

Carrot Seed Preschool 2023 Annual Report

Opening the school in September for the 2023/24 school term marked the 35th year Carrot Seed Preschool (CS) has provided excellence in Early Childhood Education (ECE) programming and instruction to the community. The school's licensed capacity is 27 children in the mornings and 16 children in the afternoons. The mornings are at 84% of licensed capacity and the afternoons are at 100% of licensed capacity. The Head Teacher, Tanya Burnett, has advised that, "... we are looking at expanding the full-time group by 5 children which will mean we are hiring a new full-time teacher as well". She has also advised that, "We have decided to increase the AM hours from 9-11:30 to 8:30 to 11:30 ...".

The school staff and Board of Directors composition are as follows:

Head of School – Tanya Burnett

Teaching Staff – Julia Nobel, Sabrina Allen, Tia Robinson, Jennifer Elliot

Business Manager – Julia Nobel

General Maintenance -

Board of Directors – Vacant (Chair), Vacant (Secretary), Heather McNab, Pat Taylor. Roger Miller and Rick McMahon thoughtfully respond to emails.

Although ECE certificated teachers are in short supply in Victoria, CS is in very good standing both with Camosun College and the BCECE (British Columbia Early Childhood Educators) advocacy group. Our ECE mentorship program run by our Head of School in conjunction with Camosun College ensures CS the very best of teaching staff.

Although it once again appeared as though we had COVID behind us, the school still struggled with health issues with the Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) that unfortunately seems to target the little ones. As we have one of the largest outdoor play areas of any preschool in Victoria, we focus our



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programming to spend as much time as possible outdoors in fresh air. Two of our teaching staff were significantly affected by COVID during the year.

The Provincial/Federal Government \$10/day daycare program continues to evolve yet there are still many unknowns, and we are uncertain as to how it will affect Carrot Seed Preschool. We continually assess/reassess the plan as it slowly rolls out.

We highlight the need for volunteers to serve on the Board of Directors due to the loss of Roger Miller (Chair) and Nicholas Miller (Secretary). We are working with the Council and the Nomination Committee to seek new members for these important tasks.

The CS BOD appreciates all the support from the CBUC Council, staff, Property Committee, and the congregation. In particular, the Property Committee has worked diligently to ensure the Safest Snow Day protocol and has responded effectively and economically to vandalism of one of the school's windows, and to safety requirements of a drainage problem in the children's play area.

*Respectfully submitted,
Pat Taylor, on behalf of the CS Board*



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