

## Nursery School

**Long-standing history and reputation** --- Nursery School has existed since 1969.

### Rationale:

Learn and practice skills to **develop and grow socially, mentally, physically, and emotionally.**

Aid in a **successful transition** to “big school.”

Build on pre-schoolers **natural exuberance** and **eagerness to learn.**



### Impacts:

- Parents have rated aspects of the program as ‘excellent.’ Some of the numerous positive comments from parents have been: "She comes home and can't wait to tell us all about it;" "He is not as shy as he used to be and enjoys crafts and printing more;" "She is more social and has taken an interest in crafts, coloring and sharing;" "Excellent care. Very professional. Hear great things everyday;" "She just loves going!"
- 6,000 graduates.
- Approximately 50% of students entering grade primary in the Glace Bay area have attended *Nursery School*.
- Provides children with a **better chance to succeed in school.**
- **Promotes socialization** with children from a **variety of backgrounds and abilities.**

## Processes:

- Each class is offered **two days a week**, for **two hours per day**.
- Runs **October to May** at two time slots (9-11 a.m. or 1-3 p.m.)
- 6-8 classes per year at two sites (*Passchendale House* and *Town House*)
- **12 children per class** are exposed to a foundation of learning
- Staffing includes volunteer teachers, under the direction of qualified Early Childhood Educators. Volunteers are an important component contributing approximately \$25,000 in-kind annually.
- Themed activity, positive social interaction, sharing and cooperation, encouragement, and role modeling are key.
- **Nutritious snacks** and encouragement to try new foods promotes healthy eating.
- **Outings** and **guest speakers** expose and **connect children to their community**.
- **Newsletters** and a **Facebook group** help communicate with parents. Parents are invited to Parent Committee Meetings.
- Children are **evaluated twice a year** in Progress Reports.
- **Fees range** (from approx. \$200 to \$500 per year) depending on family income.
- **Graduations held in May** are an important family event.

## Strategic Innovations:

*Citizens Service League* Board of Directors has **approved a strategic plan** to guide their work over the next number of years.

Actions from the strategic plan that fall under the Nursery School Program would be:

- ▶ Hold **Family Event Days**
- ▶ **Assess demand** for Nursery school
- ▶ Increase variety of **community outings** and **guest speakers**
- ▶ Incorporate **collaborative peer learning centers** to help apply concepts taught
- ▶ Enhance learning opportunities and involvement of current volunteers
- ▶ Heighten activities to **enhance school readiness**
- ▶ Increase **use of Passchendale House**
- ▶ Continue to **improve marketing**

