



News From The Family Centres

Seven Oaks School Division...Advancing Community Schools

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Special points of interest:

- Take a moment to be fully present in the presence of children
- Children are our greatest teachers
- They are the tugs at our coat sleeves reminding us of what is really important
- Early childhood is everybody's business

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Look Up...See the Fireflies....Jacky Molyneux

It was dark, cold and blustery, while I waited for the last of the parents to pick up their children. I was on automatic pilot, going through the motions of adulthood at the end of a long day. It was at this precise moment that I felt a light tug on my coat sleeve. Assuming the worst, I asked what was



She gently tugged at my coat sleeve.

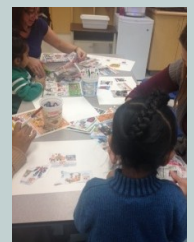
wrong. "Look!" she said. I scanned the parking lot for slip and falls. Again I felt a gentle, but persistent tug at my coat sleeve. "Look Up!" she said gently and patiently. As I looked up I saw snow swirling in the amber hues of the safety lighting. "It looks like fireflies," she said. It was that word...fireflies that took me out of automatic pilot back to an emotional memory of my childhood when fireflies filled me with curiosity and wonder. Her words finally got through. I stopped everything and simply stood beside her and looked up....until I saw the fireflies too. We were joined by a few onlookers and for a few brief seconds we all just stood there with curiosity and wonder, as time stopped and the snow swirled around us. Somebody suggested that we could make up a poem....

Snow...like fireflies...dancing in the moonlit sky. It was beautiful...those few precious moments being fully present with these young children. It was only when the frostbite nipped at my cheeks that I was propelled back to adulthood and responsibility.

Environmental Print & Early Literacy

The Family Centre was a flurry of activity as families huddled around old flyers, cutting, pasting, talking and writing. I hunkered down in the rocking chair as I watched Laurie, a Speech and Language Consultant with WRHA, Cheryl, a psychologist with Seven Oaks School Division and Marielle, the Community Coordinator...collaborate.

They were inviting parents to use flyers and environmental print as a means of promoting early literacy with young children. I chuckled as I overheard an adult suggest to a youngster that he might want to write about his picture, his name perhaps. The youngster responded, "I did that already." Easy Peasy!



Family Centres

Seven Oaks School Division
Advancing Community Schools
Child & Family Centres

Did you know that there are 14
Child & Family Centres in Seven
Oaks School Division?

**EARLY LEARNING IS
EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**

@FamilyCentres

Worth A Look...

[http://www.frp.ca/index.cfm?
nodeID=1](http://www.frp.ca/index.cfm?nodeID=1)

FRP Canada is a national association promoting the well-being of families by providing resources to those who care for children and support families.

We have a membership if you see something of interest.



A History Lesson: Early Learning Counts

A decade ago, Seven Oaks School Division journeyed into the Birth-5 world. The importance of early childhood development within the Seven Oaks Community was recognized and valued enough to provide free Parent-Child programs for parents/caregivers and children, 0 to age 5 in all 14 K-8

schools. Each Child & Family Centre was staffed with a Community Coordinator, to plan and offer preschool parent/child programming. In partnership with Healthy Child Manitoba, the Family Centres adopted the 4 pillars of: literacy, nutrition, parenting and building community capacity. Showing further

commitment to early learning, Speech & Language Consultants were allotted time to work collaboratively in the Family Centres. This year, a school psychologist was added to the team, to support emotional well-being and we move forward in understanding Aboriginal parenting perspectives.