

**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:**

- Most Mosaic child care spots are full!
- Mosaic staff and students enjoy goodies donated by Prairie Ink Restaurant & Bakery.
- Mosaic is opening a third class downtown.
- Jean Tinling travelled to Vancouver to become trained to facilitate the My Tween and Me parenting program.
- 10 women are now trained to facilitate Nobody's Perfect, they also know how to do some massage thanks to our mentorship program, and a generous skills donation from Denise Pauls!
- Grace Loewen is retiring, read more on page 3
- Thank you to our generous funders & donors!
- Thank you Volunteers!
- Mosaic Minder is a quarterly publication of Mosaic—Newcomer Family Resource Network

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information

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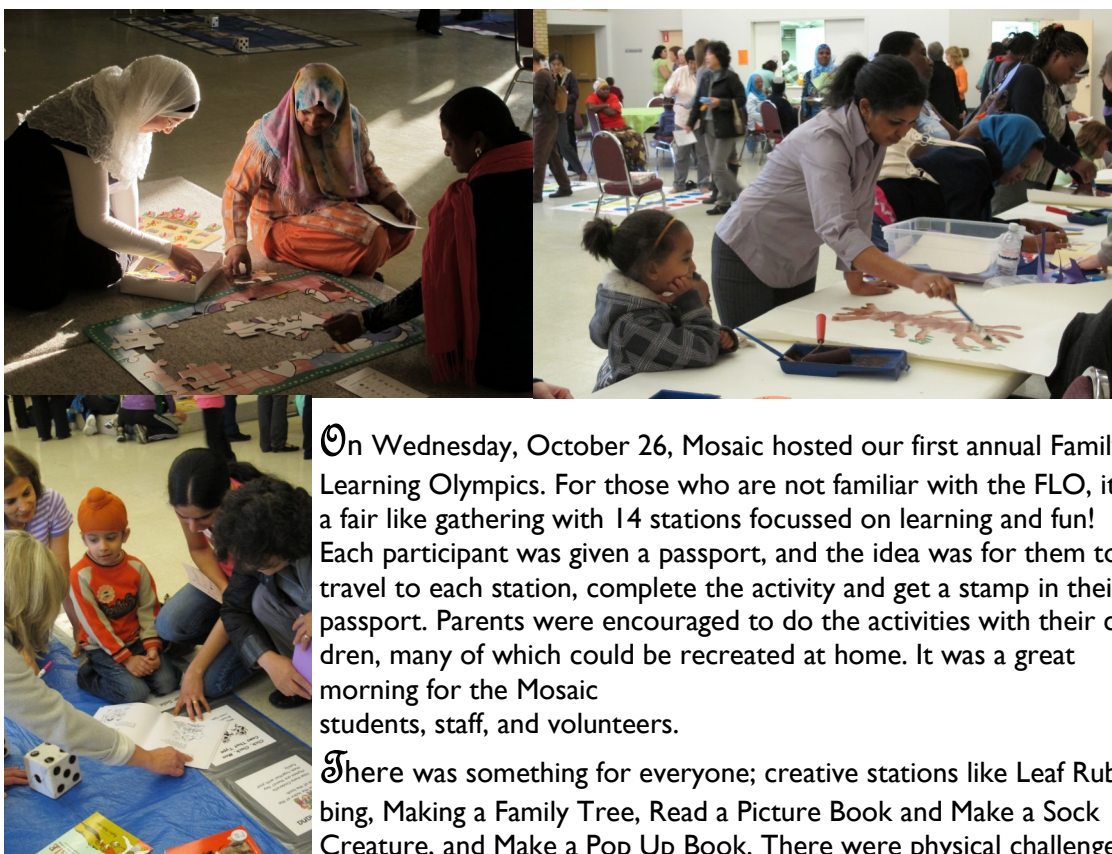
Mosaic Minder

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 1

September—November 2011

Family Learning Olympics a Huge Success!



Photos: Susan McDougall

On Wednesday, October 26, Mosaic hosted our first annual Family Learning Olympics. For those who are not familiar with the FLO, it is a fair like gathering with 14 stations focussed on learning and fun! Each participant was given a passport, and the idea was for them to travel to each station, complete the activity and get a stamp in their passport. Parents were encouraged to do the activities with their children, many of which could be recreated at home. It was a great morning for the Mosaic students, staff, and volunteers.

There was something for everyone; creative stations like Leaf Rubbing, Making a Family Tree, Read a Picture Book and Make a Sock Creature, and Make a Pop Up Book. There were physical challenges as well, Skipping was a big hit. Participants were asked to sing traditional skipping songs that Canadian school children sing, and to share one of their own. The women were thrilled with turning and jumping! For others there was Yoga stretches, a spelling Twister Game, Bowling and Music Making. Who could resist rolling the giant dice for the Giant Board Game? Participants had to roll the mega dice and move to a square on the board, then they had to answer the question on the square by reading a book, fun and challenging. And when you were ready for a break, there was a Family Learning Olympics Café where you could put your feet up, relax and enjoy a healthy snack. More than 70 Mosaic students participated in the event, coming from all 4 sites.

This event would not have been possible without the contribution of many volunteers and the dedication of staff, thank you to all who made this possible; from the specially trained staff, the co-ordinators, teachers, and child care workers who made sure everyone got to the event! The Family Learning Olympics is a project of Bookmates Inc, we would also like to thank Bethel Mennonite Church and Labour and Immigration, Adult Language Training Branch for their support.

- **Panel Discussion on Bullying—Sunday, November 20, 2:00** Shaarey Zedek Synagogue—Mosaic's Jean Tinling is on the panel.
- **Winter Break—December 19—January 9, 2012**
- **All Staff Gathering— Wednesday, December 7 at FGMB Church 9-2**
- **Board, Staff and Partner Party— December 16 Time TBA**

Health & Wellness Fair—Cecil Rhodes School



Jean, Laura, Gabriela, Wisal, Val—beautiful tees hand painted by Wisal!



Board Member's Corner Briar Jamieson, Board Chair

I am so proud to be a volunteer with Mosaic! I am invigorated by the wisdom around the table at the meetings of the Board of Directors. I believe in all of the programming and services that Val presents and reports on; and I value the team of teachers, child care staff, coordinators and community connectors who ensure the fulfilment of Mosaic's mission.

On October 26, I participated in the Family Learning Olympics. It was at this event that I truly recognized the energy and commitment of every member of the Mosaic community. I was so proud of the work of the organization. It was a pleasure to see all of the efforts of the Mosaic community come to life for the learners and their children. It was magical. Thank you for letting me be a part of what you do.

Learning More About Being a Registered Charity

Linda Xie, Accountant



I recently attended a Canada Revenue Agency information session. The purpose of this workshop was to educate people about how to operate registered charities legally, to record their activities properly, and especially to report their financial information correctly. The training and question period covered lots of interesting topics, such as fundraising, tax receipts, charities annual information return and other document preparation.

As a registered charity, Mosaic has a lot of opportunities for future growth. Knowing the government regulations and policies will definitely help the agency make the best use of those opportunities.



Mosaic is teaming up with Green Bean to sell Fair Trade Organic Coffee!

If you would like to order some for you or your office, please call Val at 774-7311.

RELATIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Glenda Knoll, Child Care Co-ordinator

I was delighted to have attended a workshop on Oct 21 on Understanding Attachment and Developing Relationships in the classroom.

What is Attachment?

It is the deep and enduring connection that children form with the people they depend on for care and protection.

Many of our children at Mosaic come from very loving and nurturing homes and show secure attachment. These are the children who can make friends easily, adapt easily to new situations, appropriately express their emotions, seek assistance, and respond appropriately to behavior management. So what interferes with Attachment?

Attachment is disrupted when one or more of the following occur:

- Qualities of the child (temperament, illness, developmental challenges and prematurity)
- Qualities of the parent (trauma, depression, substance abuse, illness etc) ,
- Qualities of the environment (poverty, violence, lack of social network, war etc) and
- Parent /child fit (irritable infant, attunement, out of sync).

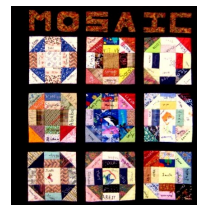
In our child care programs we can best engage children by valuing the relationship work that we do with them. Through relationships we can help these children learn adaptive healthy responses, supporting them to think differently and to take control of their physical states, feelings and behaviours.





A Day In Catherine's Class

Catherine Moss Levels 3-6 Bethel Church



As teachers we are constantly trying to orchestrate pleasing dynamics within our classroom and between our students, but sometimes they just happen - and without our

help! I had this experience last week in my class.

Erna Anderson from MAWA visited our class to talk about her program and possibly recruit a facilitator for a craft workshop. In preparation for her visit I asked my students to bring in examples of their handiwork. What talent I discovered I have in my class! To name a few - an extremely accomplished knitter, a fashion designer with a degree in her discipline from St. Petersburg and Maria the master quilter who mentored Mosaic students and staff two years ago to create our trademark quilt.



Photo Catherine Moss

The class was enthusiastically appreciative of all the work presented that morning, but were particularly intrigued by Maria's quilting projects. As the session drew to an end I left the class to take Erna upstairs to see a picture of the Mosaic quilt.

I said goodbye to Erna and returned to the class. By the time I got back they had organized a quilting bee to be held at the home of one of the students the next day. Thursday is Bethel's day of no classes and they decided to put it to good use. They'd organized a meeting time and what snacks to bring as well as ensuring everyone had the address, phone number and access code to the apartment block! You can't teach this stuff!

On Friday they brought their projects to school to show me. The consensus was that the African doughnuts made by the hostess were so good that another get together was in order. So now the organization of a cooking class next Thursday is underway! THIS...is what makes teaching so rewarding!

Happy Retirement Grace—We will miss you! Grace Loewen is retiring after nine years working with children in the EAL child care at Fort Garry Mennonite Brethren Church. Grace is a loving care giver who will be dearly missed by parents, her staff team and especially by the children. We all wish Grace a happy retirement as she and her husband take on a new and exciting chapter in their lives.



I have known Grace since 2006 when I first started to work at FGMB Church. I feel lucky to have worked with her. She is one of the most loving and caring people I have had the pleasure of knowing. She works hard and children enjoy her presence. This holds true when I see them competing to get the seat by Grace during craft time. Grace I am going to miss you very much and wish you the best of luck in the future.

Love, Elizabeth

Grace has been working with children in the EAL child care at Fort Garry Mennonite Brethren Church for 10 years. I have known Grace for about 4 years, she is my child care leader, she is a nice and kind lady. She is hard working, always first one in the place and the last to leave. She loves children, everyday she plays a lot of games with children. (eg. Mother may I. Duck, Duck, Duck, Goose. Ring around the Rosie, What time is it Mr. Wolf.) Grace is also a good leader, she taught me a lot of things. In the meeting she asked our opinion, what we wanted to do or not, she never gave us pressure. Grace I loved working with you. We will miss you so much, enjoy your retirement! Kit Lin (Teresa)

What's Happening in Family Programs 2011 - 2012

Jean Tinling, Family Programs Director jtinling@mosaicnet.ca

Winter Wiggle, Giggle and Munch - John M King School Thursdays from 1:15 to 3:15 Jan 19 – March 22, 2012

Nobody's Perfect - John M King School Thursdays 1:15-3:15 until Nov. 3 – Dec.15, 2011

Nobody's Perfect - Bethel Church – Starting January 2012.

Handle with Care - Victor Mager School Wed 1:15-3:15, Feb. 4 – March 21, 2012

Wiggle, Giggle and Munch—Victoria Albert School Mondays 1:15-3:15 Nov. 21– Dec.19 Thanks to our partners VA School and Communities 4 Families!

Families Learning and Growing Bookmaking for Newcomers- IRCOM Tuesdays 4:00-6:00 p.m. 4 - 5 week sessions. **Contact Jean for details about these and other Family Programs**