yard with your child if they are causing a disruption.

## Bettye Hyde is looking for:



- corks for art projects
- empty thread spools
- old ties
- large pieces of fabric
- buttons
- a working record player
- pool noodles
- baby food jars/spice jars

## Another Bettye Hyde Family has Grown



Kelu has a baby sister!

Géoli Serena Martinez Lapointe was born on September 12, 2011. She was 8lbs 7oz.

Her birth was as gentle and serene as her parents had dreamed it would be.

Her big brother Kelu is already very proud of his little sister and is a wonderful little helper!

Congratulations!