

NEWS & VIEWS



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Boxes of Fun



You may be a regular visitor to the Family Centre or you may not, but did you know that there are some great resources available for your kids? Besides a wide selection of individual books and toys that you can sign out, there are some themed boxes filled with beautiful books, games, and toys. I'll admit that I hadn't signed any of them out until a few weeks ago but we recently took the 'Ocean'

box home and my children and I were delighted with what we found. Wonderful books with delightful stories, many with a local or West Coast theme, a lovely puzzle, and some great sea animal toys. Additionally there was a sea animal dominoes game, which my kids spent a lot of time playing. There are currently 6 different boxes to choose from. We now have the 'Construction' themed box at home; the fun continues...

Many thanks to **Island Savings** for their generous contributions which has allowed the Family Centre to purchase such great resources for UVIC families.

Joy Knudsen



Family Centre Weekly Programs

Monday – Family Learn and Share	10:00am-12noon
Monday – Homework Club	3:30-5:00pm
Monday – Mom's Time Out	7:00-9:00pm
Wednesday – Early Learning Program	10:00-12noon
Thursday – After School Program	3:30-5:00pm
Friday – Early Learning Program	10:00am-12noon

In addition to weekly programs, the Family Centre is open Mondays 9-2pm and 7-9pm, Tuesdays 9-2pm, Wednesdays 9-2pm, Thursdays 2:30-5:30pm and Fridays 9:30-12:30pm. For more information contact the Family Centre through Facebook or by email: familyc@uvic.ca.



Victoria provides an abundance of things to do during the 2-week spring break, March 12-28. With our mild climate, there are many outdoor activities to do and places to explore. For school age kids, there is a wide range of spring break camps available to sign up for. As well as this, there are various events going on in the city.

Victoria Comic Book Expo March 21-22

Come and see the 1000s of comic books on display. From the hottest books of the day to hard-to-find treasures of the past. Buy, sell and trade comic books, graphic novels and trade paperbacks. Toys, non-sports card and other collectibles as well. Free comics (as long as they last) 3020 Blanshard Street (Comfort Inn and Conference Centre) 11am to 4pm. Free admission. More info: www.victoriacomicbookexpo.ca

Spring Break at Swan Lake March 21-24

12 to 3 p.m. drop-in anytime.

Games, crafts, songs, and hands-on activities; fun for the whole family! Live animals will be featured during the Snake and Birds of Prey events. There will be a hike to Christmas Hill for the Wild about Flowers event, so be sure to wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle. Admission by donation.

Fossil Fair (10- 4) – Saturday and Sunday, March 19 & 20

Marsh Madness (12-3) – Monday, March 21

Super Snakes (12-3) – Tuesday, March 22

Wild about Flowers (12-3) – Wednesday, March 23

Birds of Prey (12-3) – Thursday, March 24

Spring Break Camps

From skate boarding to painting, and Claymation to musical theatre, there are many spring break camps to choose from. Check the following for ways to find out about available camps:

- Saanich Parks and Recreation
<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/0602aaac#/0602aaac/1>
- Childs Play 101. This link contains a very extensive list of camps in Victoria and the Greater Victoria area.
<http://www.childsplay101.com/programs.php?Spring-Break-Camps&activity=1118>
- VIKES sports camps
<http://vikescamps.com>

Easter Egg Hunt at Beckwith Park March 27, 10am-1pm

Bouncy castles, craft station, carnival games, roaming superheros and Star Wars characters, face painting, entertainment, global music with DJ Hinga. Saanich police and fire vehicles on site. Coffee/popcorn station. Egg hunt starts at 11am with 3 age categories. Visit from the Easter Bunny. Raffle baskets and BBQ (\$6 for burger/hot dog/chips/drink or veggie option). Rain or shine. No pre-registration required.

Welcome Miriam!

The Family Centre is thrilled to announce that we have a new Director! Miriam Curtis is currently one of the Practicum Coordinators for the School of Child and Youth Care but will be joining the Family Centre team as our new Director. Miriam has been on the Family Centre Advisory Committee for a number of years. She is very familiar with the Centre and our community - you may have seen her chopping fruit or serving cake at one of our special events! We look forward to having her as part of the team.

Pancake Breakfast

Come and join us for a pancake breakfast



UVic Family Centre
Saturday March 12th
9:00 - 10:30am

A great opportunity to get to know some of your UVic family community and enjoy a delicious breakfast. There will also be a family craft activity.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to give us a call: 250.472.4062

FAMILY CENTRE CLOSURE

Please note that the Family Centre will be closed on Friday 25th March and Monday 28th March for Easter weekend. All usual programs on these days are cancelled.

Mandarin Preschool Story time.

March 3rd, 10:30-11am. Preschoolers with Mandarin-speaking families are invited to a fun and interactive story time in Mandarin. This takes place weekly at the local Nellie McClung library branch (located on the corner of McKenzie and Cedar Hill). 3-5 years.

HOMEWORK CLUB UPDATE

The homework club is a trial program for the older children who attend The Family Centre. It is designed to be a quiet space where students grade 4 and up can come to do their homework. We strive to offer a comfortable and supportive environment where the students can complete their schoolwork with the guidance of volunteers if needed. The UVIC volunteers come from different faculties offering students different expertise with homework questions. As a pilot project we are still working out the kinks and hope to keep improving the program as we go. We would love to hear feedback from parents, as well as their children on how we can better meet their diverse needs.

Carmen Chandler



Programs and Events

Family Learn and Share

On Monday mornings from **10am-12noon** the Family Centre hosts a drop-in program for families to interact and learn from one another. Each week there is a designated focus topic and facilitator.

7th – Public Health Nurse Jane Wismer

14th - Vicki Neilson, Children's Librarian will be with us to do a spring story time

Early Learning Program:

Families are welcome to this drop-in program that runs **Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.** Learning through play is encouraged in an environment that promotes children's inherent love of learning and sense of wonder. Each morning session concludes with a storytime with songs/music as well as an opportunity for outdoor play.

After School Club:

School Aged Kids (Grades 1-6) are invited to the Family Centre's After School Club on **Thursdays from 3:30 - 5:00 pm.** We will be doing a variety of activities each week. These might include outdoor games like soccer, tag, and croquet, as well as puzzles, projects, board games, talent shows and crafts. **Please make sure your kids are dressed for the outdoors.**

Homework Club, Mondays 3:30-5pm

Are you in grade 4 or above? Would you like a quiet place to study and a little bit of help here and there? If so, join us on Mondays. Bring your spelling list, your math homework or the essay that you need to edit. Staff and volunteers will be on hand to support you. Parents please note that you have to complete a registration form prior to your child coming to this program. These are available on our website, Facebook page or at the Family Centre.

Mom's Time Out!

Do you need a 'time-out'? The Family Centre is open on **Monday nights from 7-9pm** for women to get together, have a cup of tea and chat. Feel free to come for half an hour or stay for the whole time. If you don't have children – don't let the name deceive you! You're welcome. (Note: Nursing infants welcome.)

Book Club:

The Family Centre has a book club that meets on **the third Thursday of each month** to discuss a novel chosen by the group. If you enjoy reading and would like to get together with others please come along. To find out more join our Facebook group or send us an email at familyhousingbookclub@gmail.com.

Community Events



Immigration Information Session Cadboro Commons Building, UVIC March 2, 1-3pm

A Canadian immigration lawyer will provide an overview of the immigration programs available and discuss implications of the Express Entry system.

What's Up? Who's Out? Mill Hill Regional Park March 6, 1-2:30

Spring is here, and it's time to head for the hills. Follow a CRD Regional Parks naturalist up Mill Hill looking for early signs of spring along the way. Meet at the information kiosk in the parking lot off Atkins Ave at 1pm.

Ideafest, UVIC, March 7-12

Ideafest is the university's campus-wide research festival, celebrating the ideas of faculty, students and staff from across the university.

Stories on Fern 1831 Fern Street, Victoria March 21, 7:15pm

The Victoria Storytellers Guild welcomes you to hear and tell stories. For people who love to tell stories, for people who love to listen, for people of all ages.

Spring Fling Frances King Park March 24, 11-2

Come and explore the sights, sounds and smells of spring. Join in the celebration with CRD Regional Parks naturalists for exhibits, crafts, activities—fun for the entire family. There will be guided walks at 11:15am and 1pm. Meet at the Francis/King Nature Centre off Mun Rd. All ages.