

Spring 2012

ABC head start

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Once again we are approaching spring, although with the great winter we have had so far, some days it seems as if spring is already here! As we begin to head into longer days, (the sun IS shining for a little longer each day), we look forward to even better weather. It is timely to reflect back on how much the children have grown and how much they have learned, even though the year is only about half over. Time flies so quickly!



facebook

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

"They may not remember what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel!"

Executive Director's Corner

Kathy Lenihan

As the children settle back into a routine after Spring Break, they will begin looking forward to new activities such as going on field trips, hatching eggs into chicks, and watching caterpillars turn into butterflies. What an exciting time. Spring truly does bring wonderful experiences for our children!

Spring Break this year is **March 26 – March 30 inclusive**. **The program will not operate on those days.**



For many of our sites, parent groups will be ending just prior to Spring Break, as social workers prepare for our new intake season. It is our hope that the parents felt that their participation in the program was meaningful. We hope that they were able to make some friends, perhaps learn something new and 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 get to know the staff at the site a little better.

This is the time of the year when we chat with families about their children's school placement for September 2012. Staff will be in con

tact with families over the next while to discuss possible placement. It is also the season when we begin talking to families that would like their children in Head Start for September 2012. We will be accepting applications starting March 5. Your help in letting parents know about ABC Head Start, and encouraging them to talk to us is a big part of making this program successful and we really do appreciate it! If you know families that might be interested in the program, please give them our phone number: 780-461-5353.

Have a wonderful spring and remember: If you're happy about our program, tell others. If you're not, talk to us!

Kathy Lenihan
Executive Director



A Word From Our Board Chair...

Michelle Craig

My name is Michelle Craig and after many years of involvement with ABC Head Start, as of January, 2012 I am thrilled to be the new ABC Head Start Board Chair!



Spring is a season of change, and after a long winter the longer days, warmer temperatures and new growth of spring are always welcome. At ABC Head Start, it is time to start planning for next school year.

Many of you will be looking at how much your child has learned and grown this school year and thinking about where your child will start his or her school career! Choosing a new school is a big decision and the ABC Head Start staff will help you learn about and make the best decisions for you and your child.

This is also the time of year when ABC Head Start starts bringing new children and families into the program. As parents, you are the best people to talk about ABC Head Start from 'the inside' and help other parents make decisions for their children. If parents you know

are interested in ABC Head Start, please give them our website and phone number.

The 2011/2012 school year has seen 392 children enrolled over the year 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. 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.

Spring is also time for you to celebrate everything you, your children, and the ABC Head Start staff have achieved this year. On behalf of the board I wish you a wonderful spring!

Michelle Craig
Board Chair



Community Partnerships

Ann Babb



Kappa Alpha Theta Fraternity Does it Again!

Kappa Alpha Theta fraternity at the University of Alberta has partnered with ABC Head Start for the last several years in support of the work that we do. In October of 2011, much effort and planning went into their hosting of a flag football tournament which took place at the University of Alberta. This inaugural event, Flapjacks and Quarterbacks, was a huge success with teams from most, if not all, the fraternities on campus. The sun was shining, the participants and fans had a great time and over \$3000 was raised and donated to ABC Head start.

Thank you to the members Kappa Alpha Theta and all those who supported this event through their donations, participation and/or attendance.



Literacy Backpack Day – June 15, 2012

On June 15, all children attending our program will be receiving a Literacy Backpack, in celebration of their moving on to the next stage of their learning. The goal of this project is two fold; one, to make preschool literacy tools available to the child and his/her family in their own home and two, to ease the costs of kindergarten start-up for the family.



Each backpack contains several story books, crayons, coloring book, pencil, glue, eraser and a “Reading Buddy” (a cuddly stuffed animal). Also included is information supplied by Edmonton Public Libraries.

This project has been sustained throughout the past thirteen years through strong community support and the efforts of the board of directors, staff, volunteers and community partners.



Charity Shoot Out

Imagine how many would show up to participate in a hockey shoot out at -23 degrees, on a wind swept afternoon. None perhaps? Well not when some very special people are involved, like the organizers, participants, fans and their families.

CTV ‘on-air’ announcers, John Windwick from ATB and a member from the community were dressed in hockey gear, eager to show their stuff in a hockey shootout and to attempt to earn money for their favorite charities. \$20,000, donated by ATB, was up for grabs. Each participant chose a charity to represent and depending on how far the participant was able to stay in the competition, the prize money for their charity increased.

ABC Head Start was fortunate to be chosen by Josh Classen, CTV’s renowned weather forecaster, so we were guaranteed a prize of \$3500. The competition was kicked off on Sunday, January 14 and eliminations continued Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of the next week, all

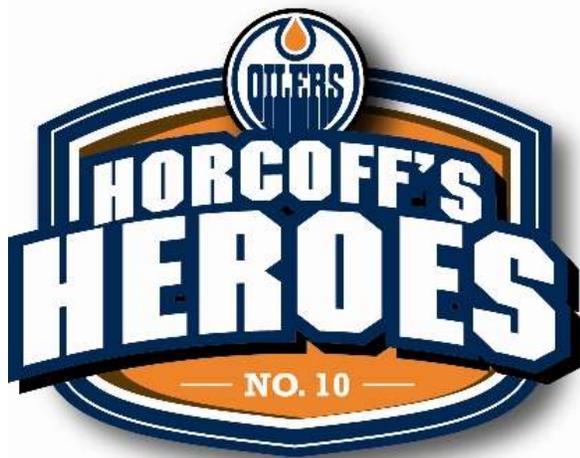
Community Partnerships

Ann Babb

being broadcast live on CTV's 6 o'clock news. Thank you to Josh and all the media competitors, who were on the ice, in freezing temperatures, playing their best for their favorite charities. Also, a big thanks to ATB, for donating the cash prizes and providing hot beverages and warm treats throughout the 4 days of the competition.

Edmonton Oiler's Foundation

Over the past two hockey seasons, dozens of ABC Head Start children and their families have had the exciting experience of attending an Oiler's game. Tickets were either provided by the Edmonton Oilers directly or through a donation of tickets by season ticket holders. The tickets are distributed to local charities through the "Seats for Kids" program sponsored by the Edmonton Oiler's Community Foundation.



In addition, twice this school year we were invited to send children to a hockey game, courtesy of "Horcoff's Heroes". Shawn and Cindy Horcoff established Horcoff's Heroes to ensure that children whose families have low incomes have an opportunity to enjoy a hockey game with their families. The children and families are also treated to a meal and a visit from Shawn himself.

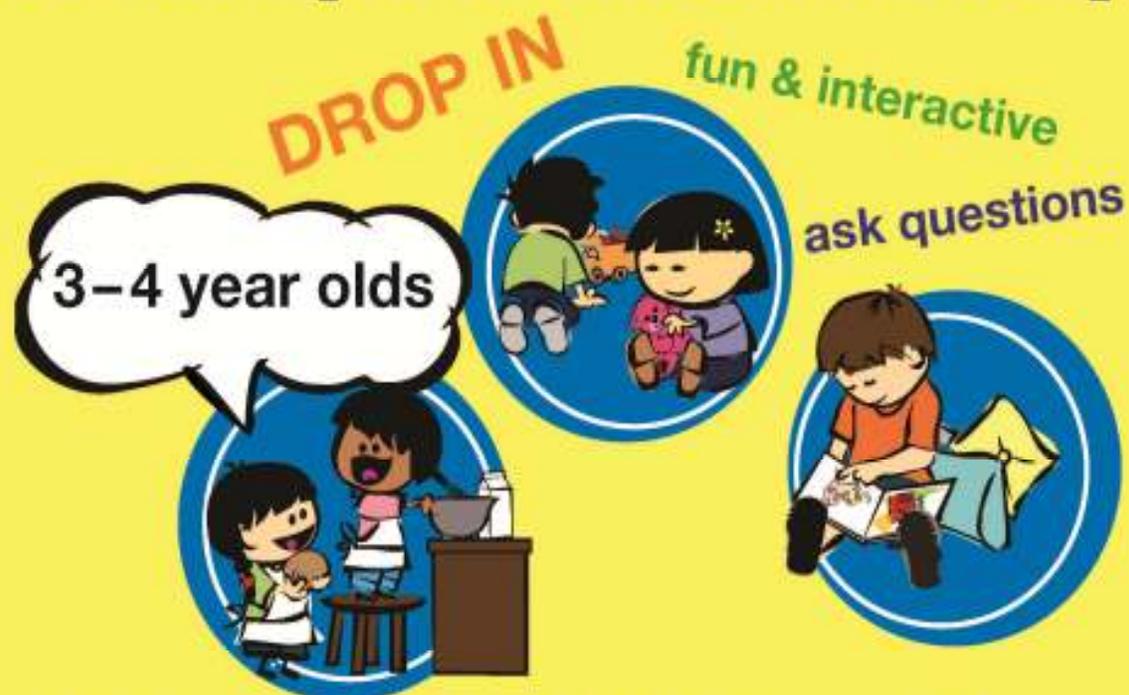
Another exciting connection with the Oiler's Foundation happened when we were presented with a "Good Neighbor Award" from State Farm Insurance, through the Foundation.



This award recognizes agencies who contribute to the growth and betterment of the community. This award program was initiated at the beginning of the 2010-2011 hockey season. Each season only 7 awards are given out, so the award endowed to ABC Head Start was the ninth to ever be presented. Our agency being chosen so early in the history of this award is a genuine privilege, especially considering the hundreds of deserving charities that operate in the Edmonton area.

The presentation of the award was aired on the Jumbotron early in the second period of the game. It was exciting to have our agency profiled and to be there to see our logo in bright lights!

Preschool Family Fair & Developmental Check-up



Wednesday, April 18, 2012 @ 11 am – 6:30 pm
Jamie Platz YMCA, 7121 – 178 Street

OR

Wednesday, April 25, 2012 @ 11 am – 6:30 pm
Castledowns YMCA, 11510 – 153 Avenue

For more information

780-478-5396



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

Registrations for 2012-2013

On **March 5, 2012** we will start taking applications for the 2012/2013 school year. Please call the main office at (780) 461-5353 to apply. You can also submit an application (available at www.abcheadstart.org) by mail, fax, or save it to your computer and e-mail it to us at abchs@abcheadstart.org!

Start Pre-school in September!

FREE early learning 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, 2012 – August 27, 2012



Call us!

780 461-5353

www.abcheadstart.org