

Graminia NEWS!

Published by Graminia Community League and Social Society - June 1, 2015

Having Fun and Making Memories at



(permission to publish photos granted)

For many years, Rainbow Playschool has operated out of Graminia Hall. The symbolic rainbow arch represents a gateway or bridge between playschool and grade one. Rainbow Playschool teaches children to learn through play in a stimulating, hands-on environment that offers both child initiated and teacher directed experiences in order to promote independence, curiosity, decision-making, cooperation, persistence, creativity, and problem solving - keys to future school success.



Learn through Play is a term used in education to describe how a child can learn to make sense of the world around them. Through play children can develop social and cognitive skills, mature emotionally, and gain the self-confidence required to engage in new experiences and environments. Key ways that young children *Learn through Play* include being with other people, being active, exploring, new experiences, talking to themselves, communication with others, meeting physical and mental challenges, being shown how to do new things, practicing and repeating skills and having fun. [\[1\]](#)



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There is a well-established consensus among early childhood professionals that play is an essential element of developmentally appropriate, high-quality early education programs. [2] Play provides benefits for cognitive, social, emotional, physical, and moral development. [3]

- Children learn more when they are playing.
- Play develops children's creativity and problem solving skills.
- Play prepares children better for school learning.
- Play is healthy. It promotes strength, coordination and brain development.
- Play teaches new skills and builds children's self-esteem.
- Play teaches children social skills that help them develop friendships.
- Play is a right of children (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child). [4]

To provide these benefits, play must be consciously facilitated by skilled teachers, who are well-trained in observing children and in understanding how play contributes to the children's mastery of concepts and skills. A play-centered preschool is not a laissez-faire approach. It's not the same as giving children "free play" separate from "teaching". Rather, teachers use the power of children's developing ideas, interests, and competencies

to promote learning— through play, circle-time, and small-group activities. This power is most evident in children's play, as play is the central force in the development of young children. [5]

Currently, Katy Cross, known as Miss Katy to the children, is the teacher at Rainbow Playschool. She will be returning in 2015-2016 for her fourth year. She is a certified teacher and was in the classroom for 12 years before taking a break to start her family. Now that her own children are in school, she splits her time between volunteering at their schools and teaching at Rainbow Playschool. Both roles give her the opportunity to do what she loves...inspiring children to get excited about learning and being in school!



Katy is pictured on the left.

Kyla Carlson-Belter is the President of Rainbow Playschool. During her time as president, she has organized and executed many fundraising events.



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For instance, since January, Rainbow Playschool has had a bottle drive, children's Carnival, and assisted the Graminia Hall with a casino fundraiser. Last summer, a fun and friendly playground was installed. "The most rewarding part of my participation with the hall and playschool is the socializing with GREAT families in the community. My kids have made many best and I am certain, life long friends. I have too," says Kyla.



Kyla Carlson-Belter - Rainbow Playschool President

J.P is a graduate of the Rainbow Playschool Class of 1981. She is now a mom and her own child attends Rainbow Playschool. "Friendships formed on the first days around the block table and sandbox can stretch a lifetime. I have always been close with several of my preschool buddies and enjoy reconnecting with old friends as our children matriculate together. Playschool is more than learning numbers, counting, and colors. It's about the social building blocks that will shape your future. As a Rainbow Playschool

Alumni, I lived it, and now watch my children experience it," says J.P.

Rainbow Playschool provides opportunities for children to build self-confidence, cultivate social skills, and become more comfortable in a classroom setting. Parents and children at Rainbow Playschool are a part of the Graminia Community League family and will find our school to be a safe and caring environment where children and adults alike can make friends for life.

Rainbow Playschool classes are Monday/Wednesday and Tuesday/Thursday from 9 am to 11:30 am. Kids must be at least three years of age and toilet trained. Sessions start in September and finish in May.

Registration for 2015-2016 is Monday August 31 from 1:00 -3:00 pm and again from 6:00 -8:00 pm.

The playschool will be setup for parents and kids to see.

For further information on fees and forms visit http://www.graminiahall.com/playschool/fees_registration.html

References:

- [1] *Human growth and the Development of Personality*, Jack Kahn 1980
- [2] *Alliance for Childhood*, 2006
- [3] *American Academy of Pediatrics*, 2006
- [4] *The Canadian Child Care Federation*, 2004



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[5] Key to School Success Bay Area Early Childhood Funders, 2007



T-Ball at Graminia Hall is a huge success!!!!

This season, there are 26 kids playing on Thursdays from 6:30pm-7:30pm. Children spend 45 minutes rotating through stations working on skills followed by a quick and exciting game of T-Ball!!

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with T-Ball is more than welcome.

THANK YOU to the parents who have been pitching in to help this season.

T-Ball will end on June 18.

GCL Executive Wants Your Opinion

The GCL Executive is looking for interest in and support for, a Farmers Market at the hall in August. If you are a vendor and would consider bringing your product to a Graminia Hall Farmers Market or you are a shopper who enjoys shopping local, please let us know through the "Contact Us" link on our website, "Attention General Info" --
<http://www.graminiahall.com/executives.html>

Looking Ahead to.... September

Keep your calendars open and plan to attend a fund raising event for Graminia Hall in September. Date and details TBA



**Graminia Community League
meets at the hall on
the first Monday of the month
at 7:30pm.
Everyone is welcome!!**



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JOIN US UNDER THE MANGO TREE FOR A SPECIAL FAMILY EVENT

HAITIAN PIZZA NIGHT



Location: Graminia Hall, 51101 Range Road 270. Across the river from Devon, 2 miles off Hwy 60 on Graminia Rd West

Pizza Night: July 8th at 4:30pm. Learn how to make Haitian Pizza from scratch (vegetarian and meat lovers), enjoy fruit juice and snacks including fresh baked cookies. Cost: \$30.00 per adult, \$15.00 per child 5 years and older and all others free.

Fish Feast: July 23rd at 6pm. The menu includes a tasty fish dish, Haitian pickliz with fried and boiled plantains. Cost: \$30.00 per person for ages 10 and up.

We've made great effort to create a very interesting cultural experience. The participants will learn to cook with flavor using authentic tools and then sit down at a nice table setting to share the Haitian food they've created.

(Registration closes two days before each class but register early as space is limited. Payment due at time of registration.)

Contact Steven at: 780-991-2449 or knisleysteven@tbwifi.ca



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