



YEARLY CALENDAR AND THEMES 2018-2019

CSU daycare and nursery take great pride in the educational program they have developed in the past year. Our program is a result of several elements, but first and foremost is the dedication of our staff and an educational approach that allows the involvement of the children in the decision-making process of certain in-class activities.

Parent involvement at the CSU daycare and nursery is always encouraged. Our educational philosophy is inspired by different cultures and backgrounds, bringing these experiences into our community will enrich our children, and us! If you have a particular passion, talent, or skill, and think it could help our daycare grow, let us know. We are here to work with you, for them.

Volunteer Reading Program: One of the ways in which we encourage parent involvement is through our volunteer reading program. Family members are invited to read in the class rooms and choose books either from the daycare's collection or from home.

Portfolio: During your child's years at the CSU daycare and nursery, he or she will have accumulated hundreds of personal and group projects. Your child's individual and social skills will greatly progress during his or her time with us. Evidence of such progress is mainly documented in the child's portfolio. The portfolio is a partial "witness" to what he or she has learned with us, as well as evidence to the child's thought progress during a specific activity. Portfolios are updated regularly by the educators with the most significant works, and are shared with parents several times during the course of the year. The most

momentous works will remain in your child's portfolio until he or she leaves the daycare.

The mini Concordian: Our newsletter will be emailed to everyone, as well as posted in the daycare on a monthly basis. It is a means of communicating activities and events, important dates, and reminders to all our families. We also encourage parents to participate with articles, or useful information that can be shared with other families at the daycare.

Artistic and Cultural themes (art and music appreciation): We have researched artists and musicians to introduce to your child through play. The children will be exposed to both classic and contemporary artists and musicians who will accompany the group in its monthly themes. *“A philosophical approach to art in the classroom is to create aesthetic awareness in the students. The main purpose of this approach is to help the children understand art better. The ways different artists express themselves leaves a lot of room for discussion and exploration. The teacher exposes the children to the world and the country's artistic heritage, which helps them evaluate the work of others. Comparing their own work to that of other artists also confirms the authenticity of their own creation. Through art discussions, children become aware of the many ways visual images can express and influence the feelings of people from different cultures.”* (http://www.ehow.com/info_7973379_philosophy-approaches-art-classroom.html).

For the music appreciation activities, the educators will also organize innovative classes of singing, movement, rhythm, musical storytelling, and musical games. The activity will include hands-on sessions using various instruments such as guitar and key board, other known musical and rhythm instruments, and instruments made by the children themselves.

You will find more information on the artist/musician of the month in our newsletter.

In line with our educational philosophy, the educators will be introducing a fourth theme each month inspired by the children, OR if they prefer, continue with the month's most popular theme!

Activities will include special activities and theme days (for all groups).

Monthly themes

You will find the weekly themes and activities posted near your child's classroom. We encourage you to take the time to read the calendar and reinforce some of the same themes and lessons at home.

September: Introduction to the daycare environment, my family and I, my community

The first themes the children will be introduced to will be related to the daycare environment, family and emotions. Depending on the age group, the children will "discover" their family, and what each member of the family represents for them. September will also be the month in which we explore the community around us: the police station, the fire station, the post office, the daycare, and the library. We will also enjoy a visit from the Montreal fire departments and the Montreal police department during this month.

Country of the Month: France

Artist: Henri Matisse (1869-1957) Composer: Joseph Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)

Dates to remember:

- CLOSED Labor Day: Monday, September 3rd
- General assembly and parents committee meeting: Tuesday September 18th at 7pm

October: Autumn, apples and trees, Thanksgiving, pumpkins and Halloween

The Fall takes on many shapes and colors and there is no better way to reinforce in-class teachings with outdoor play and explorations. Projects for this month include “bringing the outdoors in” working with leaves, and nature’s precious resources, as well as “exploring” trees and apples from a sensorial perspective. The children will also be encouraged to discuss what they are thankful for, and prepare for Halloween by decorating classroom pumpkins!

Country of the Month: Spain

Artist of the month: Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) Composer of the month: Paco de Lucia (1947- 2014)
Flamenco music

The fall-winter menu will be effective as of this month.

Dates to remember:

- Library outing Grand bibliothèque (Berri metro station): Tuesday, October 2nd
- CLOSED Thanks giving: Monday, October 8th
- Halloween Party: Wednesday, October 31st

November: Canadian forest animals, famous inventions, different means of transportation

The month of November will present the children with the theme of Canadian forest animals. Each group will choose a favorite animal and focus on its habitat, favorite foods and physical traits. We will then be discovering famous inventions, as well as different means of transportations.

This month parents will be receiving their child's first progress report, and meetings with the educators will also be organized late in the month.

Country of the Month: Colombia

Artist: Fernando Botero (1932-) Musician: Joe Arroyo (1955-2011)

Dates to remember:

- Parent- teacher meetings week of November 19th
- Library outing Grand Bibliothèque (Berri metro station): Thursday, November 29th

December: Winter and winter sports, celebration of holidays across the world, preparations for our holiday party

December will lead us into the theme of winter and winter sports, but it will also introduce us to the warmth of friendship and holiday giving. The children will prepare their own holiday ornaments to decorate their classrooms. Music, already a part of the weekly activities, will be an important element for this month.

We will ask parents to join the CSU daycare and nursery in aiding less fortunate families during the holiday season by bringing non-perishable food to be donated to a local charity. There will be boxes placed at the entrances where the items may be placed.

Country of the Month: Russia

Artist: Wassily Kandinsky (1866-1944) Musician: Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)

Dates to Remember:

- Parent Committee meeting: Tuesday, December 4th at 7 pm
- Holiday Party: Friday, December 14th
- CLOSED: Monday December 24th, Tuesday December 25th and Wednesday, December 26th

January: my origins/cultural week; water as an element; animals from the north pole and south pole

What better way to continue talking about the winter cold than to present polar animals, and the concept of water, as well as the interesting shapes and forms it takes on as the temperature changes? We will also be re-introducing a multicultural week this year, during which children can talk about their origins. This theme will also introduce children to geographical concepts and the world atlas.

Country of the Month: United States of America

Artist of the month: Andy Warhol (1928-1987) Music of the month: Jazz music

Dates to remember:

- CLOSED: Tuesday, January 1st and Wednesday, January 2nd

February: Trades and professions, St. Valentine and friendship, dinosaurs and volcanoes

The children will be introduced to different trades and professions through books, images, arts and crafts activities, and discussions. Parents are always welcome at the daycare to talk about their work to the

children.... uniforms and work tools are welcome! We will then discuss the Valentine's Day theme and the meaning of friendship. Two of the most popular themes among the children are dinosaurs and volcanoes, where age appropriate activities will be introduced for each theme.

Country of the Month: Ethiopia

Artist of the month: Agegnehu Engida (1905-1955) Music of the month: Ethiopian- Newwy Debebe

Dates to remember:

- Valentine's Day party: Thursday, February 14th

March: Introduction to spring and the rain; nutrition and food; sugar shack

This month we will discover spring and where the rain comes from as well as how nature benefits from it. Spring will be an ongoing theme for the next 3 months. Particular attention will be given to nutrition and the importance of good eating habits. Children will experiment with different ingredients and discover what varied combinations can create as an introduction to the concepts of chemistry. We will then be exploring the maple tree and its uses through history with particular attention to the sugar shack as a cultural activity.

County of the month: Austria

Artist of the month: Gustav Klimt (1862-1918) Musician of the month: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Dates to remember:

- Parent Committee meeting: Tuesday, March 4th at 7pm
- Sugar shack activity: date tbc

April: the environment and recycling; the planets and stars in our galaxy; arts and crafts easter activities

CSU daycare and nursery will be celebrating Earth Day and embark on an adventure to discover our world through stories and special arts and crafts activities. The children will also be discussing different recycling methods. We will also discuss the importance of taking care of our forests and planet. This theme will then lead us into learning about other planets, galaxies and stars. Finally, the Easter bunny will pay us a visit for a special hunt and the event will be highlighted by arts and craft activities with the children.

Visits to the Grand Bibliothèque library will resume this month.

Country of the Month: the Netherlands

Artist: Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890) Musician: Johan Wagennar (1862-1941)

Dates to remember:

- Easter Egg hunt: Thursday, April 18th
- CLOSED: Friday April 19th & Monday April 22nd

May: Garden and spring growth; insects and butterflies; Mother's Day

Children will be introduced to the garden, and everything that grows in it during spring time. They will plant their own seeds and watch them grow through the weeks to come. They will also be introduced to the wonderful world of insects, where each class will choose the one they feel most identifies their group! A special activity will be organized for Mother's Day with a souvenir made by the children for the special occasion.

This month parents will receive their child's end of year progress report.

Country of the Month: Italy

Artist of the month: Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564) Musician of the month: Domenico Modugno (1928-1994)

Dates to remember:

- Mother's Day activity: Friday, May 10th
- CLOSED: Monday, May 20th (Victoria Day)

The spring-summer menu will be effective as of this month.

June: Sea creatures; Father's Day, la Fête Nationale (cultural activity)

We will begin to explore the summer with the sea and its wonderful creatures. Father's Day activities will take place this month, as will cultural activities related to St. Jean Baptiste.

The warm weather will finally have arrived, and we can once again begin with our summer activity

program for July and August!

Country of the Month: Canada

Artist: Emily Carr (1871-1945) Musician of the month: Leonard Cohen (1934-2016)

Special activities will be organized during this month by each class room for the parents.

Dates to remember:

- Parent Committee meeting: Tuesday, June 4th at 7 pm
 - Father's Day activity: Friday, June 14 (afternoon)
 - Special end of year celebrations and Pre-k graduation: Thursday, June 20th
 - CLOSED St Jean Baptiste: Monday, June 24th
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