



Spring at The Child Care Centre , Childcare Staff

The daycare has been humming along with 6 babies and 4 toddlers. With the warmer weather and dryer days the toddlers are spending even more time outdoors: exploring worms and wood bugs; building sand castles and special forts; going for walks in the field and meeting friendly dogs.

We have two people leaving us. Nariisse our ECE practicum student has finished her time here. We will miss her calm presence and novel “offerings”. Soraya, who is on her way to becoming a nutritionist, has been volunteering to prepare lunches a couple of times a week. Her time with us has expanded to much more than making food for toddlers! They will both be missed.



Strategic Planning 2015

A successful strategic planning session was held on a sunny Saturday in March. Goals for Artemis were shared and broken down into three key areas: Programming, Sustainable Space, and Networking. Watch for our upcoming Strategic Plan to be posted on our website in the coming weeks. At this session, the group revised our Society’s Vision and Mission Statement:

Vision :

- *Young Women experience educational success, find their voice, fulfill their potential and have the power to achieve their dreams.*

Mission Statement:

- *To provide social and emotional support and high school education to young women in our holistic and nurturing community.*
- *To provide a nurturing early childhood experience to the infants and toddlers of our young moms while modelling care-giving skills and supporting each mom in her parenting.*

Thank you to everyone who participated in the session and especially Barb Peck for facilitating. Everyone’s input and ideas were appreciated.

Academics at Artemis, Maria & Martina

With the realization that there are only 10 weeks left to complete work, the Academic Room is buzzing with activity. Besides working on regular course work, with the classroom teachers Maria and Martina, several agencies have offered programs and activities to the girls over the course of the year.

India from Science Ventures was here once a week all year long inspiring girls to love science through activities such as rocket launching, blood typing, eyeball dissection, robotics and more! Currently we have a guest speaker in once a week hosting a group about the Seven Teachings while teaching the girls how to create different traditional First Nations craft projects.



A New Committee, Barb Peck, Board Chair

I am pleased to announce that a Board Governance committee has recently been established. While this may not sound like especially exciting news, I believe this committee will contribute greatly to the ongoing effective functioning of the board and its overall wellness. In keeping with the collaborative values of Artemis, the committee will work together with the rest of the board to assist the board to fulfill its legal, ethical and functional responsibilities. Recruitment, orientation and training for board members, governance policies and board performance are all areas that the governance committee will have an interest in.

While our board is working well overall, it has been noted for example, that our orientation process for new board members is limited and inconsistent. One of our priorities is to improve this process. Related to orientation and training, we also intend to create a board manual which would include (but not be limited to) information about organizational structure, funding, history of Artemis, expectations of board members, policies, and perhaps most importantly, our values.

The committee consists of dedicated and knowledgeable members who are very keen about ensuring we have excellent governance policies and a board that will continue to function well for the long run.

We are excited to welcome two enthusiastic practicum students from the University of Victoria to our program from April 13 to May 22. They will be doing a unit on Shakespeare, hosting Slam Poetry workshops and will also be helping out with the yearbook. The practicum students are also busy helping students one-on-one in the Academic Room with their course work and in all activities offered throughout the day.

For the second year in a row, several girls have signed up to participate in the Goddess Run/Walk in June. We are training and keeping each other motivated by doing weekly walks together.

Also in June, we will be celebrating the graduation of 6 of our students who will be moving on to other pursuits. The graduation ceremony and dinner is always such a lovely celebration put on by the generous congregation at Central Baptist Church. We have had a busy year and look forward to exciting events coming up!

Seeing More of Ourselves, Farheen HaQ, Art Educator

Since February, I've been working with the young women at Artemis Place in a series of weekly photography workshops. The program which is funded through an ArtStarts grants, brings artists from the community into the classroom and generous sponsorship from MediaNet, a local media collective. Our arts exploration has been around contemporary self-portraiture and landscape photography. The students have been learning about the basics of photography and image composition. We are also looking at contemporary art and practicing talking about what we see. Each week I am so impressed with their thoughtful and insightful commentary on these images. We've been looking at contemporary feminist women artists exploring the body, representations of women, gender, and identity.

We have had two field trips. First to the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria to see the exhibit "In Another Place and Here" which is photography show about the relationship between self and the land. We have continued to refer to these artists and how their work is inspiring our current exploration of place and self. We also went to Gonzalez Beach to study the beach environment and create images of the textures and materials found there. The

students manipulated materials such as driftwood, rocks and found objects and created their own new landscapes often with themselves or a part of themselves in their image. During our workshop the students are often outside on the school grounds with their cameras, exploring the building or the landscape in a new way. Images of the textures, lines and remnants of narratives taking place at the school are emerging from this creative time. The students are also creating series of images that explore gesture and



interactions with found objects. The students have been capturing unconventional images of themselves and their place that ask viewers to ask questions and help us see them in an expanded way. All of our work will be culminating in an exhibition at the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre Gallery titled "Limelight" which a Victoria-wide Youth Arts showcase. Please come and support the creativity of our bold and brave students!

Fundraising & Foundations

Artemis Place Society receives ongoing funding from the province of British Columbia, through the Ministry of Education, Ministry and Children and Family Development, and from Gaming. However, as a program we would not be able to operate without the additional funding we receive from foundations and donors. This year, we are pleased to acknowledge funding approval for a 3 year cycle from United Way. Other foundations that have sponsored us this year include the Victoria Foundation, Telus, the Lobstick Foundation, Harbourside Rotary, Times Columnist Raise-A-Reader, Home Depot Foundation, Thrifty Foods, ArtStarts, Breakfast for Learning, Island Savings, VanCity Savings, and the Knox Church. Thank you to all of thee foundations for their contributions to Artemis Place. Artemis would also like to thank all the individual donors, as well as organizations that donate-in-kind.

Artemis has signed up with UsedHelps as another way for individual to donate to Artemis Place. People can sell their household items online through Used Victoria and have the money donated to Artemis Place and receive a charitable tax receipt. For more information, see: <http://www.usedvictoria.com/UsedHelps>.

Artemis Place is always looking for additional opportunities to raise money. If you have any suggestions,



For more information about Artemis programs or articles in our newsletter, please call (250) 598-5183 or email info@artemisplace.org.

www.artemisplace.org