



May 2009

Issue 140

UVIC Family Centre
39208-2375 Lam Circle
P.O. Box 1700 STN CSC
Victoria, BC V8W 2Y2

Phone: 472-4062

Fax: 472-4669

E-Mail: familyc@uvic.ca

Check out our complete
listing of programs at:
web.uvic.ca/family-centre/

DIRECTOR

ELIZABETH QUONG

STAFF

DANA SIBLEY

**FACULTY
COORDINATOR**

LAURENE SHEILDS

NEWSLETTER

EMMA CHALIFOUR

Family Centre Hours

**Tuesdays
9am-5pm**

Playgroup
10:00am-12pm
After School Club
3:20pm-4:50pm

**Wednesdays
10am-2pm**

Playgroup
10:00-12pm

**Thursdays
1pm-3pm**

Culture Club
1pm-3pm

Fridays

Parent-led Playgroup
10-12pm

Kate, the lawn tractor lady

Kristine Mannion



I have spent the last few weeks watching spring blossom and the grass grow - anticipating the return of Kate, the lawn tractor lady, to Family Housing. It is not that I particularly care about the length of grass that surrounds me, or that I was even getting concerned about the number of dandelions beginning to grow - it is just that Kate and my son, Connor, developed a special bond last year, and I was anxious to see if that bond still existed. We moved here last July, and Kate and her Monday routine of mowing the grass quickly became one of the highlights of my little

boy's week. As soon as he would hear the sound of her lawn tractor, he would rush to the window, ready to wave and yell "Hi Kate!" His attempts at creating friendship were always rewarded with smiles and waves, and often with Kate even taking the time to get off the tractor to let him get closer to it. Often we would see Kate on our walks on campus and she would always stop, smile, and talk with Connor - sometimes sharing her muffin with him, or showing him the leaf blower attachment to her special lawn tractor. They developed quite the friendship and I enjoyed getting to know her too. Connor's relationship with her was one of the first ways he and I really began to become attached to this place.

And so - I've been watching and waiting these last many weeks, to see when and if Kate would begin her schedule of mowing again, and if Connor would remember. Then last week it happened - we heard that strangely familiar sound...Connor knew immediately what it was, and ran to the window. Only this time it wasn't Kate driving the lawn tractor - it was a man and he didn't know to look in the direction of our window for the little boy who was sure to be there waving and smiling madly. Connor's attempts at communication went unnoticed. I began to wonder if Kate was still working for the university after the long winter. I didn't have to wonder long though, because the next day we saw her! On a walk near the SUB - there she was! Connor remembered her right away, and she remembered him. It was a lovely reunion. I shared our disappointment that we hadn't seen her the day before, Kate said that seeing Connor and the other children in Family Housing was always a highlight of her work week, however, she is glad to have been transferred to the horticulture section. Now she will be doing more gardening, and spending less time sitting on those noisy machines. I can't say I blame her! Kate is looking forward to doing the gardening in the Family Housing area, and hoping that she can reconnect with all of her young friends here. I know Connor will be so happy to see her.

Yesterday was lawn mowing day - again we heard the familiar sound of the tractor and Connor ran to the window to wave madly - and went unnoticed. Then we heard the lawn tractor outside our front door - and this time, when we opened to door to see, the lawn tractor man (we have yet to learn his name) saw Connor, smiled and waved....Connor was so happy to be able to wave back! And I was happy that this is the beginning of another special friendship for my little boy who loves to meet the people who drive the lawn tractors. I am grateful that there are so many great people on staff at UVIC who always seem to take that little bit of extra time and effort to smile, wave, and say hello to a little boy - for whom it just means so much. Thank you to you all!



Connor with his friend Kate, the lawn tractor Lady

Emma Chalifour

Let Us Hear From You

No Foolin' ...

At 7:30am on Friday April 3rd the sun shone, a sight many were relieved to see given the torrential downpour of the day before. Ethan (aged 3) dove out of bed declaring that "This is the day I get to have a hot-dog for breakfast," an event he had been anticipating ever since he received that little flyer and understood what it was about. UVic student families and community supporters gathered by the Family Centre to celebrate the 6th Annual No Foolin' event. In addition to hot-dogs and ice-cream, there was an abundance of more 'typical' breakfast fare such as muffins, bagels, fruit, tea and coffee. People were also invited to sample traditional foods prepared by members of the Culture Club.



Children had their faces painted, received a balloon animal of their choosing or had a henna tattoo done. The fire

truck no sooner turned the corner than a line-up formed of children eager to take their turn sitting inside. Children also had the opportunity to sit in a police car and turn on the flashing lights! If this was not enough they were invited to get creative and make a party hat at the crafts table - all first thing in the morning! There was an entertainment tent which included music, dancing and a magician. A great time was had by all!

The event could not have been the success that it was without the generous support of many. Firstly we would like to thank the volunteers who set-up, cleaned-up, cooked, served, face-painted, balloon-twisted and so much more! We would also like to express our gratitude to *Sannich Fire Department; Saanich Police, Peppers Foods, Thrifty Foods, Starbucks, The Root Cellar, Dairyland, Pepsi, Zap, For Good Measure, The Cadboro Bay Book Company, UVic Theatre Department, UVic Athletics and Recreation, Human Social Development Dean's office, Graduate Student Society and UVic Corporate Relations/Sponsorship Marketing*. Thank you everyone and we look forward to next year!



The UVic Family Centre would like to hear how we are doing in working with student families at UVic. It is important to have feedback. Some of you will have filled out a similar survey last year and we ask that you give us a bit of time to answer the questions this year. There are 2 surveys on the link and most of you will be answering the "Participant Survey". Doing these surveys on a regular basis will help paint a continuing picture of what does happen at the Family Centre.

<http://e-evaluation.frp.ca/pub/e/index.php?ORG=257>

Who to call...

Housing Office	721-8395
Family Centre	472-4062
Maintenance Line	721-8650
Maintenance (Emergency)	721-8658
Health Services	721-8492
Campus Security	721-7599

Contributions for the newsletter can be emailed to fenews@uvic.ca

Recipes; book reviews; parenting tips; reflections ... all gratefully received!





Moss st Market

Locally made crafts, and local produce

Victoria BC
Canada
(250) 361-1747

Are you looking for somewhere to buy locally grown produce and peruse crafts? Or perhaps you would like to savour some ethnic foods whilst listening to live music? If so, the Moss Street Market is just the place for you! The Moss St Market runs from May through to September, 10am - 2pm rain or shine! There is also a children's tent. For more information check out their website mossstreetmarket.com.

维多利亚大学家庭中心是为所有住校和非住校的学生家庭服务的。这里为0岁至15岁的小孩提供一些便利的活动（请参考每月简报上的日程表），同时也提供可以外借的图书与玩具，衣物交换，和一些家长们可以参加的活动。这是一个方便学生家庭交流，学习，娱乐的好去处，我们真诚期待您随时踊跃参与。

FAREWELL! FAREWELL!

Emma Chalifour

Spring is a bitter sweet season at the Family Centre. It is wonderful to see the sun finally appear after the grey of winter, and yet it is also a season of farewells. We must say goodbye to three wonderful practicum students - Janie, Kristy and Lia. We also have to say farewell to Zeenan and Maii who volunteered at the Culture Club throughout their degree and are now graduating. In addition, our workstudy students Maii and Tina have completed their season at the Family Centre. We thank all of them for their hard work and wish them the best in their future endeavours.

It must also say goodbye to many families who have become integral to life at the Family Centre. Again we wish them all the best in the next season of their lives. We would love to hear how life unfolds for you and would like to encourage families to send email updates if possible (news can be sent to familyc@uvic.ca).



Mother's Day

Emma Chalifour

This year Mother's Day will be celebrated on May 10th, the second Sunday of May. In Canada this day is set aside to honour our mothers, often involving cooking special food, presenting gifts or having special activities planned.

In North America the origin of the day is in part related to the American civil war of the 1800's. Julia Ward, an American mother during the war, was distraught by the loss of so many "sons". In 1870 she called on mothers to declare an international mother's day for peace.

In Victoria restaurants offer special Mother's Day menus. There are also numerous events going on in and around Victoria to honour the day, such as a free concert in Play-Fair park, the Mother's Day Garden Tour (www.victoriagardentour.com) or a special programme at Butchart Gardens. Have fun!

HEALTHY CHILDREN - HEALTHY PLANET

A Discussion Circle

Facilitated by the Interfaith Chaplaincy

"discussion circles provide an enjoyable, supportive setting in which to examine personal values and habits, engage in stimulating discussion, and make personal changes if desired"

Purpose:

- To understand how the pervasive effects of advertising, media, and our consumer culture can influence a child's view of the world.
 - To discover ways to create meaningful family times and healthful environments for children.
 - To explore ways to develop a child's connection to nature, and to foster creativity.
- To have some great conversation!

**Come out to the first meeting
to learn more and sign up!**

**WEDNESDAY MAY 13TH
7:00p.m @ the FAMILY CENTRE**

We have decided to have a Family Centre team for the World Partnership Walk this year and we would love you to join us. It will be the 25th annual World Partnership Walk and we'd like to invite you to join our team. Simply go to <https://www.akfcnetcommunity.ca> to register. Our team name is "Uvic Family Centre".

The walk is Canada's largest annual event dedicated to increasing awareness and raising funds to fight global poverty. By joining our team you will have a lasting impact on the quality of life in impoverished communities in Asia and Africa.

100% of the money raised goes to highly-effective programs to improve health care and education, enhance rural livelihoods and strengthen community-based organizations in some of the poorest parts of Asia and Africa.

The Walk is an initiative of Aga Khan Foundation Canada (AKFC) and its national network of volunteers, which supports programs in health, education and rural development, as well supporting community-based organizations in Asia and Africa.

Learn more at

www.worldpartnershipwalk.com.

Please join us!

Dana Sibley

Programs and Events

A great way to get connected!



Playgroups:

On Tuesday and Wednesday mornings the Family Centre hosts fun and energetic playgroups. Tuesday mornings from 10:00-12 features a popular music and movement program with Kathleen. Wednesday mornings from 10:00-12 are more of a crafts time, relaxed with toys, games, and friends for the kids to play with. On Friday mornings 10-12noon, the Family Centre is open for a parent-led playgroup.

After School Club:

Tuesdays from 3:20 – 4:50pm. Every week we will do something different. Sometimes we cook, or do crafts, or learn history. We also play sports or get help for our homework. Come meet some friends and get to know other people your age while having a great time. We are always looking for new ideas for the After School Club so if any adults or older teens have a talent or expertise they would like to share with this group please Call or e-mail Dana at (250) 472- 4062 or familyc@uvic.ca

May 5 - Mothers Day Crafts

May 12 - Cinco de Mayo

May 19th - Photo Scavenger Hunt

May 26th - Paper Aeroplanes

Culture Club Schedule

The Culture Club welcomes members from diverse cultural backgrounds and meets on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:00. There may be some time schedule changes at a later stage to accommodate more participants. Its purpose is to support international and new Canadian student families. A variety of activities are planned for May including cooking, discussion groups and information sessions. Please do not hesitate to contact the Family Centre with your ideas for Culture Club.

May 7th - Mother's Day Celebration: Discussion and Surprises.

May 14th - Craft: Making Crepe Paper Flowers.

May 21st - Cooking: Learn to make yummy Mango Mousse.

May 28th - Learning from each other: a group member's topic.

Community Events



Nellie McClung Open House: Saturday 9th May Join your neighbours, CEO Barry Holmes and Nellie McClung's Joyce Josephson and staff at their Spring Open House. There will be cakes and goodies, prize draws, story time, scavenger hunt and video game presentations. All ages welcome. Nellie McClung Library 2:00-4:00pm www.gvpl.ca

Mother's Day Concert: Sunday 10th May Concert features the Reynolds High School Orchestra playing favourites. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy a free open air concert. Playfair Park 2:30-4:30pm. FREE.

27th Annual Victoria Mother's Day Garden Tour: Saturday May 9th & Sunday May 10th. An event highly anticipated by gardening enthusiasts and "Mom Celebrants" everywhere. The 2-day, self-guided tour takes participants through 10 of Victoria's most beautiful private gardens. Participants can enjoy the creativity of the gardens, while also enjoying the musical talents of the faculty and students of the Victoria Conservatory of Music, who will be playing at three of the gardens. For more information go to www.victoriagardentour.com

"Bring on the Birds" : May 16th-23rd. Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary. A community fundraising event to improve bird habitat. Activities every day, including a silent auction and party. Check out the website for more details swanlake.bc.ca or phone Margaret Lidkea at 250-479-0211.

"Treasure and Tales" : Saturday May 23rd 10:30-11:30 Equimalt Public Library. Pirate stories, games and crafts. For 6-12 year olds. www.gvpl.ca

VIMBA Kids Mega Sale: Saturday May 23rd 9:30am-12:30pm. If you need clothes, books, toys or baby equipment this is the place to check out. You will need cash, a large bag and should arrive close to 9:30! Pearkes Recreation Centre 3100 Tillicum Road.

Victoria's "Tots & Tykes" Challenge: Sunday May 31st at Beacon Hill Park (Cameron Bandshell). Walk the Walk. Change the World. WorldPartnershipWalk.com.

Summer Reading Booksale: Sunday May 31st 9:00am - 3:00pm. Nellie McClung Public Library. Free Admission. All proceeds support Library programs and services.

Kids' Humongous Garage Sale: Sunday May 31st 9am-12pm. Gordon Head Recreation Centre. A great place to pick up clothes, books, games, toys, sports equipment...or if you are looking to sell some stuff why not register as a seller? Contact Gordon Head Recreation Centre for more information.