

FAMILY CENTRE NEWS

Seven Oaks School Division

April 2014

The Blue Bird

J. Molyneux



Dual Language Text...preschool style!

The first signs of spring inspired me to make a bird out of playdoh on this particular day, a duck to be exact. Minutes later I just happened to notice another

little blue bird perched on the table, much more elegantly crafted than mine. Wondering who had made it, I soon realized that the artist was one of the grandmothers. I placed the blue bird on a piece of paper, and asked her to write the word "bird" in Punjabi. She did. I took a turn and wrote the word "bird" in English. A mother and daughter duo, continued the ritual we were establishing and wrote the word "bird" in Pilipino. And so it went...around and around. Another child at the table made a butterfly. Now knowing the game, Grandmother went first, in Punjabi, me in English, the mother and daughter duo in Pilipino and someone from the floor offered up the word bird in French. I very quickly realized that we were creating a living dual language/multi lingual text in this ordinary moment of play... Simple yet so profound...the beauty of a noticed ordinary moment.

Culture Connection



Culture Connection is our

newest venture, via the family centres. Culture connection is a series of events whereby families journey into a world of drumming, dancing and story telling. We aim to

bring families together in celebration of our cultural identities. Our first overwhelmingly successful event featured First Nation and East Indian tradition. Next in....the Philippines.

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Special Points of Interest

Did you know that there are free parent/child programs in 14 Seven Oaks Schools?

Summer Programming is in its planning stages...stay tuned.

Early learning is everybody's business!



Come play with us!

Do you know the name of the Community Coordinator nearest you?

Learn more about us on the Seven Oaks School Division website. We promote early learning.



Seven Oaks Early Years Coalition

We are a group of caring community partners who collaborate together in support of early years children and their families.

Catch us on Twitter
@FamilyCentres

Take a peek at our webpage found at www.7oaks.org

Finney Family Centre



Donna Giesbrecht
Community Coordinator

Since January 2002, the Finney Family Centre has been open to children 0-5 and their families. This year, with high enrollment and overcrowding, the family centre space shifts about. But, when it is a Day 5, the preschoolers and their families are with Mr. Kennedy's grade 5 class. On day 5, special things happen. It begins with the grade 5 students pairing up to read to their preschool buddies. Then they play together, do an activity together, and share a snack. We have made fruit salad, baked and

decorated cookies, baked pretzels and made books together. Special bonds and relationships are being formed between older children and younger ones. The grade 5's have shown gentleness and empathy, more and more as they spend time with the preschoolers. The parents and the preschoolers think it's awesome." It has been difficult and challenging not having our own space, but thanks to Mr. Kennedy and his grade 5 class we have had some really great special experiences.