



# Quiet Time

A voice for our community....

April 2009

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THE CHILDREN'S CENTRE, 40 GOLF AVENUE, ST. JOHN'S NL A1C 5C8

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## Message from the Co-chairs

By Carol Goodman and Lisa Pinhorn

As you may or may not know, we were a little short-staffed last month. Fortunately, we had some wonderful old and new friends come to our aid. Our fabulous former director, Diane Angel, generously offered to help us out, as did our substitute extraordinaire, Sara, and our wonderful ECE students, Allison and Cheryl. And, we cannot thank Jennifer and Bonnie enough for going above and beyond the call of duty. Lisa and I also had the pleasure of stepping in for a couple of afternoons, which we spent with the Tuesday and Wednesday nursery groups. Having been with The Children's Centre for a few years, we are well aware of what a terrific environment the teachers provide for our children. To know something and to experience it first-hand, however, are two very different things. As parents, we understand the kind of energy and imagination it takes to stimulate our own children. Everyday our teachers are faced with the unique and rewarding task of piquing and sustaining the imaginations of groups of children whose interests and abilities are as varied as the children themselves. While this task may seem daunting to the average person, our staff are anything but average.

Every Friday afternoon, Sandra, Jennifer, Kendra, and Bonnie meet to discuss the week's events and to devise the curriculum for the upcoming week. Together, they strategize about the kind of creative environment that will delight our children –a medieval castle, a hibernation den, a space shuttle. There's no limit to their talents. A few cardboard boxes and metal railings form the wings of an airplane that soars as far and as high as

the children's imaginations take them. Even more impressive than the settings they craft is how effortlessly the staff join in the fun. Having walked a few hours in their shoes, we now have a much better understanding of the kind of dedication it takes to do what they do. We are so fortunate to have such energetic, imaginative, and enthusiastic individuals devoting their time to our children. The next time you bring your child to The Centre, take a few minutes to experience the wonderful surroundings that brighten his or her day. Take it from us; it's well worth it.

### **New Volunteer Position - Substitute Teachers**

Currently, the field of Early Childhood Education is experiencing an employment crisis. There are simply not enough Early Childhood Educators working in the field to fill the number of vacant positions. Finding qualified and reliable substitute teachers is extremely challenging. To battle this ongoing problem, The Board of Directors has created a new volunteer opportunity for families – Substitute. When needed, these volunteers would take on the role of "Floater"; this means: preparing snack, answering the phone, and helping staff with any number of tasks during the day. Ideally, we would like to have a pool of Substitute volunteers we can call on when the need arises. If you think you might be interested in this position, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Lynette Lawlor, at 738-1422 or [netty@nf.sympatico.ca](mailto:netty@nf.sympatico.ca).

### **Fall Registration**

Registration for returning families will begin on April 23, 2009. Information on fall programs and registration forms are available for download from the Centre website. While we anticipate that we can accommodate the preferences of most returning families, we encouraged you to get your registration in early. Registration for new families starts on May 7, 2009. After that date, registration is first come first serve. You can drop your forms to the Centre before the start date (they will be dated for the first day of registration).

### **Summer Program**

The Children's Centre will have a Summer Program again this year. The program will be similar to last year's program with a few adjustments. The program will be offered in two 3-week blocks of either mornings or afternoons. Mornings will be 5 days per week. Afternoons will be 4 days per week (M-Th). The program is open to children age 2-5 (child must have had their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2009).

#### Program Dates

1<sup>st</sup>- 3 Week Block - July 13 to July 31, 2009

2<sup>nd</sup> -3 Week Block - August 3 to August 21, 2009

#### Times

Mornings 9:00 – 12:00

Afternoons 1:30 – 4:30

Registration for the Summer began on March 30, 2009. Priority will be given to currently registered families until April 24, 2009. After that date it will be first come first serve. Register early to get the space you want. Forms and information are also available on the website. Payment in full is required at the time of registration hold your space. All forms and payment can be dropped off at the Centre.

### **Annual Easter Party**

Bring your family and join with friends for the annual Easter Party. There will be an Easter hunt, egg decorating, and a potluck lunch! When? Saturday, April 11 from 10 until 12 at the Wedgewood Community Centre. Sign up at the Centre by Friday, April 10. Cost is \$10.00 per family. For more information contact Stephanie at 579-1112.

A reminder that food items cannot contain nuts or fish Ingredients. Store or Bakery bought food must specifically state that it is nut-free and made in a nut-free facility, or it cannot be used.

### **April Fundraiser: Raise Your Glasses and Let's Toast Spring!**

Tracey Rowe, a wine representative of the Beverage Barron has kindly donated her services to help the Children's Centre with a fundraising event. On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Tracey, the Board of Directors along with our host Stephanie Poynter will present a night of wine tasting and a small silent auction. There are 100 tickets available at \$ 45.00 each – there will be wine samples, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and take away information about wine and food pairing.

It is important to keep the operating cost of this fundraiser as low as possible. We need the help of all families to make this event as financially successful as possible. There are sign up sheets at the centre asking families to help by contributing a bottle of wine or some hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. We are also asking families to help collect items for the silent auction. Here are some auction suggestions:

Neat ideas such as donating home baked goods, knitted items, works of art, hosting a dinner party, a weekend get away at your cabin, etc. are always a big hit!

In previous years, some very popular auction items have been projects that have been done along with the children of the centre.

Asking friends or family members who operate local business to donate goods or services – restaurant/hotel certificates, yoga, dancing, gymnastics, singing classes, etc.

Donor letters are available at the center – this letter provides information about the Children's Centre and tax receipts. Tax receipts are available upon request, just be sure to get the address of the donor and submit it, along with the value.

This is going to be a great night of fun. We are looking forward to seeing you there - so mark it on your calendars! This event is open to friends and family, so please forward the attached poster on to people who you think might be interested in attending.

The success of this event depends on the involvement of all families, so please take some time to help.



**Children's Centre Wine Tasting and Silent Auction**

**a toast to  
SPRING**

**Saturday April 25, 2009**  
**7 pm at 12 Regent Street**  
 Wine tasting begins at 7:30  
 9:30pm Social to follow  
 (street parking available)

**Tickets: \$45.00 per person**  
 Reserve soon, capacity  
 is limited to 100!

The Children's Centre is pleased to announce: *A Toast to Spring – Wine Tasting and Silent Auction.* The evening will consist of a silent auction, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, with a sampling of wines throughout the evening, and a social to follow.

Tracey Rowe of The Beverage Baron has specially selected a variety of wines for this occasion. This unique wine selection will allow guests to sample wines that sell from \$15 to \$60 per bottle. Tracey will present information about each wine along with food-pairing suggestions.

Silent auction and door prize winners will be announced at a social following the wine tasting session. Regrettably, we are unable to provide guests with a cash bar. However, guests are invited to bring their own wine for the social (each bottle will be specially labelled for each guest).

**For tickets contact**  
**Lisa Pinhorn at 753-4320**  
 or [thechildrenscentre@yahoo.ca](mailto:thechildrenscentre@yahoo.ca)  
 (cash, cheque or Visa accepted)



# FAMILY SKATING EVENTS



## TWO FUNDRAISERS

All are welcome to come out to two family skating events scheduled in the upcoming weeks. Both events will take place at St. Bon's Forum and will offer an hour of family skating and refreshments to follow. Please bring along family and friends, this is a fundraiser so the more the merrier.

**Sunday March 29th 12:00-1:00pm**

**Monday April 13 th 1:00-2:00pm**

**Cost: \$10-20 per family**



Please note that for young children, St. Bon's has support frames available for use at the rink to assist beginners.



## **FUNDSCRIP - A New Way to Earn Money for the Centre**

In past years, we've asked you to participate in many fundraisers for the Children's Centre. But this year we've discovered FUNDSCRIP, a new way to earn money for our school AND there is an added bonus with this program - your earning can be tracked and credited towards your tuition (less any shipping fees).

We're very keen to try this program out, but we need to have at least 15 committed families who are willing to try this program. And right now we only have nine families who have expressed an interest in participating.

While most fundraisers ask you to take out your checkbook or buy things you don't really want or need, Fundscrip costs you nothing!

Picture this: You make your usual visit to the grocery store. You fill your cart and go to the check out. Instead of paying with cash or a debit card, you use a gift card that you purchased through Fundscrip. It costs you nothing extra, but you've just earned money for yourself and the Children's Centre.

### **Do you shop at any of these stores?**

Sobey's, Petro Canada, Chapters, Laura Secord, Loblaws Group, ESSO, Shoppers, Zellers, Montana's, Blockbuster, Ultramar, Staples, Sears, Swiss Chalet, Price Chopper, Canadian Tire, Winners, Home Hardware, La Senza, Starbuck's, Rona, Gap, Roots, Second Cup, Mark's Warehouse, Home Outfitters, Old Navy, The Body Shop, The Keg, M & M, Banana Republic, HMV.

### **How does Fundscrip work?**

All you have to do is buy gift cards through Fundscrip for the stores where you already shop. It couldn't be easier because you're earning money on things you're already planning to buy.

The gift cards are the stores own cards that are swiped at the cash. The value of the purchase is automatically deducted from the value stored on the card. Any remaining balance can be used for future purchases.

We will track what each participant is earning with Fundscrip. 50% of your earnings will be credited back to your account to be used against the cost of tuition or paid out directly to you (less any shipping fees).

An average family can earn about \$400 in FREE MONEY using this program over the course of a year. And remember, it doesn't cost you anything extra! You can also get family and friends to buy cards from you and earn even more money.

### Method of Payment

- You can pay for your purchases by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)
- EFT is the easiest way to pay for your order each week via your computer.
- Fundscrip submits a debit to your bank account and then your financial institution transfers the money electronically.
- It's also very secure as your banking information is never stored online.
- You will receive a confirmation by email when your account is activated.

To be able to pay by EFT, you must fill out an application form and return it by fax or by mail with a voided cheque to the number or address indicated on the form.

### Credit Cards

When supporters use Visa or Mastercard, rebates are lowered by 1.99% to cover associated costs for processing online credit card transactions.

### How to order

Go to [www.fundscrip.com](http://www.fundscrip.com) & click on 'Login' at the bottom of the screen

Enter your email address and password

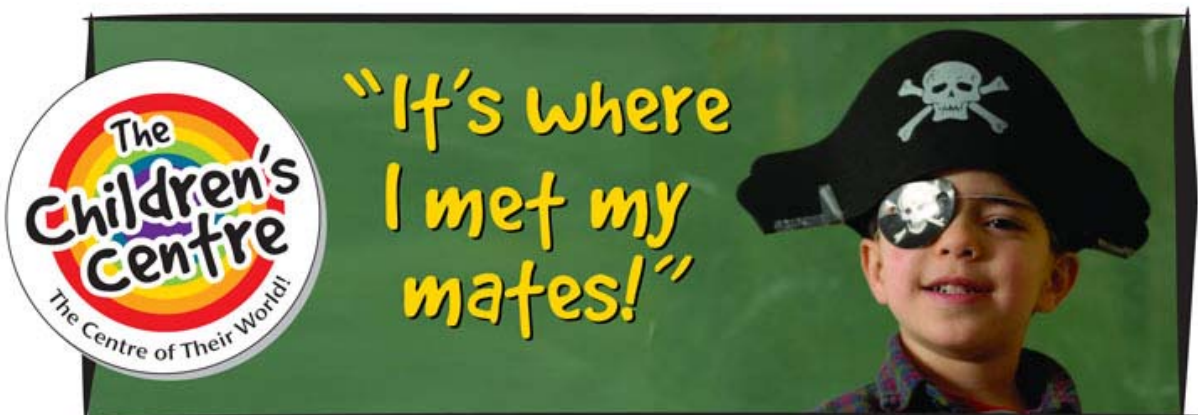
Click on "Place Your Order"

Place your order and click "Next"

Your group will be ordering every two weeks

Your order must be in before 9:30am EST SHARP (of your delivery week)

Please get in contact with Tracey Mills at [tracey\\_l\\_mills@yahoo.ca](mailto:tracey_l_mills@yahoo.ca) if you are interested in participating in this program or if you have any questions. Please confirm your interest by Friday, March 27, 2009.



## 2008/09 Board of Directors

<b>Co-Chairs</b>	Lisa Pinhorn Carol Goodman	lpinhorn@nl.rogers.com cgoodman@mun.ca
<b>Vice-Chair</b>	Janet Goodall	janet.goodall@tlus.net
<b>Volunteer/Participation Coordinator</b>	Lynette Lawlor	netty@nf.sympatico.ca
<b>Treasury Team</b>	Kelly Monaghan Jennifer Williams Jill Bennett	kmonaghan@nf.sympatico.ca jmwilliams@newfoundlandpower.com jrideout32@yahoo.ca
<b>Fundraising Coordinators</b>	Tracey Mills	tracey_l_mills@yahoo.ca
<b>Special Events Coordinators</b>	Joanne Ellis Stephanie Poynter	jellis.ca@gmail.com stephanie@poynters.net
<b>Communications</b>	Andrea Hann	dianaprince_nf@yahoo.ca
<b>Maintenance Coordinator</b>	Tim Walsh	twalsh@mun.ca
<b>Staff Representative</b>	Sandra Mercer	sandradmercer@yahoo.ca

## Holidays and Closures

<b>Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> (afternoon)</b>	<b>Parent-Teacher Interviews</b>
<b>Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Easter Holidays</b>
<b>Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Centre Re-opens</b>

