

MOSAIC

NEWCOMER FAMILY
RESOURCE NETWORK

FAST FACTS

Mosaic offers
parenting programs
for newcomer
parents all year long.



Learn to skate this winter!

Fridays from 1:00-3:00 PM
Starting January 10, 2014
Central Park
(400 Edmonton St)
Contact Jane to register:
204-291-9193
newcomerskate@hotmail.ca
For more info, visit our
[website](http://www.mosaicnet.ca).

Contributors:

Allison Wilcox
Bethel CLB 2-4 Class
Doreen Kanagwa
Jean Tinling
Susan McDougall
Val Cavers

 [facebook.com/mbmosaic](https://www.facebook.com/mbmosaic)

 [@mbmosaic](https://twitter.com/mbmosaic)

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Mosaic Minder

VOLUME 3

ISSUE 4

SEP—DEC 2013

Family Learning Olympics: FUN!

All Mosaic students, teachers, and guests came to Bethel Church on Friday, October 25th.

The Family Learning Olympics was very fun and there were very interesting games.

Maria met a previous classmate and her children.

Kate liked painting the family tree.

Firehiwot, Halyna, Thila, and Kate liked the yoga exercise.

Thila said, "Some activities were very useful, for example, yoga."

Adnan didn't like the yoga but Adnan's children liked the face painting and the puzzles.

David liked the Family Learning Olympics. He played bowling and he liked map reading.

Renuka liked skipping rope. She liked everything because everything was fun.

Renuka's family enjoyed the Olympics.

Renuka's family met Halyna's family.

Yasmeen wished she came to that day. Her daughter had a dentist appointment.

Halyna liked making sock animals. Halyna didn't have enough time. Next time she wants four hours.

Every child got one free storybook.

The snacks were very tasty.

The Family Learning Olympics was very fun.

There were very interesting games.

Bethel 2-4 Class



Turn for more photos!

More FLO fun!

Family Learning Olympics is an annual Mosaic community event that encourages families to participate in educational play that helps learning in both parents and children.



For more FLO 2013 photos, visit our [Facebook album](#).

FLO 2013 Photo credits: Susan McDougall

Val in Ottawa

The National Settlement Conference was held in Ottawa this year, it was the first NSC in 10 years. Mosaic was one of 30 agencies selected to go from Manitoba, and we joined 400 other delegates from across the country for a week of learning and contributing. The purpose of the conference was to get service provider input on the government's planning process. The conference was called "Vision 2020, Shaping the Future of the Settlement Program in Canada". This federal government has made many changes to immigration policy in the last few of years. As a result, the settlement programs need to change too. For example, you must have a completed level 4 benchmark to become a Canadian citizen now, how does that affect our programs? Currently, federal programs are not accessible to citizens and refugee claimants, should they be? If so, is there another group that doesn't need services? Should Canada be offering

more programs to people before they get to Canada, and what's the best way to do that? As well as many plenary (big meeting) sessions, there were also a lot of smaller



workshops and lots of chances to exchange ideas at meal times and in informal meetings. I also took the opportunity to visit 3 program sites in Ottawa. It was really valuable and interesting to see how other people deliver language training and childcare. I met many people from across the country, reconnected with former colleagues from Vancouver, and learned a lot about what it means to be a part of this huge undertaking to help newcomers settle successfully in Canada. I can happily say that service providers are greatly supported by our federal government colleagues.

Val Cavers



Students at FGMB getting into the Halloween spirit.



Photos credits: Allison Wilcox

Mosaic's Holiday Party



06/12/2013 20:28



06/12/2013 22:3



06/12/2013 22:26



06/12/2013 22:10



06/12/2013 20:04



06/12/2013

Happy Holidays!

Photo credits: Jean Tinling & Lynne Pinterics

CanadaHelps is a charitable organization dedicated to help other charities in Canada. Their website has a database of organizations that people can give donations to. You can now give to Mosaic through CanadaHelps. For more information, visit their website and search for Mosaic. www.canadahelps.org



Volunteer Profile ~ Doreen Kanagwa



Doreen Kanagwa

I first got the idea to work at Mosaic from Nan Anderson, a Mosaic teacher. We met at a charity dinner and started to talk about various volunteer opportunities in Downtown Winnipeg. She told me about Mosaic and what it was all about; the Family Literacy and Parenting Programs.

I then thought to myself that a place with such an artistic name must surely be a wonderful place to volunteer at. More importantly, I loved Mosaic's objectives and just wanted to offer my help and consequently learn and polish a few skills in the process. In my country, Uganda, there is a belief that there is no better way to acquire and improve upon one's skills than in service to the community. Currently, I volunteer at the Downtown location. Often I notice some of the ladies who come in for the classes staring curiously at me and wondering what exactly it is that I am doing at Mosaic. I just smile and say, "Hello. I am an office volunteer."

The best part about volunteering at Mosaic is the serene atmosphere. I always think of it as an Amazonian village as there are hardly any men around, the ladies sit attentively, absorbing the knowledge during their programs, the children sing and converse with each other, shouting, "Hello!" to anyone passing by the play room. Last but not least are the quick warm smiles and the moments of laughter we share. Mosaic is always such a happy place that it feels like I'm working from home!

Koats for Kids

Koats for Kids is a long-running program in Winnipeg that distributes winter outerwear to families during the cold months (October to February). This year, thanks to our volunteer, Sheryl Bennet, around 60 of our students and their families received winter outerwear. Thank you for your generosity.

Obituary

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of our dear classmate, Seon Young Park. Seon Young was an eager student who had a wonderful sense of humour but more importantly, she was a good friend. As a class, we miss our friend, and we are sad for our loss.



Seon Young Park

We are also sad for the loss her family is experiencing. Our hearts go out to them.

We miss you, Seon Young.

Susan McDougall and the CLB 2 to 4 students from Bethel



Fardowsa Botan believes in doing the best you can in the situation you are in but, at the same time, looking forward to new opportunities and the next steps in your life. This is certainly a philosophy she lives out.

Fardowsa and other family members left their home country of Somalia in 1997. After eight years in Kenya and another six in Uganda she and members of her extended family were able to come to Canada in 2011 thanks to the efforts of her older brother who had come some years earlier and the sponsorship of a group of Winnipeg churches.

Fardowsa came knowing some English but was eager to improve her skills and move toward independent living. She enrolled in the First Steps to Employment Program, and was a successful graduate in October, 2012. She

appreciated the instruction she received in the Hospitality/Hosting Module and the life skills courses. The work experience in the Food Bank she found very worthwhile as she has a desire to help people and make them feel comfortable. She comments that she grew in her understanding of and patience with a variety of people with different needs.

Having had prior training and experience working in a daycare in Uganda Fardowsa was able to gain employment in the Mosaic child care program and is still enjoying her work there. In keeping with her belief that one always needs to move forward Fardowsa has compiled an impressive record of further training and experience, including Playback theatre, Wiggle, Giggle and Munch, Positive Discipline, and the Childcare Assistant training offered by West Central Women's Resource Centre.

Fardowsa gained employment as a facilitator for two eight-week sessions of the "Wiggle, Giggle and Munch" program held at John M. King

school. She also holds a certificate of appreciation from the Winnipeg School Division for "rendering distinguished service in the 2012-2013 Volunteer Program".

Fardowsa's command of English is now remarkably fluent. So much so, in fact, that she is now enrolled in Early Childhood Care and Education, a 40-hour Red River Community College course. She intends to continue with this program toward becoming a fully certified Early Childhood Educator.

"Quality" is a word Fardowsa uses in describing what she is seeking in life. One has no doubt she will be true to her goal of always striving for further knowledge and experience. She believes the connections one makes with others are important but it's up to the individual to follow-up on the opportunities offered. Fardowsa is very grateful for her connection to the Community Ministry.

Reprinted with permission from the First Steps to Employment Program Newsletter. For more info about First Steps, contact St. Matthew's-Maryland Community Ministry ~ 641 St. Matthew's Ave. ~ 204.774.3957

Pole, pole - Jean's trip to Africa

This fall I returned to Africa to train facilitators in Positive Discipline, this time to Zanzibar, Tanzania. Thirty participants joined the training from 7 different African countries and many different languages but most spoke at least some Swahili. I quickly learned Jambo (hello), Assanta (thank you), and Pole Pole (slowly slowly). News of the ambush and shootings in the Nairobi mall preceded the arrival of all the participants. This started our week with many people focused back home in Kenya wondering about the safety of friends and loved ones. But we went on as planned. As the participants arrived we connected, supported each other and learned about each other's lives. Many of the stories were beyond comprehension for a Canadian. I heard so many moving stories. I'd like to share one of "J" from Uganda.

"J" works as a parent support liaison in Uganda. When we first connect she is excited to share information about her work. By the time we finish the training she shares her dreams to do direct front line programming with parents rather than her current position. She talks about the physical challenges that children face just going to school in Uganda.

Children must carry all their textbooks and their lunch with them in a large pack every day, as there is no safe place to leave their books at school. There are no school buses anywhere in Eastern Africa, and children walk for easily 10km every day. Many children are experiencing back problems from carrying this constant daily heavy load. When asked about physical punishment in the

schools, "J" shares a story of a young boy who was caught wearing three pairs of pants in this hot climate. It's his strategy to avoid the pain of so many beatings (or canings as they are often called).

School days are long: 8 AM to 6 PM. Younger children go home earlier to empty homes and spend their afternoons unsupervised as parents work until six or later. The standards are very high and a tremendous amount of pressure is put on children to do well.

Many children work very hard and endure regular beatings to get through school only to find that there is no job for them in the end. We are told that suicide is very common for these young people who lose hope and see no other choice for themselves. "J" has hope for change in Uganda, but she's caught in the dilemma of parenting with Positive Discipline and then having children go off to school and be beaten.

There were also many questions, many that were just impossible to answer, questions like, "But Jean how do we do positive discipline in child-led households with children as young as 10 doing the parenting? We have learned this week that their brains aren't developed enough yet." and "How do we help children understand adults using Positive Discipline with them when they have been beaten all their life until now?" Good questions. How do we? "We need

our teachers to learn about Positive Discipline. How can we train our teachers?" "Pole, pole."

By the end of the week, I'm told that I am now the East Africa Positive Discipline trainer and that I should be prepared to



Positive Discipline Training Participants

buy property here as they expect me to come back often!

So the training is over, emails are shared, goodbyes are said and I head off on an ethical safari where we are privileged to see so much of the Serengeti wildlife. We see giraffes, elephants, baboon families, lions, gazelles, zebras, impalas, ostriches and many other birds and animals in all their stunning natural beauty.

Along with all the game viewing we also have an opportunity to visit two of the local tribes in their villages and their homes.

First we visit the Iraqw tribe where we are invited into the home of one of the families. The trail into the village is red dust that coats our skin and fills our nostrils. We are invited into a small rectangular hut and it takes a few minutes to get used to the darkness. We are gradually able to see the corner with the small area for cooking, the few basic pots and the blackened roof from the cooking smoke.

Paulo, our host, gives us some history on his culture. He makes his living sharing his culture with tourists like us. When asked about child discipline, he explains that his life doesn't allow for time to talk with children. Life is much too hard. They are up early and must walk half an hour to get water. Children are expected to do this walk up to three times before they walk to school; the same process is repeated after their long day at school. After supper all the children sit in one small room with a single light bulb to do their homework until bed. If children are late or don't do their homework or chores at home, they are beaten with a stick. If they are late for school because they have to fetch water, the teacher doesn't ask them why they are late but also beats them. Children quickly learn that life is hard work and the price they pay for not obeying is a painful beating. No toys or books of any kind are visible anywhere in the village.



Jean and some of the Maasai children posing for the camera

Our next visit is to a Massai village, we spend the night in tents behind a school. The school principal is our host and gives us details of his efforts to provide education for as many Maasai children as possible. He has over a thousand children in his school and ten teachers—a hundred children in a class! There are very few school supplies and no money for lunch or even water for the children. They go to school all day without food or water. We sit speechless at hearing this reality. We later tour the school and see the limited resources in these small classrooms. This man is amazing to me. He keeps doing what he can, not giving up. “Pole Pole” he says, we will educate the children.

The Maasai children follow us everywhere with beseeching eyes and ragged clothes. They want to hold our hands to touch us, to have their photo taken for the pleasure of seeing the result on the camera screen. Older children have learned to ask for money and we find it so hard to have them need so much.

When I return home, and walk into my home my first thought is it's so big ... and so full of material things. Wow, we have a lot more space than we need!

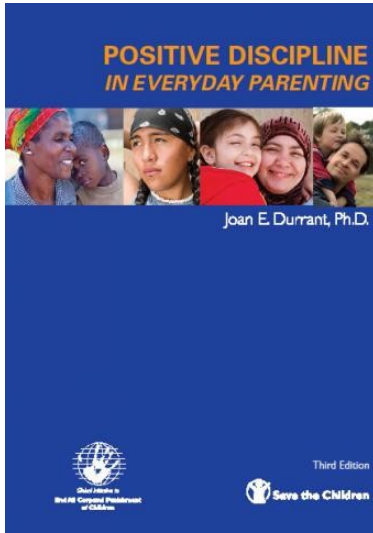
I'm so aware of the ease, with which I can get water, just turn the tap, but I hesitate to turn it on as often; I'm careful not to let it run. I notice the over abundance of things our children have here. Our children have the privilege of making choices; of going to school; of playing; of eating when they are hungry; of drinking when they are thirsty; of feeling safe; of not being beaten.

But these things should not be—are not—privileges for children; these are their rights. I am even more committed now to work to ensure that all children everywhere have these rights.

Jean Tinling

Mosaic Family Programs – All Mosaic family programs are specially designed to meet the needs of newcomer participants. We offer language and cultural support, and quality child care. All of our programs are **Free**.

Winter 2014



Joan Durrant's **Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting**

For parents of children
birth - 18 years old

*“Positive Discipline”
describes a non-violent
approach to teaching our children,
while being respectful of the child as a
learner and individual
human being*

Please note:

- PD at ENTRY does not offer childcare.
- Tuesday evening PD at Mosaic is a Men's group.



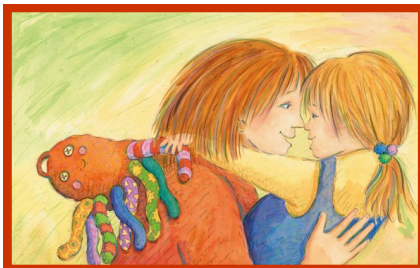
Tuesdays 6:00-8:00 PM
January 21 - March 25
Mosaic (MEN'S)
397 Carlton Street
Downtown

Wednesdays 9:15-11:15 AM
January 29 - March 26
ENTRY Program
4th Fl - 259 Portage Avenue
Downtown

Wednesdays 1:15-3:15 PM
January 22 - March 26
Mosaic
397 Carlton Street
Downtown

Fridays 9:15-11:15 AM
February 7 - March 28
Lavalee School
505 St Anne's Road
St. Vital

Saturdays
To be announced
Eritrean Community Centre
346-348 Hargrave Street
Downtown



Nobody's Perfect Parenting Program for Newcomer Parents

Parents Sharing & Learning
*Rhymes and songs in English and your
language and a time to talk about
being a parent in Canada*

Tuesdays 1:15-3:15 PM
February 4 - March 25
John M. King School
525 Agnes Street
Downtown

Thursdays 1:15-3:15 PM
February 6 - March 27
Sister Macnamara School
465 Sargent Avenue
Downtown



Playback Theatre Creative & Fun

*Share your stories with friends and neighbours
and experience your
stories being “played back” to you.*

Mondays 6:00-8:00 PM
February 3 - March 24
Mosaic
397 Carlton Street
Downtown

For more information or to register,
visit mosaicnet.ca/family or call us at 204-774-7311.

mosaic
Newcomer Family Resource Network

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Winter 2014



Fun & Physical!

*Spend time with your child playing games, having fun
A physical activity & nutrition program for pre-school aged children and their parents.*

Tuesdays 9:00-11:00 AM
January 14 - March 25
Sister Macnamara School
465 Sargent Avenue
Downtown

Tuesdays 1:15-3:15 PM
February 11 - March 11
Chalmers Community Club
480 Chalmers Avenue
River East

Thursdays 1:15-3:15 PM
February 6 - March 27
John M. King School
525 Agnes Street
Downtown



Family Bookmaking

*Families Learning & Growing Together
Family fun and games and an opportunity to make a family book*

Tuesdays 4:30-6:30 PM
Ongoing 5 sessions
IRCOM
95 Ellen Street
Downtown
Contact IRCOM to register.



Grandfriends!

*Sharing and caring across generations
Prepare food together and take home a multicultural recipe book*

Thursdays 1:15-3:15 PM
February 6 - March 27
Bethel Mennonite Church
465 Stafford Street
River Heights



Connecting through the Arts

Creative family literacy fun! Learn some recipes and arts and crafts to take home — all while meeting with other parents in your community

Wednesdays 9:15-11:15 AM
February 5 - March 26
Mosaic
397 Carlton Street
Downtown



Parent-child Mother Goose (Drop-in)

Read stories and rhymes with your child in English and your first language.

Tuesdays 9:15-11:15 AM
January 28 - March 25
Mosaic
397 Carlton Street
Downtown

For more information or to register,
visit mosaicnet.ca/family or call us at 204-774-7311.