



Nature Education Coordinator In a town called Knowlesville

By Jennie Savoie

I received the chance to be a Nature Coordinator in a town called Knowlesville. Having worked at other day cares and summer camps, and having grown up in a rural community, I knew the importance and the power of being outdoors, in nature. This is why the KAN Centre's Outdoor Day Camps won me over.

After two weeks of preparations, meetings and organizing we had the first Buttercup Camp for children aged 2-6. It was offered every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9am to 3pm. I learned a lot from this camp. I learned that children are very compassionate and are only held back by their mentors. Their fears are simply reflections of what they have been taught. Several times throughout this camp I have seen children absolutely shocked that they were allowed to cut vege-

tables or climb tall trees. Very often I saw children trip and fall and simply get back up as if nothing happened. I believe this is thanks to our role as active observers and not leaders. Also, by having different age groups together children naturally teach and help each other. This way the younger children quickly learn how to do things by observing and imitating. The vision for this day camp was for children to understand the process of work and to let them learn on their own. We achieved this through letting the children prepare the snacks, planting watering and weeding the gardening. In this same train of thought, we encourage children to do things themselves. When a child does not want to participate in an activity, we let them. We do not force anyone to do anything they do not want to. The presence of many adults serving as

role models, creates plentiful opportunities for learning while offering security and reassurance.

In comparison to other daycares, having children do meaningful work, giving them responsibilities and having them take part in all the day's work helps them recognize that there is a start and a finish to everything. I find the children are more patient and independent. The children are able to keep themselves busy playing in the woods and with each other without guidance. Children are great examples of resilience.



Upcoming July Activities at the KAN Centre

AUGUST 2010

**KAN Centre
Activities/
Workshop**

**Please tell us
your ideas, and
communicate
your interest in
regards of the
upcoming
events...**

**Beginners
Quilting
Workshop**

**Cooking &
Nutrition Class**

Theatre Group

**Contact us:
245-3663
110 Simms rd
Knowlesville**

knowlesvillenature.ca

Intuitive Pottery for Adults and Elders with Yolande Clark

Cost- \$45 for adults and \$25 for 60+

July 6th and 13th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

This two-part class will give participants an opportunity to make and glaze approximately 2-3 vessels that will be suitable for daily use, non-toxic and food-safe. On day one, students will explore basic hand-building techniques that make up the foundation of working in clay, and will be guided through the process of making functional vessels with a personal touch. On day two, students will glaze their work, and have a chance to try their hands at throwing clay on the electric wheel.

For more information on Yolande's life and work, please visit

www.burntnormal.blogspot.com

Forest Day Camp

Every Tuesday and Wednesday of July from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Our outdoor program strives to elicit in each child a strong sense of the imagination, empowerment, increased mobility & motor skills, respect for self and for others, healthy living, and environmental responsibility. This is achieved by delivering an almost exclusively outdoor-based program where children use the environment and objects found in nature to explore the world. Our traditional Mongolian yurt makes a beautiful outdoor space and is located beside the small organic garden planted with an array of vegetables, herbs and edible flowers for the enjoyment and use of the children.

Babysitting Course Certification with Émilie LePage

St. John Ambulance Saint-Jean

Cost- \$25 for adults and \$25 for 60+

July 23rd from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Are you 12yrs old or more and babysitting? You might want to consider taking this certification where you will learn:

- How to become a safe babysitter
- How to advertise safely
- How to take care of an infant and child
- Know what to do in case of an emergency

Please confirm your presence as the instructor needs a minimum of 8 participants Or, come July 16th (1-2 pm) for an hour of basic first-aid for kids aged 6-12 on subject such as choking, unconsciousness, burns, head injuries, etc.



Legends and Stories Under the stars with Cécile Martel Robitaille

Cost- Free

July 30th from 7pm until 10 pm

This end of July and beginning of August will bring us some magnificent celestial events. Bring your supper and stories around a fire pit. We'll play some music for the sunset and will follow with mythology stories of stars and constellations in a traditional Mongolian Yurt. Please bring your legends and stories too! Please park on Simms road and follow the solar light path towards the Yurt and gardens.