Priddis Early Learning Program

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Director's Report PCA AGM November 19, 2020

Dear Priddis Community Members,

We have had quite the year of experiences! While we had to shut down from mid-March through June due to COVID-19, and have had to make some drastic changes to our current program protocols, we still consider the past year to be quite successful. Here are a few notable points from the past 12 months:

COVID-19:

- Our instructor, Lindsay Flynn provided online learning materials to those who wished to use them from April – June 2020.
- Lindsay and I both worked tirelessly through the summer months to plan for the 2020-2021 year ahead.
 This meant coming up with ways to adhere to the mandated COVID protocols, and streamlining the way our classroom sessions run.
- For the current year, we have combined both the 3 year and 4 year age groups to form one class that runs M-W-F.
- As we are unable to host parent volunteers in the classroom this year, we have also hired a local classroom assistant, Kelly Leece, to aid Lindsay with the students and with the significant additional sanitization protocols that are now required on a daily basis.
- Students and parents now meet upstairs in the hall during drop off and pickup, where there is space to maintain physical distancing, and masks are a requirement during that time.

FUNDRAISING, GRANTS & DONATIONS:

- For the second year in a row, we held a very successful 'Skate with Santa' fundraiser in December 2019
 with big thanks to parent organization (in particular, Courtney Webber who spearheaded the project)
 and to the entire community's participation. Additional thanks go to Jane's Café for their generous
 donation, raised from a portion of their coffee sales over that weekend.
- We also held a great Art Cards by Kids fundraiser in December.
- Thank you to the Priddis-Red Deer Lake Recreation Board for our 2020 Grant.

Thanks to these community donations, fundraisers and grants, PELP was able to budget for a stipend for Lindsay during the initial covid lockdown, and also manage to purchase cleaning supplies, hand sanitizer and dispensers, and other necessities before welcoming students back in September.

FIELD TRIPS & EXPERIENCES:

Without the support of our community, we would not be able to give our students such valuable learning experiences both in and outside of the classroom. Thank you so much to those individuals and businesses for their time and for these opportunities!

- Ashlee Steinhauer from Worthy Jam visited the hall on two days in December 2019 to give the kids in both classes the opportunity to cook, and to make Christmas gifts for their families.
- The 3 class visited the Ann and Sandy Cross Conservation Area in January for a morning of outdoor learning.
- Kelley Nutbrown from the Millarville Library visited us in March to lead story time with the kids.

REGISTRATION & ENROLMENT:

- We held our annual Registration Open House in February, and as mentioned above, ended up combining both age groups to create one class for the 2020-2021 school year. We currently have 14 students enrolled.
- We will have room for 3 more students to join us in January please visit our website for more details if you are interested in having your child join in on the class!

UPCOMING:

- Sarah Ftichar from Treats and Eats is hosting a physically distanced Photos with Santa event on November 28th. Registration for this event is already sold out – thank you so much for your support!
- Jane's Café will again be donating \$1 for each hot beverage sold on November 28th to benefit PELP, so be sure to stop in and order a drink that day!
- 2020-2021 Registration will begin January 1, 2020 for existing students and their younger siblings. Open registration for new entrants will begin at our annual Registration Open House at the beginning of February (date TBD, details to follow).

We are very proud to be involved with preparing this community's children for a successful transition to Kindergarten. Thank you for your continued support of our program!

Sincerely,

Kate Berkan Program Director Priddis Early Learning Program