

The Westend Weekly

Bringing Communities Together



Box 66, 303 Fifth St., Rainy River, ON P0W 1L0 Ph. 807-852-3815, Fax. 807-852-1863, Email. westendweekly@tbaytel.net Vol. 21, No. 41 Wednesday, February 5, 2014
Serving the Rainy River District for almost 22 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca

Young lives are enriched at Rainy River Playschool Inc.



Staff members Heather Pater, left and Ashley Stamler with some of the students working on a colouring project. Never a dull moment!



From left, Eva Brown, Lexi Wynne, Heather Pater, Taleah Comegan, Tavian Ernst have just played tug of war with the connected circles they use to stick together during walks through town. Bentley Warren completes the construction of his latest engineering feat.



Amanda CYR above is assistant to Nicki Blakney at Best Start Hub where parents and kids are welcomed and will enjoy planned activities together.



Chef de Cuisine Crystal Stamler prepares soft tacos for today's lunch. The inset shows the Red River Cereal bread to accompany lunch, as it's ready to come out of the oven setting my nose hairs all aqiver.

by Jacquie Dufresne

The Rainy River Playschool has been around since the early 1980s but it has evolved through the years in slow stages, moving from one location to another, to become what it is today; a major licensed daycare facility and a great place for kids to learn, laugh, play and interact with others.

There are several different programs going on for toddlers 18 to 30 months old and older children 31 months to 5 years. The before and after school programs are available for children 6 to 12. There is also the Best Start Hub program going on in the building where families can go with their children to enjoy the toys, camaraderie, as well as planned projects and activities. This week featured "Super

Scientist" and "Infant Massage".

Supervisor Alicia Anderson took me on a tour of the facility but my nose led me straight to the kitchen where the aroma of fresh baked bread wafted merrily, tingling my taste buds. The children are treated to a wonderful menu filled with very nutritional but kid friendly foods.

The toddler room has lots of activities to keep little fingers busy as well as cozy places for napping. The older children have a large area filled with toys, games and staff who take care of every need as well as providing fun. In the summer there are daily excursions for everyone to enjoy and lots of things to learn about that only a romp through nature can teach.

The teaching process contin-



Staff member Brittany Bowman works with the toddlers. Laine Fairfield in the background takes over the toddler class reading everyone a story.

ues at the playschool where the kids are prepared for kindergarten. They learn about colours, counting and the alphabet through play. They also learn about socializing with other children and adults.

Chrissy Campbell is the resource teacher. She is available for children with special needs and her research and education is invaluable when children with special needs attend.

The pre and after school programs are also well organized. Children are dropped off at the playschool in the morning and are accompanied to Riverview in time for classes to begin. After school the staff walks back to pick up their charges then everyone chats happily about their day as they return to the play school or go off on an excursion somewhere. The staff members have lots of imagination to spark their in-



Ava Brown creates a colour-velvet art masterpiece.

terest. Nikki Blakney (who is also with the Best Start Hub) and



Tavian Ernst. What to do? Pink or purple?



Staff member Leona King is full of entertaining stories for the toddler group.

Jacob Halverson coordinate a program to teach the kids about healthy eating and active play. They have a whale of a time doing sports, homework assistance if they need it, and generally learn about an active way of life.

Children from Baudette as well as Rainy River's neighbours to the north and east use



Tailir Mosionier enjoys the activities after school.

the facility as well as locals. There is a registration process which will begin soon for next year and although there are fees which vary for each group, there is always assistance available for those who need it. Contact Administrator Tammy Armstrong for more information.

Photographers' showcase



The planet Mercury is the bright star-like object to the left of the Moon. The bright thin crescent "bowl" is reflected light from the Sun, the ghostly glow of the rest of the Moon is called "Earthglow" and is caused by reflected light from the Earth.

Photo by Lauri Kangas, Fort Frances

Enjoy the arts & auction at RRHS

By Jordan Dessarre

On Friday February 7th, Rainy River High School's Student Council will be having an Arts Festival and Auction from 7:00-10:00 p.m. that is open to the public. A canteen will be open and light refreshments will be available.

Art viewing will begin right away with artists present to explain and display their work. Some of the art being displayed is student artwork from this year and art from the collections of Rebecca Wood and Jennifer Martin. Then at 7:45 the live performances will start

in the gymnasium and this includes the school's drama group performing improv, the writers group reciting poetry, the children's dance group Just for Kix, the musical Johnson family, Jeff & Emily Fraser and Jacquie Dufresne with selections from Phantom of the Opera, and much more! After the presentations, an auctioneer from James Auctions in Baudette will auction off certain special pieces of art including a limited edition framed print.

Artisans are encouraged to book an exhibition booth for

displaying and selling their wares. The booths are free! Donations of artwork such as sculptures, paintings, woodwork, leather crafts, beadwork, stained glass etc. would be greatly appreciated.

Donations of money will also be accepted and all money raised goes directly to Student Council to make every student's high school experience more enjoyable.

For more information or to obtain an exhibitor application form, please email jdesarrel@hotmail.com or larmistead@mail.rrdsb.com.

A sweet mix and mingle this week

The Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an evening of wine and chocolate on Thursday evening, February 6th at the Super 8 Motel from 7 to 9.

The Chamber will offer a sample of wine to sip on accompanied by some tantalizing treats provided by Doubly

Delicious, Fifth Street Confections and Shelley Wepruk.

Every guest will have the chance to win a romantic prize package including an evening in the Jacuzzi Suite at Super 8, an amazing floral arrangement by Fort Floral and a romantic gift basket. The other sponsor of the romantic prize is Curvy

Chick so one can only imagine what surprises to expect in the gift basket.

Entertainment will be provided by Entirely Mac so it will be a great evening out. Tickets are available at the Chamber, 601 Mowat Ave or call them at 274-5773. Everyone is welcome.



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