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Applegrove Newsletter

“TOGETHER, BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY”

March 2011

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From The Director's Chair



For more than a year, Applegrove has tried to find a new home for The Edgewood Connection. When the Toronto Catholic District School Board sold Corpus Christi school, we had to close Edgewood. As an interim measure, we offered Edgewood @ Applegrove on Monday mornings and Edgewood @ HAIG on Wednesday mornings.

Applegrove first looked for affordable space in local schools, churches and community housing. When nothing suitable was available in the neighbourhood, staff looked into commercial space. But commercial property rents can be \$3,500 per month.

Edgewood needs a safe and welcoming environment of about 1,000 square feet, with stroller parking, appropriate flooring and carpeting, painting, child-friendly washrooms, food preparation space and storage for snacks, craft supplies, etc. Kitchen cabinets and equipment were donated in 2008 and can be installed in the new space.

We are still hoping for an alternative location, but may have to make a permanent plan for using Edgewood's funding and staffing at Applegrove and HAIG.

Susan Fletcher,
Executive Director.

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DINE (Dinner in the Neighbourhood Evenings)



Our first two Dinner In the Neighbourhood Evenings were successful with good attendance and yummy food. Participants caught up with old friends and met some new ones as well. There were plenty of games and puzzles to play (Scrabble, Giant Snakes and Ladders, Pictionary, cards and more.). Fun was had by all who attended.

The event is mostly set up and taken down by a great staff of helpful volunteers who eagerly welcome new folks to cook, supervise games and clean up.

Check SNAP Beaches newspaper March edition for some fun photos of February DINE. And DINE with us on the second Friday evening of the month.

The HAIG Family Support Program

On Thursday, February 17, Jim Dalling presented a very special theatre performance for families from the HAIG Family Support Program and Earl Haig Daycare. Using poetry, puppetry, masks, music and mad-cap clowning, Jim performed **Loki's Big Dream**, a story about how special people can help us to make our dreams reality. This imaginative and inspiring adventure was suitable for children ages 4 to 12. This joint event was a huge success with approximately 200 people in attendance. Funds raised will help support each of the partners' programs. This is Jim's second performance, the first being held at Applegrove, last year.

This is HAIG's 5th year of operations and has been an asset to the community. Most recently, Edgewood at HAIG was added on Wednesday mornings. Come join us Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:00 a.m -12:00 p.m. in room 10 in the Earl Haig School (10 Earl Haig Avenue). We would be very happy to see you. Meet new friends and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea.

Parent-Child Drop-in



February was a very eventful month at Applegrove Parent-Child Drop-in Center. We celebrated the Lunar New Year with food, calligraphy, and lanterns. We made a big mama rabbit and some little bunnies. We recognized Black History Month by singing, drumming, storytelling and beading. We said "Thank you" to Rosa Parks and Violet Desmond and put our beautiful faces on the big bus and in the theatre. And we made lots of hearts for Valentines Day. We made Stone Soup to keep us warm.

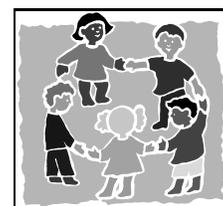
"How to keep your cool when your child is losing theirs" was the title of the parenting workshop this month. The caregiver support group also had some great discussions.

We know winter is finally on its way out when we start planning our annual trip to the maple bush in late March or early April.

If you are at home with a baby or child (to kindergarten age) you are most welcome to drop in to see what is happening. We have added Edgewood at Applegrove on Monday mornings. Come join us on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Over the Rainbow

Over the Rainbow (OTR) is funded by the United Way's Success by 6. The program works with young children who have had difficulties in their development or relationships due to stressful life circumstances. Throughout the program, the rainbow offers a bridge between the child's inner world, the symbolic world within the playroom and the world outside. The colours of the rainbow represent the various themes that the children work on over the course of the sessions. The children work on creating the rainbow throughout the sessions. During the final session the children jump "over the rainbow" and receive a certificate for completing the program.



If require more information or interested in registering for the Spring session please contact Nikki at 416-528-9922 or overtherainbow@thorncliffe.org.

Helping our Babies Grow (HOBG)

We have a Free Program for You.

If you register and attend the program you will receive:

- Free Childcare for your older children while you attend
- Free one on one support with a nurse and dietitian
- Free TTC fare if needed
- Free \$10 grocery voucher
- Snacks and socializing with other women



Every Friday Afternoon from 1:30—3:30 p.m. at 60 Woodfield Road in Applegrove's Parent-Child Room, the HOBG program welcomes women and their children to attend a workshop; get one on one support with a health care person; eat healthy snacks and meet other women from their neighbourhood. If you or someone you know is pregnant, please tell them about our program. **Call Louise or May at 416-461-8143 for more information.**

Applegrove Older Adults Program

Euchre on Tuesdays, Computer Tutoring on Thursdays and Bingo on Fridays are the weekly programs going strong.

Starting in March is a series of informational presentations followed by a nutritional lunch. Upcoming topics include "Fall Prevention: Nutrition and Medication", "A Woodcarver's Life", "Fraud Prevention", & "Senior Moments".

Members were so pleased with the "Writing your Memoirs" Writer's workshop, that it will be returning! The writing workshop resumes Thursday March 10th for 8 weeks and will be facilitated by Susan Siddeley, who is our returning instructor from last year. The writing group is an excellent forum for developing writing skills, storytelling, and sharing ideas.

"Talk Art" is a creative arts program which will start in April 2011 on Monday afternoons. The focus of the program is to talk about various artists and their work, look at illustrations, photos, collages, and designs. Students will be encouraged and coached to create mini art projects using dry colour pencils, scissors, glue and paper. Newbie's need not fret— this program is going to be fun and social!

Applegrove will be participating in the second annual "Toronto Challenge" fundraiser on Sunday June 12th 2011, which is a 1K or 5K walk (or run) through the city of Toronto. In 2010 we raised \$600 for the Seniors' program and this year we hope to double it to increase the number of bus trips the Seniors take in 2011. The "Out and About Club" will continue walks to surrounding parks and trails once the weather gets nicer. We will be training for the Toronto Challenge walk this upcoming June and working on our fitness! We look forward to seeing you in the nicer weather!

Summer Camp Registration

Wednesday April 27th starting at 6:00 p.m. Numbers will be handed out at 4 p.m.

Summer Camp

Ages: Children ages 6 - 12.
Fees: \$60 per week per child.
Hours: 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Dates: July 4 to Aug 26, 2011
 (Closed on August 1)

Summer Leadership

Ages: Youth ages 12– 15
Fees: \$120 per session (2 weeks)
Hours: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Dates: 3 two week sessions from July 4 - 20

Applegrove Afterschool Program



Miles is six years old and one of Applegrove afterschool program's youngest and most helpful participants. He is always enthusiastic and eager to try new things. Recently, he conducted his own survey of the afterschool program. We decided to interview Miles about his survey and his experiences at the afterschool program.

Tell me about your survey.

Well, I was doing graphs in class, so I decided to do one in the afterschool program.

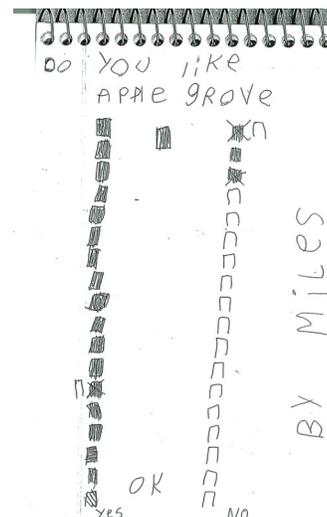
There were more kids that like the afterschool program.

Do you like the afterschool program? Yes!

What do you like about the afterschool program? I like that we do different activities every day, like on Mondays we make crafts and on Tuesdays we bake things.

What's your favourite activity? Playing with "lego". I'm really good at building stuff.

Have you learned anything new in the afterschool program? A lot! I learned how to cook a lot of stuff, like red velvet cupcakes.



Teen Program

Applegrove's Teen Drop-In program was off to a great start in the fall with a whole new set of teens and continues to go strong into the new year. With activities such as Iron Chef Cooking Challenges, games night and movie night – the teens just keep on coming back! In February, the teens were rolling up a storm as they made their own sushi. Every month, the youth workers, Amanda, Josh and Ceejay take the teens on trips around Toronto for some safe fun with their peers. It continues to be an exciting year as we get to know these teens just a tiny bit more every time they come in and even more exciting when they bring their friends! Don't forget Girls Night Out which runs upstairs in the lounge on Thursday Nights from 6-8 p.m. Since the boys are usually in the gym, its no surprise that sometimes the girls will want to go to the gym to play a friendly game of basketball and volleyball while they're here! If you know of any teens aged 13-18 that would be interested in attending the program, please send them over on either a Monday or Thursday night from 6-8pm!



It's Tax Time

Applegrove's Income Tax Clinic is on Fridays, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by appointment only, until the end of April. Call the Applegrove office 416-461-8143 to check eligibility and to book your appointment.

You are eligible if you:

- a single person with income of \$25,000 or less;
- a 2 person family with income of \$30,000 or less;
- have a simple, straight-forward return, with income from basic employment, social assistance or pension;
- do not have capital gains, rental or self-employed income;
- Need only the 2010 tax year done.