

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Deborah Olukoju—Mosaic Board Member was nominated for and WON a Women of Distinction Award!
- 15 students transferred from Maranatha Church to Bethel and St. Matthews in April
- Erna Anderson from IRCOM visited St. Matthews to give a presentation on bed bugs
- Mosaic has a new project officer from the Adult Language Training Branch—Luciana Fernandez
- CCW First Aid workshop was held on May 6 at IRCOM
- More than 25 people have volunteered more than 600 hours for the summer wiggle giggle and munch programme!!
- Thank you Volunteers!

Mosaic Minder

VOLUME 1

ISSUE 2

April—May 2011

Farewell to Maranatha

Glenda Knoll

I started working at Mosaic in

January of this year. My position is EAL coordinator of the Maranatha and Bethel sites. What an opportunity and what a wonderful way to travel the world, meet incredible people and learn about different cultures in just two buildings.

My mother came to Canada at age 16 as an immigrant many years ago. She left a war torn country with nothing and cared for her younger sister on her journey to becoming Canadian. Today, she still reminds me each time she sees me that I **must** be grateful to be a Canadian.

When I was a teenager, my mother would worry about my conduct when I was out with my friends. She would say to me as I was leaving the house... "Remember, you are a Knoll and you are privileged to live in the best country in the world, so make me proud".

I am Canadian, and I am now fully aware, how very fortunate my life has been. I've listened to the stories of the many families who have come from countries where there is political unrest, poverty and the devastation of war, and I am reminded that at one time they believed they too lived in the best country in the world. I am humbled by the courage and resilience that each woman has as they transition into a new life, and that leads me to the title of this article... "Farewell to Maranatha".

The EAL program at Maranatha has been a part of the St. James community for several years. Support and lasting relationships among the families, teachers and child care staff have developed over time and now the doors are closing. I was there when the announcement was made, and many of the students expressed a real sense of sadness. Why? Is the question I heard over and over. It is difficult to explain how our systems work and to explain why this option was the one that makes the most sense at this time. For these women, this was their community class, it was a part of their lives, and was helping to make them integrate successfully into their new home.

I soon heard students talking to each other during coffee breaks saying things like... "It's ok, we will find another school" and "it's just another change we can get used to it".

I have come to care very deeply for these families. Yes, it is another change and a small change compared to their big picture. It is an opportunity to build new friendships and community, again I am reminded of their strength and commitment to a better life.

I will miss all of the families and wish them well. What I had really hoped is that they would have followed us to the Bethel site and continued their studies with Mosaic. It's hard to say Goodbye and that is why I say Farewell.

Farewell really means "until we reunite or meet again".



Photo: Susan McDougall



Newcomer Family Resource Network

UPCOMING EVENTS

MOSAIC Annual General Meeting

Thursday, June 16 4:30-6:00

Bethel Mennonite Church 456 Stafford Street

ROCK N' READ—Running from April

28—June 16 at JM King School

Nobody's Perfect for Newcomers—

**Running from May 9—June 6 1:15-3:15
at Wolseley Family Place**

TEAM Conference—Friday, May 6

Teaching English as an Additional language in Manitoba

First Aid/CPR workshop for child care

**workers—Friday, May 6 8:30-4:30 at
IRCOM**

Summer Wiggle—Giggle and Munch at Knox Church and Central Park

Contact Jean—jtinling@mosaicnet.ca for info



Photo: Ariana Yafali

Celebrating with Deborah on her big day! Lan, Karla, Deborah, Val, and Ariana at the Women of Distinction Ceremony

Central Park Fun in the Sun True Sport Project

Mosaic has organized a team of volunteers and volunteer staff from Mosaic and IRCOM

This volunteer group has now successfully obtained funding from True Sport and the Wpg. Foundation to run a Summer Fun in the Sun newcomers program at Knox Church and Central Park in July and August.

Twenty-four volunteers have committed a total of 800 hours to make this possible.

There will be a Wiggle, Giggle and Munch Program in Knox Church from 10-12, Mon to Thurs in July and August. While parents and 0-5 year olds are involved in the Wiggle, Giggle and Munch program, volunteers will be organizing games and activities at Central Park for children from 6-12.

It is going to be a very exciting community project!

Rock n' Read



Make a book? That's right, that is exactly what newcomer parents will be doing at our Rock & Read program this spring. The program runs from April 28—June 16; and

is an opportunity for parents to come together, participate in fun activities with their preschooler, and make a book to share with their children.

Jean is mentoring new facilitators Kit Lin Chin and Elizabeth Lotfi both are from our Fort Garry programme.



Royal Tea Party! FGMB students and staff, (and special young guest!) enjoy a cuppa to celebrate the Royal Wedding.

Photo: Barbara Coombs