

OSCAR Newsletter

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Phone: 780-672-0141 / **Address:** 4821 - 51 St. Camrose AB



News from the OSCAR Office



Welcome to the 2023-2024 OSCAR Program, we are happy to welcome back so many previous OSCAR families and excited to have new families joining us as well! Thank you for choosing our program, for trusting us with your children and giving us the opportunity to be a part of their journey.

There are always a few housekeeping things to go through at the start of a new program year so please take a few minutes to read these so we can ensure we are all on the same page. It is also very important that you be sure to read the parent handbook that can be found on our website and if you have any questions about policies or expectations, please ask.

Looking Ahead to Important Dates to Remember



- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| • October 5 | Early Dismissal - OSCAR starts at lunch dismissal |
| • October 9 | Happy Thanksgiving - NO School and NO OSCAR |
| • October 20 | September Fees DUE |
| • October 20 | November Calendar DUE |
| • November 1 | CLOSED - NO School and NO OSCAR |
| • November 2 | Early Dismissal - OSCAR starts at lunch dismissal |
| • November 13-17 | CLOSED - NO School and NO OSCAR |
| • November 20 | October Fees DUE |
| • November 20 | December Calendar DUE |
| • December 7 | Early Dismissal - OSCAR starts at lunch dismissal |
| • December 11 | CLOSED - NO School and NO OSCAR |
| • December 15 | January Calendar DUE |
| • December 21- 29 | CLOSED - NO School and NO OSCAR |

What's Happening at the Programs

CHESTER RONNING:



Welcome back OSCAR families, we are so excited for the year ahead- and we were thrilled to see so many new faces coming to join us this year! Your Chester Ronning OSCAR staff this school year will be Vanessa, Christina, Kristian, and Kayli. Some of our favorite things to do with the OSCAR children are playing new interactive games, board games and cards, playing outdoors (the new playground is so fun!), and free art experiences. We are asking all children to help out in our planning so we can get to know everyone and have some fun together- if anything gets discussed at home like favorite activities or things the children would like to try please let us know! You are all part of OSCAR too!

The children all voted for a pajama day to happen in September- this may end up being a monthly thing if everyone loves it so much!

In September we focused on getting to know everyone so we have found tons of ice breaker games to play together. 2 truths and a lie was exciting we got to see some similarities and differences with things we all like as well as the game "this or that" where it was interesting to see how many children DO like scary movies and broccoli and both dogs AND cats! (They couldn't choose between the two).

**all about
getting to
know each
other**



What's Happening at the Programs

JACK STUART:

We have some new staff at Jack Stuart this year. We are welcoming Wendy as the new Team Lead and also welcoming back Audra and Shalayne to the OSCAR team.

We are thrilled to welcome back all the OSCAR children and parents and so excited that we also have some new friends joining us. We are settling in and building our routine. Here at OSCAR, we love to play and have fun while learning and we have some very exciting ideas for OSCAR this year. We plan to be outdoors as much as possible. September was a busy month. We started September off by welcoming back the children as they familiarized themselves with their toys, games and OSCAR friends and created an OSCAR friendship flower. They have enjoyed building houses and areas for the animals and people. We are happy to get back into our routines.

We have been enjoying exploring our imagination theme week. Some of the crafts the children have made fairy are Queen/King's Crowns and a wand. We will also be making a group fairy garden. This month will hold some exciting surprises for the children, we will explore what "fall/seasons" means, celebrate Thanksgiving and harvest, and then end the month with our October Halloween Creations and Party.

**exploring &
imagination**



What's Happening at the Programs

SPARLING:

Welcome back from what I hope was a relaxing and enjoyable summer. Some fantastic news, Ms. Sandra will be returning to Sparling OSCAR and Ms. Debbra will also be joining the team. We, feel honored to be working with you and your child and we will do our best to take good care of your child(ren). It is very important to us that each child is safe and feels like he/she belongs.

September has been such an exciting month, it's been a month of change and new beginnings—new surroundings, new and old friends, new experiences, new skills and new challenges. We have been enjoying getting acquainted with each other by playing games, doing creative activities and outdoor fun. It is so rewarding to hear so much laughter and to see the kindness and respect being shown within the OSCAR program. Our September themes of "Getting to Know Each Other" and "Signs of Fall" have been a great success!

This month your child will continue to explore the world of learning and develop many new skills through self-directed play and have opportunities to take on leadership roles. We look forward to enjoying our holiday themes of "Thanksgiving" and of course "Halloween"

We are glad to have your child(ren) in Sparling OSCAR, and we are looking forward to a wonderful year. If, at any time you have concerns or questions or your child's schedule changes and he/she is unable to attend OSCAR, please let Kandace know immediately so we know your child is in safe hands. Also, please remember to ensure that your child brings a water bottle with them each day.

Happy Thanksgiving From Sparling OSCAR !



new experiences

What's Happening at the Programs

ECOLE SIFTON:

On behalf of Miss Megan, Miss Stacie, Miss Mercedes and Miss Emm, we would like to welcome the returning children and the many new families to the start of a new year at OSCAR. A lot of the returning children have stepped up to show so much leadership in showing the new OSCAR children around and helping them make friends.

During September, we kicked it off with getting to know each other and playing various games together including soccer, parachute, and dodgeball. We created a Birthday Board which includes all children and staff. We like to have everyone feel valued, appreciated, and a sense of belongingness at OSCAR. Some of our other top favourite activities we had done in September also include our book corner, having a bakery dramatic play station with the play-dough, various open-ended crafts, and creating a caring environment from our Operation Respect with its engaging lessons.



For October we will begin with crafts and activities to get ready for Thanksgiving Day. We will continue making Winter and Christmas Community Cards for the senior citizens in our community. For World Teacher Day we will encourage everyone to make a card for their amazing Teachers. The following week will be all about Fire Prevention. We plan to make a fun Fireman outdoor obstacle course and make presentations about all the types of fire safety techniques.

The children have been excited for Halloween, so the last two weeks of October will be lots of Halloween activities and decorating. This will include Harry Potter theme day, and pumpkin carving. On Halloween Day, we plan to have a Halloween party with spooky but fun dance music playing. We are excited to see the many costumes everyone will be wearing that day. October; sweater weather and pumpkin season and its many fall colors.



welcoming new
children

News from the Director



Camrose & District PRE-SCHOOL


Registration for 2023/24

- 3 Year old classes, Mon. & Wed.
- 4 Year old Classes, Tues. & Thurs.
- Classes offered September – June
- Alberta Child Care Subsidy
- Call for fees or more information

Benefits of Pre-School

- Socialization
- Creativity & Curiosity
- Early Literacy Skills
- Stronger Sense of Independence
- Kindergarten Preparation

To Register:
Scan the QR code
Forms available on-line
www.camrosefcss.ca
info@camrosepreschool.ca



Learning Through Play

is a complex part of a child's life that can also be a way of coping and problem solving in their ever-changing world.

The Alberta Flight Curriculum is incorporated into our program in meaningful ways that allow the children to develop their many skills as they grow and learn in their play experience.

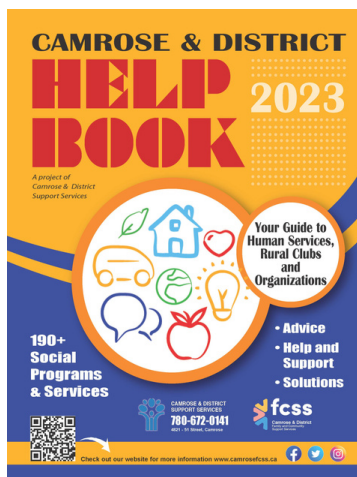
780-672-0141

Pre-School is an important natural step for children to build upon their independence, socializations and skills for learning. Our 3 and 4 year old programs are still accepting registrations for our classes that operate 2 times a week from 9:00-11:30. We are a licensed program so access to the affordability grant and subsidy is available for families with a household income of up to \$180,000. Families who qualify for full subsidy will have their fees covered, if you do not qualify the parent portion fee is \$75/month. If you have pre-school aged children or know anyone who may be interested more information and the registration forms can be found at www.camrosefcss.ca.



The Help Book – A Guide to Human Services is also available online in the form of a searchable database: www.camrosefcss.ca/helpbook/

The 2023 Help Books are available at Camrose & District Family & Community Support Services Office
4821 – 51 St., Camrose AB



Fun Things for the Family to Do Together

Keep the kids busy with this fun outdoor scavenger hunt! All you need to set up this backyard scavenger hunt for kids is to print out the scavenger hunt, grab some markers and a clipboard and head outdoors to enjoy this beautiful fall season.



Apple Sandwiches with Almond Butter and Granola

www.garnishwithlemon.com

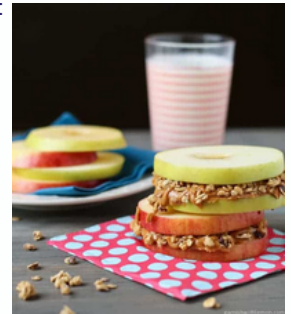
Need a healthy snack to take on the go? Look no further than these quick & easy Apple Sandwiches with Almond Butter & Granola!

Ingredients

- 1 apple cored and sliced into rings
- 2 Tbsp Almond butter (peanut butter, wow butter or other of your choice)
- 2 Tbsp Granola

Instructions

- Generously spread almond butter on one apple slice.
- Sprinkle granola over almond butter and top with another apple slice.
- Repeat using remaining apple slices and almond butter.



Season of Fall Weather - Make Sure Children have Outdoor Clothing

As we come into this season of fall the weather can be quite unpredictable with all 4 seasons showing up during the day. We do like to get outside to play after school as much as possible so please be sure to send appropriate outdoor clothing so that your children can enjoy being outside.



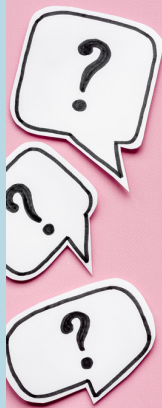
News from the Director

Monthly Invoice

Your account is to be paid by the 20th of each month or very shortly after. Payments are done by Pre-authorized Debit (PAD), subsidy, cash, cheque or Debit at CDSS.

OSCAR Site Cell #'s

- Chester Ronning OSCAR:
780-608-0990
- Jack Stuart OSCAR:
780-608-9068
- Sparling OSCAR:
780-679-4700
- Sifton OSCAR:
780-781-5159



If you have questions or concerns regarding OSCAR in anyway, please contact me, Kandace Bonney, OSCAR Director, at 780-672-0141 or by email at director@camroseoscar.ca

Happy Birthday

Miss Jhecelle
Sept. 28

Miss Shalayne
Oct. 7

OSCAR Fundraiser

Mabels Labels – This great fundraiser will remain open year round and is a great way to label school supplies, coats, shoes and all the things you don't want your kids to loose. Search for our organization, OSCAR Child Care Society on the Mabel's Labels fundraising page that can be found using the QR code below to shop their catalogue. When you place your order online, it will be shipped directly to your mailing address.



Kids' Sports & Activity Labels

Stock up on extra labels for all the extracurriculars!

Go to campaigns.mabelslabels.com and choose our organization from the list!



Subsidy

- Website: www.alberta.ca/child-care-subsidy.aspx
- Families with a joint income of up to \$90,000 that have children enrolled in a licensed school age program can qualify for subsidy.
- Check out the estimator on the website to see if your family can receive this wonderful support to cover all or part of your child care fees
- Please inform the OSCAR Director if you will be receiving subsidy
- Subsidy Phone Number 1-877-644-9992

News from the Director

Introducing the Director and Assistant Director

As we work behind the scenes in the office and don't get to see you on a daily basis we wanted to add an introduction of ourselves. Please reach out to us at the office by phone or email at any time if you have questions. We look forward to an awesome year of OSCAR!

My name is **Kandace Bonney**. I am dedicated to Making a Difference in the lives of children, families and the educators that care for your children. With twenty-five plus years experience in Early Childhood Education and Level 3 Certification from my other diplomas in business management, social work and drug & alcohol counselor, I feel that all my education finally came together for me when I started at Camrose and District Family & Community Support Services in 2007 and became the **OSCAR Director**, the after school program in the public schools for kindergarten to grade six.



I have been taking courses in Flight and have just finished an eleven-week course on Supporting Curriculum Practice. These courses will help me to support our educators at Pre-school and OSCAR as we slowly implement the curriculum to the programs. Children are my passion. They are our future and your most precious gift to our world. Together, I know we can continue to build a strong foundation for the children of our OSCAR program and Make a Difference in their lives.

Hello, I am **Crystal Schierman** and am happy to have joined Kandace as the **Assistant Director for OSCAR** in February of this year. Prior to this I worked for the same non-profit child care organization where we operated 2 daycares, a school age program, preschool and a family day home agency. I started my career in childcare there and in the almost 20 years I have been in the childcare field I also gained 16 years experience in the Director's role of these programs.

In 2021, my husband and I decided to join my parents in their dairy operation and moved us and our 4 girls home to the New Norway area where we have built a new robotic dairy barn and are expanding our family farm. I grew up in this area and it has been great to have the chance to come back home and to now work in this community.

I have my Level 3 Early Learning and Child Care Certification and love working in this field. It is a pleasure to serve the families and children in our programs and to play a small part in helping them to raise these wonderful unique individuals. I definitely believe that it takes a village to raise a child and am grateful to be a part of that village as we nurture and prepare our children for their futures.



Director News

Schedule Changes for Your Calendars

It is important that we know which children to expect at OSCAR in order to ensure their safety and prevent missing children situations. Please remember that if notice of cancellation is not received by the OSCAR Director by noon on the day before, there shall be a minimum one-hour charge per day or day rate as per family contract. If no notice is given and a child does not arrive at the program as scheduled, a \$25 no-show fee shall be charged.

All schedule changes **MUST** be made by contacting the OSCAR Director by email, with advance notice. info@camroseoscar.ca or calling the OSCAR office at CDFCSS 780-672-0141. If there is no answer, please leave a detailed voicemail in regards to what you are calling about.

When sending an email, or leaving a voicemail, please include the following information:

- Child's full name
- Program location
- Reason for absence (if your child is ill I need to know as it is a licensing requirement)
- Date absent
- Time of the call



If your child is scheduled to attend OSCAR and has joined an after school activity, it is **VERY IMPORTANT** that you notify the OSCAR Director/Office of the late arrival to the program after the sport activity.

Scheduled children need to check in with the OSCAR staff before going to the activity. Once they check in, they go directly to the activity so they are not late.

Helpful tip

- Email your child's teacher to let them know when your child has OSCAR.
- Write in your child's agenda they go to OSCAR

CDFCSS Office Hours

- Monday - Thursday open to the public 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon & 1:30 - 4:00.
- Friday - Closed to the Public (phones answered)
- On occasion the CDFCSS office is closed for a few hours as front end reception is unavailable due to meeting attendance requirements.



Community Events



LOOKING FOR INFORMATION OR SUPPORT ON PARENTING?

We have many supports, services and programs that can assist you in parenting your child or teen.



**For more information or to access support, please call
the Camrose Family Resource Centre at
780-672-0141
to speak with one of our staff.**

Great Resource



Canada Dental Benefit

Factsheet

Tooth decay is the most common, but preventable, childhood chronic disease both in Canada and around the world. Oral diseases frequently begin in the preschool years which is why it is so important to establish good oral hygiene behaviours as soon as possible.

The Government of Canada has implemented the interim **Canada Dental Benefit**, which is designed to provide some financial support to help Canadian families access dental care. With this benefit, families can start addressing some of the basic dental care that their young children need while the Government continues its work to develop a long-term Canadian dental care program.



WHAT is the benefit?

The interim Canada Dental Benefit provides payments **up to \$650** per eligible child under 12 years of age, per year for two years.

\$650

if the family's adjusted net income is under \$70,000

\$390

if the family's adjusted net income is between \$70,000 and \$79,999

\$260

if the family's adjusted net income is between \$80,000 and \$89,999

The benefit can be used for any dental care provided by any regulated dental professional.



WHO can apply?

Parents/Guardians who:

- ✓ Have a child under 12 years of age, who does not have access to private dental care insurance.
- ✓ Have an adjusted family net income under \$90,000 per year.
- ✓ Have filed last year's income tax return—for more information on how to file a return, visit Canada.ca/doing-your-taxes.
- ✓ Receive the Canada Child Benefit for each eligible child.
- ✓ Have or will have dental care expenses for each eligible child that have not been fully reimbursed under another federal, provincial or territorial government program.



HOW can you apply?

Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) **My Account** will be the quickest, easiest and most secure way to apply for the Canada Dental Benefit. If you don't yet have a CRA My Account, you can register at Canada.ca/my-cra-account.

You will need to **provide information** on the dental care visit, including the name of your child's dental care provider(s) and your employer information.

If you apply online and are signed up for CRA direct deposit, you can receive your payment within five business days!

If you're unable to apply for the Canada Dental Benefit online, call **1-800-715-8836** to get your application started.

Make sure you have your Social Insurance Number, address, date of birth and a copy of your income tax return from last year.



WHEN can you apply?

Parents can now apply for dental care received by their eligible child back to October 1, 2022, so long as their child will still be under 12 on December 1. For the second benefit, parents can apply starting July 1, 2023.



WHAT if I don't read or speak English or French?

The application portal is only available in English and French. However, if you need help with the application, you can ask an English or French-speaking friend to sit with you while you fill out the application, or have them with you when you call **1-800-715-8836**.

If you don't have a friend available to assist with the process, the CRA can arrange to call you back in order to have someone on the line who speaks your language.

Visit Canada.ca/dental for more information, or call **1-800-715-8836**



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