**** **February 2020 Newsletter**

# THANK YOU TO OUR PARENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL WEEKS

Once again, our International Weeks in January were a huge success and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents who participated. The children absolutely loved the presentations given by our parents! The creativity and enthusiasm that our parents brought to their talks. The children (even our youngest class) are very attentive during these presentations. It never ceases to amaze us how much the children learn when someone “special” comes to class!

# INCOME TAX RECEIPTS

Income tax (Rélévé 24) receipts for 2019 will be issued and put in the “mailboxes” by the classroom doors at the end of February. Please note that the Rélévé 24 is the provincial tax receipt, and for your federal income tax you need to supply **a photocopy** of the Rélévé 24. Also note that according to Quebec government regulations, **if we do not have your Social Insurance number it is impossible to issue a Relevé 24.**

**SWIMMING LESSONS**

 We are pleased to announce that our spring session of swimming starts on Tuesday March 24th. This program is for children in classrooms 1, 2 and 3 (3 to 5 years of age and completely toilet trained). Your child’s registration forms for the Swimming program is attached. If you are interested, we urge you to register right away as places are limited.

**SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION**

We ask that you please return your summer camp registration forms to the office by the end of March, even if you are not completely sure of your summer schedule. Just make your “best guess” and make the necessary changes closer to the summer. With two weeks’ notice you can change or cancel any days in the summer, so it’s easy!

**PARENT MEETINGS**

Our first Parent Meeting of 2020 was held on January 23 at 7:30 pm. Below is a brief summary of what was discussed at the meeting.

**Upcoming Events: (Artemis Daycare Director):** Artemis shared some of the upcoming events planned at the daycare over the next couple of months. With our parent committee feedback, it was decided to include the younger classrooms (4 and 5) to this year’s Sugaring Off excursion on April 2nd. This will be in a different format. Parents will be invited to come with their own child and join us at the Cabane a Sucre. The cost will be the entry fee for parent and child. This is completely optional, but our parent committee thought it would be fun for the younger children and their parents to be included.

**Q & A with Tanya and Noa (Classroom 5 teachers):** Tanya introduced her philosophy on not having “conventional” toys in her classroom, i.e. wooden blocks, etc. In having various wooden shapes in different sizes, it encourages children to use their imagination. Additionally, Tanya has designed the classroom on their level in order to enable children to retrieve the toys and put them back on their own. Noa advised parents that it is perfectly normal for your child to be unsettled in the morning during drop off. The secret, both her and Tanya explained, is to accomplish the transfer from them to one of the teachers in the classroom as quickly as possible. Yes, this is easier said than done, but a quick drop off is ultimately easier and less emotional for the children.

**Epigenetics explains how early experiences can have lifelong impacts (Artemis, Daycare Director):** Essentially, “epigenetics” is an emerging area of scientific research that demonstrates how environmental influences a child’s experience and ultimately may affect/change their genetics! Your DNA may be fixed; however your genes are influenced by your experiences. The document presented was from the Center on the Developing Child from Harvard University.

**Open Discussion – Everyone:** In response from a parent regarding the issue of accepting children under 18 months of age, Artemis replied that we do not have the permit for this age group.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18 at 7:30 p.m. Wine and Cheese is served and it is a pleasant and informative evening. Meetings adjourn at 9:00 p.m.**