

Much to do for children

1983

SEPT 11, 1983

Artspace for Children is ready to go. The pilot project for the arts classes offered in music, pottery, dance, art and drama is set to register children on September 17. Classes will begin on September 19 for the first of the five six-week sessions.

The instructors for the twenty-five classes offered in the first session are trained and experienced in the arts and in teaching. Anne Russo, coordinator of the Artspace for Children, stated in a recent interview that, "we have twelve instructors with planned programs for this first session and other instructors will join us in the following sessions."

Anne has taught elementary school in Fort St John and has had a wide range of experience in dance, drama and the fine arts. Six additional assistants have helped to create the Artspace Children program.

Artspace for Children is based on the idea that arts are an integral part of a child's learning experience and that every child deserves the opportunity to express and develop their natural creative abilities. Anne stated, "the registration fees of \$10 for each six-week session has been kept to a minimum to allow as many children as possible to attend."

The emphasis of Artspace for Children is on the personal experience and development within each child. Anne stated, "the Artspace for Children program is designed to expand the base of interest in arts instruction in the North Peace." She went on to say that, "once a wide

range of children have been introduced to arts activities, many may further their experience with more formal training."

The Artspace for Children program grew from the community requests for arts opportunities for children. "The ever-increasing pressure on teachers within the schools to cover additional curriculum leaves less and less time for as much arts experience as children should have in the educational process," Anne claimed when asked why the program was initiated. Also, the success of Happy Feet last year indicated community support for creative opportunities for children.

Happy Feet, a preschool creative movement program, expanded from 16 children in 2 classes to 60 children in 4 classes.

The preschool classes offered in Session 1 are

Piano Play (Tuesday 2 pm), Sing a Song (Tuesday 1:15 pm), Happy Feet (Wednesday 1:15 pm, 2 pm or Friday 9:15 am, 10 am), Music Makers (Friday 11:30 am 11:45 am), Arts Discovery which is an integrated program of Music, Art and Drama (Wednesday 10 am or Thursday 1 pm) and Just 2's which is a class of art and music designed especially for 2-year-olds.

Classes for older children include: four Dance Discovery Classes for 5-6 years olds (Tuesday 4:45 pm), 7-8 year-olds (Thursday 4:45 pm), 9-10 year-olds (Tuesday 5:30 pm) and 12-13 year-olds (Thursday 5:30 pm); Irish Dancing for beginners ages 8 and up (Monday and Wednesday 3:30 pm) and for intermediates who have taken at least one year of Irish Dancing (Monday and Wednesday 4:30 pm).

Drawing and Painting is offered for 5-7 year-olds (Tuesday 3:30 pm) and for

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Artspace

response

Tremendous

The Reflector
SEPT 21, 1983

On September 17, the first registration for Artspace for Children was held. Newly created, it provides the children of the area with a multi-disciplinary arts program.

In short order, the 25 classes offered were filled with 237 children. Through the classes, they have the opportunity to explore and develop their creative talents in various art forms.

Registration for Session 2 of the program will begin October 22. Children who were registered on September 17 but could not be placed in the classes (due to full registration) will be given priority placement in Session 2.

Brochures outlining Session 2 classes will be available as the Artspace opens in the near future. Public notice will be given when they are completed.

Co-ordinates of Artspace for Children are working to include such classes as printmaking for Christmas, voice as well as instrument music instruction, spinning and weaving, and lessons for bagpipes in the forthcoming sessions.

Much to do

Continued from page eight 11-13 year-olds (Wednesday 3:30 pm). Animal and cartoon character line drawing is offered to 5-8 year-olds (Wednesday 4:30 pm).

An Introductory Pottery course will be offered to 11-13 year-olds (Thursday 4-6 pm) in Session I and repeated for 9-10 year-olds in Session II. Students who complete the Introductory classes will be able to do further pottery courses in the following sessions.

The word "drama" originally comes from the Greek word meaning "doing." Therefore, the drama classes are called "Drama is Doing." They are offered to 5-7 year-olds

(Saturday 12 noon), 8-10 year-olds (Saturday 11 am) and 11-13 year-olds (Thursday 7 pm).

Future sessions of Artspace for Children will include music, printmaking, fabric art, beginner bagpipes, paper art for Christmas and more.

The Artspace for Children has been made possible through the cooperation of the Fort St John Community Arts Council, School District No. 60 and Tucker Enterprises, and the financial assistance of Exploration Canada Council, Tony Atkins and Stage North.

Artspace for Children brochures including the Session I timetable will be available this Saturday at the Northern Lights College registration booth in the Totem Mall. Registration for Artspace for Children will take place on Saturday, September 17 at the Artspace from 10 am to 4 pm. Instructors will be available at the Artspace on registration day to discuss course content. For further information phone 785-1983.



Session II Classes in Preparation

by Sue Killen

With November just around the corner, the coordinators of Artspace For Children are busy preparing for Session II classes.

As well as continuing the very popular programs from the first session, they will be offering 5 new classes. These will be: 1) Guitar (11-13 year olds); 2) Dramatic

and Choral Speech (7-11 year olds); 3) Beginner Piano (6-8 year olds); 4) Scottish Country Dancing (8 and up); 5) Christmas Crafts (11-13 year olds).

As mentioned in a previous article, placement priority will be given to those who registered for Session I, but could not be placed.

Those who would like to register for Session II

may do so this week by phoning the Artspace at 785-1983, or by visiting the Artspace in person on Saturday, October 29.

ARTSPACE FOR CHILDREN

Session II of Artspace for Children began this week with 287 registrants. New classes of Paper Art for Christmas and Guitar are very popular. Session III brochures will be available prior to Christmas with registration by phone the first week in January. Session III classes will begin the second week in January.

1983
OCTOBER

Art Space For Children

an exciting program of classes for children
2 yrs to 13 yrs.
in Fort St. John

For Further Information:
THE ARTSPACE 785-1983

Nov 14/83
ARTS REVIEW

Artspace seeking funds

Sue Popesku and Anne Russo attended the October 5th meeting of the Fort St. John Parks and Recreation Commission to talk about the Artspace and its activities and community services, and the Artspace for Children Program. Sue made a request for financial assistance to continue the work of the Artspace. The Commission agreed to write a letter of support and endorsement recognizing the value of the Artspace as a part of leisure activities in Fort St. John and to consider recommendations to City Council for more concrete support.

Following a discussion regarding the campsite proposal in Centennial

Park, the Commission decided to send a letter to City Council to go on record as not endorsing the use of public park land for a campsite. The 1983 and 1984 Recreations Budgets were reviewed with the Recreation Director.

The November meeting of the Commission was attended by Don Bradwell and Jim Frey who presented an update on the BC Winter Games. In his report Steve Scott, Recreation Director; indicated that facilities are being upgraded for the Winter Games. He also announced the pre-school Recreation Leaders' Workshop to be held on November 19 and 20 at Northern Lights College.

Brian Francombe reported on the Peace River-Liard Regional District Advisory Recreation Commission meeting held on October 29 in Dawson Creek, at which a provisional budget was recommended and each

Commissioner gave a report.

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:30 pm, City Hall. Meetings are open to the public.

Nov 16, 1983





