

School District #73

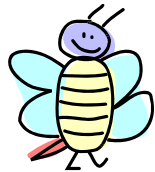


## John Tod Elementary

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## BUMBLEBEES StrongStart BC Centre

*-An Early Childhood/Parent Participation Centre funded by the British Columbia Ministry of Education & a partnership with Make Children First*

Ages 0-6 ~ Free~ 8:30 am ~11:30 am

Monday thru Fridays~ Drop-In Format throughout school year



## FEBRUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER

Dear All,

It seems like we no sooner got over the rush of the Christmas season, and before you know it, Valentine's Day is here! Now before everyone gets *too* excited, please note that at Bumblebees StrongStart BC, we do celebrate special days but in a very low-key and relaxed manner.

When you are very little, the concept of 'Valentines', mailing them, 'being-in-love', loving someone else, are pretty **BIG** concepts to figure out! It really isn't until you are at least 3, that you can developmentally *start* to appreciate someone else's point-of-view or play co-operatively. However, it is important to *continue* to demonstrate sharing behaviour, 'loving' behaviour and to take the time to help your child with words or actions that help them negotiate towards co-operative play.

With that in mind, this month will focus on how much we are loved, how it feels to be loved-- and that this can be demonstrated by actions or our pictures! We are also intertwining the color 'RED', receiving mail and of course...a brand new shape—the heart!

**\*Funded by School District #73 working in partnership with Kamloops Make Children First Initiative**

If you have old envelopes, left-over stickers, old writing paper / water soluble felt markers, children love to 'pretend to write' letters. Believe it or not—this scribbling *IS* the first step to preparing to print. Just let your child go at it, without attempting to 'correct' or 'make the right letters'. Please ask me for further information on learning to print and recognizing letters!

There have been lots of new families joining with us at Bumblebees StrongStart BC with some common questions. One focuses on bringing younger (0-2 yrs) children. As we do two Group Times and are not able to go outside yet, due to poor weather, my recommendation is to bring the younger set, 8:30 am through to 10:30 am. This includes Free Play time with learning activities incorporated, Snack time, and our first Group Time. This gives you time to enjoy the morning without your child becoming over-tired or frustrated. Your child will gradually 'indicate' by behaviour and participation when it is time to extend your stay! If in doubt, do not hesitate to check in with me!



### The Healthy Oatmeal Cookies

*Preheat Oven to 350 Deg. Grease Cookie sheets*

1 cup Brown Sugar + 1Tbsp. Corn Syrup}	Blend well with mixer
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter + $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of shortening}	"
2 eggs	Add & whip until fluffy

Sprinkle over 3 Tbsp. Sour milk, 1 tsp. Baking Soda—let foam up/ Toss into above  
1 tsp. Cinnamon

Then add to bowl: 1  $\frac{1}{3}$  cup flour 2 cups cooking oatmeal (large flake)

***\*now you can add either: 1 cup raisins, 1 cup chocolate chunks,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup pecans***

Blend really well then put large (1  $\frac{1}{2}$ ) spoonfuls\* on sheet. Bake approx. 8-10 minutes.  
Watch carefully!!!! (For smaller, larger quantity, make smaller balls)

Finally, this month, please take advantage of our opportunity to order top notch children's books! When your kids see you happy with books and magazines, reading them and ordering, they want to do the same! You are helping to grow a reader!!

Love, 'Miss Kathy'      xoxoxo

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Initiative***