

Spring 2011

ABC head start

Celebrating 25 years

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We are on Facebook! We invite you to join our group for updates and to connect to other members. Search: "ABC Head Start".

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Once again, it is June and, as hard as it is to believe, the end of the school year is almost upon us. Where does the time go? It seems like only yesterday that we saw the children come into the classroom, smaller than they are now, perhaps anxious as they began a new experience, and perhaps excited to start school. Parents may have been anxious as well. Would this work out for them as well as for their children? Would it be a successful year for all? Now the children are, for the most part, taller than they were in September and more confident to undertake new challenges. Likewise, the parents



***In every conceivable manner, the family is the link to our past,
bridge to our future. Alex Hailey***

Executive Director's Corner

Kathy Lenihan

may feel that they successfully collaborated with ABC Head Start in many ways concerning their children, but also concerning themselves.

These past few months have been busy ones – both for the children and classroom staff as well as for parents and families. Parent groups have ended at all the sites as social workers prepare for the new intake season. Hopefully, parents felt that their participation in the program was meaningful. We hope that you were able to make some friends, perhaps learn something new and also to teach us new things as well. It is always our hope that parents have been able to connect with other parents as well as to get to know the staff better.



The children too, have been busy this year making new friends, learning how to be a part of a larger group, and to “use their words” to problem-solve. We hope that as your children leave ABC Head Start at the end of this year that they may continue with some of the friendships that they have begun this year – friendships



that may grow if children and families are able to stay connected.



June is always a time of transition – for the children as well as for some staff. In addition to saying “good-bye” to children and families that we have become attached to over the past year, we will also be saying “good-bye” to staff as they move into other opportunities and/or retire. While this is always difficult to do, we realize that change is a positive thing, and we wish them well as they move on.

This time of year always finds us looking towards the upcoming school year, and visiting children and families who have called us looking for services for September 2011. If you have a child or know of a family with a child who is between the ages of 3.5 and 4.5 years, by all means, give us a call. Our phone number is 780-461-5353, and our office hours are between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

On behalf of the staff and the administration team here at ABC Head Start, I would like to wish you all a happy, restful and relaxing summer! We have truly enjoyed working with you and your child during this past year. It was a genuine pleasure to have been involved, to whatever degree, in such a successful partnership with you and your family. Thank you so much for allowing us to be a part of your life for this past year!

A Word From Our Board Chair...

Scott Cuthbert

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

I know I speak on behalf of the Board in thanking Kathy Lenihan and her amazing team for the fantastic job they do each and every day. I know I speak on behalf of the parents when I say thank you for taking such care with our children and their futures.

25 years of helping children become successful learners! ABC Head Start has had another fantastic year; celebrating our 25th anniversary, launching a new interactive website, implementing new programs and improving parent involvement in children's learning experiences just to name a few.

It is no surprise that such a valued organization has had such a long and successful history.

The 2010/2011 school year had 368 children in the ABC Head Start Program in 13 school locations across Edmonton. This would not be possible without the support of our funders, partners and long time supporters.

ABC Head Start continues to be a leader in Early Childhood Learning and has received acknowledgement and congratulations from the City of Edmonton and Alberta Education, Edmonton and Area Child and Family Services Region 6, to name only a few. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their continued support and encouragement as it means a great deal to the children, staff, parents and volunteers at ABC Head Start.

Again, on behalf of the Board, thank you to all of the leadership team, staff, parents, volunteers, and many partners involved in ensuring ABC Head Start's continued success. Here's to another 25 years!

Scott Cuthbert
Board Chair



Community Partnerships

Ann Babb

ALL TOGETHER NOW!

To mark the conclusion of a year of celebrating ABC Head Start's 25th Anniversary, a grand event is planned for the program. ALL the children from our 13 sites will gather, with staff, parents and volunteers at Hawrelak Park on June 15th. The day will be filled with fun, food and games.

This is the first time in 26 years of operation that we will host an event where children and families from all the city wide sites will be in one place at one time. It will be amazing to see everyone together.

As the children are finishing their day's activities, they will be presented with Literacy

Backpacks to explore and use over the summer and into their Kindergarten year.



SCARECROW FESTIVAL

Planning for the Scarecrow Festival is well underway and everything is looking very exciting, with new activities and a very fun theme.

We are now at the stage in

planning where committee members are needed to assist with the implementation of activities in specific areas. Anyone interested in sitting on any of the following committees call Ann at the office, 780-461-5353 for more details.

Gala Event:
decorators, set up, planning, etc.

Silent Auction:
acquisitions, event workers

Sponsorship:
kit assemblers, phoners

Venue:
shift assistants to the Venue Coordinator and/or set up and take down workers

HEARTS OF BLUE

For several years Hearts of Blue have supported our Literacy Back pack project by donating enough colouring books and crayons for every backpack given to each child in ABC Head Start. Tony Klassen of Alberta Blue Cross coordinates the Hearts of Blue / ABC Head Start project.

Hearts of Blue is a charity that is operated and funded by Alberta Blue Cross employees. The members of Hearts of Blue volunteer their time and donate items (such as food, clothing and furniture) to organizations in need across Alberta. In recent years, Hearts of Blue has assisted numerous registered charities such as the Yourth Emergency Shelter Society, Kids Kottage, Habitat for Humanity, Santas Anonymous, ABC Head Start, inner-city seniors' organizations, women's shelters and men's hostels by providing everything from appliances and clothing to hot meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

To encourage success of Hearts of Blue, Alberta Blue Cross makes a significant annual financial contribution and provides resources to promote and communicate the program to its employees.

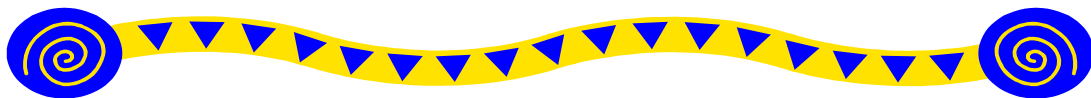
ABC Head Start Endowment Fund

Do you want to leave a lasting contribution, ensuring families will be able to connect to services they need?

Consider ABC Head Start. You may wish to support financially through our Endowment Fund. It is a simple way for you to leave a lasting legacy within our organization and in your community. You help secure a future for families through good planning.

If you would like to speak with us about arranging a contribution to ABC Head Start, we look forward to having a conversation with you. Kathy Lenihan or Ann Babb will be able to speak with you at your convenience.

Kathy kathyl@abcheadstart.org
Ann annb@abcheadstart.org
780-461-5353



Start Pre-school in September!

FREE pre-school program for
families with low income

- 4 half days per week
- FREE transportation and nutritious snacks
- Family Support
- Sites across the city including Francophone
- Children must be 3 1/2 by September 1

our office will be closed from
June 29 – September 1



Call us!

780 461-5353

www.abcheadstart.org