



LITTLE LIONS WALDORF
Daycare & Kindergarten



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Little Lions Waldorf Daycare & Kindergarten

Locations (www.littlelionswaldorf.ca)

Main Office – Clarke Street Site

211 Clarke Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7A 2M1
Phone: (807) 344-2283
Fax: (807) 344-4252
E-Mail: llwaldorf@tbaytel.net

McKellar Park School Site

301 Archibald Street N.
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 3Y3
Phone: (807) 474-3017
Fax: (807) 474-3017

Agnew H. Johnston School Site

145 Churchill Drive
Thunder Bay, ON P7C 1V6
Phone: (807) 577-4406

McKenzie School Site

1625 Lakeshore Drive
Shuniah, ON P7A 0T2
Phone: (807) 683-5624
Fax: (807) 683-5642

Claude E. Garton School Site

414 Grenville Avenue
Thunder Bay, ON P7A 1X9
Phone: (807) 683-9497
Fax: (807) 683-6964

St. Paul School Site

539 Grenville Avenue
Thunder Bay, ON P7A 2C3
Phone: (807) 343-0506
Fax: (807) 343-0508

Hyde Park School Site

2040 Walsh Street E.
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 4W2
Phone: (807) 622-5833
Fax: (807) 622-5839

St. Pius X School Site

140 Clarkson Street S.
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 4W8
Phone: (807) 683-9324
Fax: (807) 683-9324

June Steeve-Lendrum Family Resource Centre (JSL Site)

283 Pearl Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1E5
Phone: (807) 345-0311 Ext. 224
Fax: (807) 345-0311 Ext. 228

Valley Central School Site

RR #6, 563 Candy Mountain Drive
Slate River, ON P7J 0B8
Phone: (807) 577-4343
Fax: (807) 577-4343

Kakabeka Falls School Site

1 Porter Street
Kakabeka Falls, ON P0T 1W0
Phone: (807) 476-0427
Fax: (807) 476-0427

Table of Contents

Our Board Members	4
Message from the Chief Executive Officer	5
Clarke Street Site	6
Claude E. Garton School Site	8
Hyde Park School Site	10
June Steeve-Lendrum Family Resource Centre	12
McKellar Park School Site	14
McKenzie School Site	16
St. Paul School Site	18
Valley Central Public School Site	20
Kakabeka Falls School Site	21
Agnew H. Johnston School Site	22
St. Pius X School Site	23
First Nations Teachings: Bring Everyone Together	24
EMS Folders/Watch for Bikes	26
Weed Out Hate Project	27
Big Boreal Adventure	28
Waldorf Training	29

Meet Our Board Members



Lindsay Gaw-Martin
President



June Gaw
Treasurer



Laurie Mallon
Secretary



Stacey Landers-Ray
Ex-Officio



Sandra Stewart
Director



Nicolas Bigaignon
Director

Message from the Chief Executive Officer

Reflecting on 2016 was such a pleasure. It was a year filled with hopeful new beginnings of projects and continued success in many other areas. You will read about many of these successes in this annual report following the pages on the individual centres. Most notable among those were:

- Dogsledding and Snowshoeing event
- Continued participation in the Healthy Kids Community Challenge - Water Does Wonders as well as Run, Jump, Play
- Continued participation in the Walkability Committee - we supported a summer cycling event and the Watch for Bikes campaign
- Partnership with Superior North: we created an EMS folder
- Roots of Empathy
- Big Boreal Adventure - one new historical book and one new nature book were created and distributed in 2016
- Supported the creation of a new business: Northern Sunrise Home Child Care
- Continued to offer our Waldorf training for 10 participants
- Anthroposophy Thunder Bay, which meets at our Clarke Street location under the direction of Arlene Thorne, was established and has grown in size. It offers an opportunity for people to learn about the principles that underly Waldorf Education.
- A partnership with the Finlandia Club offers new opportunities for combined projects and fundraising to support them.

There was one sad event during this year. After almost 10 years, the doors on our Whitefish School site closed permanently. We had a good experience at Whitefish, with some years of high enrolment and a successful after school program in a beautiful environment which we shared with the Rural Family Resource Centre. Dwindling enrolment in recent years, put together with our inability to find qualified staff in the rural area, made it impossible for us to continue as a licensed centre. Even though the centre is no longer in operation, Little Lions will continue to support the rural residents through our support of the Hymers Fair and our continued involvement with their Children's Playground. As demographics change, Little Lions would definitely consider re-opening at some future time.

Little Lions continues to operate with the high ideals of Waldorf Education and deep commitment to the community of Thunder Bay. Under the direction of our tireless board members, the vision has been strengthened and supported. Little Lions will continue to grow and evolve following the path that has been laid down through the wisdom of our board members who envision a Thunder Bay that is a strong, vibrant community where love and wonder are the basis of learning and living. It was a pleasure to have been a part of this in 2016. I give heartfelt thanks to all of you who contributed to this being a wonderful year!

*Respectfully Submitted by
Marilyn Grudniski*

Little Lions Waldorf Daycare & Kindergarten

Clarke Street Site

Winter

The year started out with the children enjoying the snow and winter weather. They worked hard to shovel pathways and make creations out of snow. Sliding down our small hill was a favourite activity as well as taking turns to pull each other through the yard on the sleds. We filled the bird feeders weekly outside, indoors the children made pine cone bird feeders throughout the whole winter season. It's a fun and messy sensory experience. We enjoyed watching the birds, squirrels and chipmunks eat away through the cold winter months. We sang songs of snow and winter. The Giant and the Gnome Story was a favourite in the preschool and toddler rooms. The preschool and toddlers went on many sledding adventures at the hill at the end of Clarke Street. The infants also enjoyed many sled adventures through the snow.



Spring

Spring showers brought a lot of water play, especially puddle jumping! Indoors the children and educators started seedlings of all types for our gardens, each room tended to their plants and transplanted them outside. By being a part of the process the children developed a reverence for the plants that they cared for throughout the summer. Songs of spring and rain and Mayday songs lived within the centre. Stories of bunnies were enjoyed in all the programs. We received funding for a playground renovation from the DSSAB. Our vision of a playground renovation was set into motion! It was inspired by an outdoor leadership conference that Melanie and Courtney attended in the summer of 2015 in Nebraska. For more information, visit <https://natureexplore.org/>



Summer

Our playground renovation became a reality! Thanks to family volunteers, our handyman volunteer Ed Nelson, and the educators and children at Clarke. It was a process that lasted the whole summer and partly into the autumn. The children were thrilled to be part of the transformation. They filled buckets and wheelbarrows with soil and sand for weeks to fill the gardens and sandboxes. The preschool children created a sunflower and pea house



structure that they tended to all summer. Throughout the summer the children and educators tended to the gardens and by the end we were all enjoying the fruits of our labour. We ate strawberries, peas, peppermint leaves, kale, celery and beans. Kevin (our wonderful cook) was able to harvest from the herbs that grew and use them for cooking on a regular basis. Part of the vision of the playground was to soften it up, this was done by laying sod in more areas and by creating areas with cushions for the children. Both have made a great difference in the enjoyment of the outdoor space for the children.

Autumn



The Nursery Rhymes from the Enchanted Garden and the Lantern Walk songs were heard all through October. We had a great turn out for the Enchanted Garden and were able to hold it both inside and outside. We were lucky to have 5 children volunteers, some who previously attended the daycare and others family members. They did a fantastic job slipping into the role of their characters! For this year's Lantern Walk we made a new kind of lantern.

The children painted yellow and then red on large painting paper and beautiful lanterns were created out of these. Outside we laid our gardens to rest and prepared them for the winter. The children collected flowers and leaves and pressed them to be used later throughout the year for artwork as well as for colouring play dough. The children took full part in pulling out the plants, bringing them to the compost and turning over the garden.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Melanie Kaltenbach-Hofmann*

Clarke Street Site ⁷

Little Lions Waldorf Daycare & Kindergarten

Claude E. Garton School Site

2016 brought many changes to Claude Garton. We said good-bye to many of our staff and also welcomed new staff to the team.

In the beginning of 2016 our staff enjoyed having the opportunity to be a part of Aboriginal Competency Training in partnership with The City of Thunder Bay. This training consisted of watching "Walk a Mile", a documentary that was filmed right here in Thunder Bay. We had conversations regarding the residential schools, racism and stereotypes that exist in our city. As part of this training staff from our site had the opportunity to visit the Indigenous Head Start program to see how we could incorporate more of the aboriginal culture within our centre. Staff had the opportunity to observe, ask questions, learn some cultural stories and take part in a morning smudging ceremony.

Children enjoyed spending time in February and March exploring in the forest and creating branch houses. This allowed them opportunities to create campfires and re-enact their favourite fairy tales.

In April the toddler program enjoyed participating in our Annual Toddler Easter Egg Hunt. The children excitedly searched the yard in search of special treasures.



May 1st is always a special time at Little Lions. To prepare for the coming of warm weather and to celebrate the spring children and staff joined in then dancing and singing around the May Pole and with the branches of snowy May. We also enjoyed delicious cupcakes that Filomena made for us all.

In June our preschool program spent a morning in the forest and participated in the Annual Preschool Fairy Festival. The time was spent listening to a fairy story, painting, and making fairy dust. We also went for a walk to search for the fairies and gnomes and had a snack in the forest. The children were mesmerized to see the fairy homes and the fairies in the trees. June also brought the gathering of our families and friends at the annual Family BBQ at Tapiola, where we all shared in delicious salads and watermelon and helped prepare the garden for the summer growing season.



Our summer at Claude Garton was very adventurous. Many programs took the opportunity to explore the community with walks to Boulevard and Centennial Park for picnics and to see the animals.

We also enjoyed the opportunity to go to Prince Arthur's Landing to spend time walking around Lake Superior and splashing in the splash pad, followed by a wonderful picnic lunch.

One of the most exciting events of the summer was when the firefighters came to visit us with their big firetruck. They parked the truck in our parking lot and gave the Infant, Toddler, Preschool and Kindergarten programs the opportunity to explore all of the tools and equipment. The Preschool children also had the opportunity to see inside the fire station when we went to the station to bring them a card to thank them for their visit.



The summer also brought the opportunity to explore the forest areas around our centre. In the forest we took the opportunity to climb over fallen trees and turn the logs into different vehicles. We also enjoyed exploring different parts of nature including flowers, mushrooms, moss and animal homes.

In the Autumn, the families enjoyed our many festivals and gatherings that took place. We began the season with our Harvest Fair which included spending time at Tapiola, eating the yummy soup with harvested vegetables and also making kites. Kite making was also enjoyed at our centre as a way to celebrate Michaelmas.

Autumn brought the celebration of the Enchanted Garden, where our educators dressed up as nursery rhyme characters and gave little tokens from each station. This year's stories include the Muffin Man, the Gingerbread Man, the Little Red Hen and many others.



In November we celebrated the festival of Martinmas with our annual lantern walk. In 2016 the Claude E. Garton site had our best attendance to date at this celebration. The children spent weeks prior to the festival making and decorating lanterns to use on this special night. On the night of the festival many families came to the centre to enjoy cider, cookies and our Lantern walk through the night singing lantern songs while traveling through the neighbourhood. Once we had reached our destination, the Preschool children told the story of Good Martin with a play they performed in the night. Families were very impressed with the dedication to the performance that the Preschoolers displayed.

In December we ended our year with our daily advent celebrations. We also attended sing-a-longs with our school community and had a visit from St. Nicholas. As always, the highlight of the Christmas season was our Christmas dinner. With most of our families in attendance and our lunch room filled to the max, we enjoyed our fabulous meal made by Filomena and the other cooks who assisted her. The children also enjoyed singing Christmas carols and the preschool children performed Jingle Bells.

Respectfully Submitted by
Sandy Stewart & Olivia Forbes

Little Lions Waldorf Daycare & Kindergarten

Hyde Park School Site

Winter

This past winter was a cold one and though our outdoor play time was often limited, we made the best of the season. When we could get outside the children made the most of their time out there. They were busy shovelling snow to build forts, building snowmen, pulling each other in the sleighs or sliding down the hill we had in our playground. We had just as much fun on our indoor days with baking cookies or bringing the cold fresh snow inside!



Spring

April showers bring May flowers and it also brought us lots of puddles! Early spring the children were engaged in outdoor water play, filling up buckets of water and digging trenches to watch it flow under the fence. Children were interested in making bird feeders for the new birdies chirping in the trees and flipping over the logs to see if they could find any new worms wiggling in the mud.



In May, we celebrated May Day at Vicker's Park along with our McKellar site. Singing and cupcakes made this family event quite joyful.

Summer

This summer we added some new pieces to our playground! A tee-pee and covered sand box we're just two of the new additions.



Autumn

With autumn came our Harvest Fair at Tapiola, the children enjoyed baking delicious items for the bake sale such as: gingersnap cookies, caramel apples and apple cider cupcakes.

Next came our Enchanted Garden. We loved seeing the different costumes and the smiles as the children collected their goodies to take home.

In November came our Lantern Walk. It was a beautiful night to be out with our lights and singing our songs.

We ended autumn with our Christmas Dinner. A fantastic meal enjoyed by all 140 guests!



Respectfully Submitted by
Lindsey Dann

Hyde Park School Site

Little Lions Waldorf Daycare & Kindergarten

June Steeve-Lendrum Family Resource Centre

Happy New Year! The Staff here at JSL are thankful for another successful year of learning and growing with the children, families and service partners within the JSL community.

"Children learn as they play. Most importantly,
in play children learn how to learn"

2016 was a great year full of developmental growth, relationship building, fun and play here at our JSL site. Here are some of the things we were up to this past year.

As educators, we continued to do our best to create a program that was well saturated in the four foundations of How Does Learning Happen and the implementing of our Program Statement. It was a pleasure to meet so many new families this year. We had a very young group this year, the youngest being only two months and the oldest turning 4, providing opportunity to see incredible developmental growth.



We were honored to have Elder, Beatrice Twance-Hynes, lead us in monthly cultural drumming circles this past year. Along with drumming, Beatrice has been teaching us the Seven Grandfather Teachings. We learnt about Humility, represented by the wolf. Humility is to know that each of us is a sacred part of creation. We learnt about Honesty, represented by the sable. When we walk through life with integrity is to know honesty. Beatrice taught us about Respect and how to honor all of creation, like the buffalo. The children and staff have so enjoyed the drumming, teachings and songs. We are eager and delighted to continue drumming with Beatrice in 2017!

In the late spring of 2016 we got many new toys for our outdoor play space. Some goals for our new outdoor play space were to provide opportunities to allow the children to experience the world outdoors with all their senses. When children play freely outdoors they develop social skills, spatial awareness, learn about their bodies and their abilities as well as become more independent. We saw the children building confidence, learning about their own skills and limitations as they took calculated risk, got dirty, wet, and even when they would fall over and get back up.



One of our most beloved items purchased this year are our outdoor drums! When the children drum, they are learning listening skills, coordination of breath and movement, cooperation and patience.

All year we have continued to have our Wednesday Morning with Mom breakfasts. These gatherings continue to allow for wonderful times of socialization and foster the building of strong relationships between staff, children and parents alike.

At the end of 2016 we said goodbye to Simone, our friend and teacher, who went back home to Kenora to teach. We will miss her and wish her all the best for 2017!

Respectfully Submitted by
Lauren Allam

June Steeve-Lendum Family Resource Centre (JSL)

Little Lions Waldorf Daycare & Kindergarten

McKellar School Site



(Above) Two of the preschool children build their very own story area and retell "The Easter Hare". This is a common occurrence among groups of preschool children.

(Below) The preschoolers work together to wash and dry the baby doll clothes. This sensory activity promotes a sense of pride, builds gross and fine motor skills as well as social skills.



As you can tell, a major part of our community at Little Lions McKellar revolves around our festivals! The children are always engaged in retelling favourite stories, creating crafts for the festivals and of course – enjoying the festivals!

In 2016, we made some small improvements to our school yard with the addition of our new shed in August and September. The children were SO excited to see the ‘construction workers’ working away. The children imitated this in their play – whether they were painting with water, building with blocks or pretending to be part of the construction crew! We are so grateful for our new shed and can’t wait to make more playground improvements in 2017!

This year brought many changes to Little Lions McKellar. We ended 2016 with saying goodbye to our supervisor Vicki McQueen and welcomed Jessica Gauvin to the supervisory role. We welcomed new staff and new children throughout the year. We also welcomed some new babies to the Little Lions family. Congratulations to our staff who are enjoying their maternity leave!

We look forward to 2017 and all the new that will come! We can’t wait to report back next year with all the new changes we have made to our site!

(Right) After following all the clues, the preschool children find the treasures at our Fairy Festival. Our festivals are always a highlight! Through these festivals, our children grow in all areas of development.



“I go with my little lantern, my lantern is going with me.”

(Left) Our group poses for a picture after our Lantern Walk. The children were very proud of their lanterns. Each group created a different type of lantern! We enjoyed a story, snack and a walk around the school yard with our families!

Respectfully Submitted by
Vicki McQueen

McKellar School Site

Little Lions Waldorf Daycare & Kindergarten

McKenzie School Site

January, February, March

During the winter months, the children at McKenzie stay very busy with both indoor and outdoor activities. This year we were able to spend a great deal of time outdoors because of the beautiful winter we had. The children enjoyed exploring the forest, going on great hikes, sliding, and the older children were able to go snow shoeing. If the weather was cold they would spend the end of the day in the gym. The scooter boards are one of the favorite activities.

Throughout the year, we always celebrate each child's birthday. This is a very special event where the children make their friend a birthday wish picture, a loaf is prepared, and a special home made gift is given to the child. The children wait with great anticipation for their birthday.

Once again, we had our Little Lions Dog sled rides at Tapiola. The children spent a great day with their families, friends, educators, and the dogs. Baking and hot chocolate was a hit as well.



We ended March off with our Easter events. The staff prepared baking, crafts, and purchase small items for the children to collect on an Easter Hunt. The Toddler and Pre-School group enjoy this activity during the day at morning outside time. The Kindergarten and School Age children have a Scavenger Hunt at the end of the day. Easter is always one of our favorites.

April, May, June March

The May Day celebration is on May 1st traditionally but this year we celebrated on Monday May 2nd. The children danced to some beautiful spring songs, and we all enjoyed cake and juice.

With the early spring this year, we were able to get a start on the transformation of our outdoor play space, and we began working on our gardens. With funding from the DSSAB, we were able to beautify and add items to the outdoor space. We also planted our first WEED OUT HATE garden in front of the school. The parent group from McKenzie purchased the 'Weed Out Hate' sign that is located right across from the garden.

The school had its annual Community BBQ for all to attend. The staff at Little Lions prepared a craft that all children were welcome to join in. The Daycare also had its annual BBQ at Tapiola in June for all families of the daycare to attend, where we planted the garden.

July, August, September

During the summer months, we continued to work on our playground and gardens. We raked and watered our grass and plants daily to ensure success. This summer we had one of the best gardens we ever had at this site. The children were able to pick peas, beans, carrots and tomatoes.

We also used the sprinkler and the water slide very often, as we had a terrific summer. The children did many activities outside, like painting, crafts and many outdoor snacks.



October, November, December

Miss Gail and Miss Sharon began their second year of Waldorf training. Over the past year and a half, we have worked on growing as individuals, understanding the Waldorf philosophy in a better way, expanding on our child development knowledge, and we have spent hours learning new activities, songs, stories and handwork to bring back to the child care centre.

The colours were wonderful this fall, and the playground was so much fun. We had a very late freeze this year, so the children were able to enjoy the sand pit for much longer than usual.

This year at our Institute with Dr. Jean Clinton, the Kindergarten staff, the principal, the Best Start Hub and the staff of Little Lions McKenzie were all invited to take part. This workshop was such a great way to connect with the McKenzie School staff. We always knew we worked well as a team, but this brought the staff closer together, and we have been connecting even more in the months following.

We had our annual Spaghetti Supper and Lantern walk on November 11th. After the dinner, we had the children act out the story before we walked around the school with the paper lanterns the children had painted.

The children listened to the St. Nicholas story for two weeks before he actually dropped off some goodies on December 5th. We left the story out for the children to play with and this story lived on at the centre for weeks.

Miss Gail spent some time looking after the neighbour's ducks in December. The children were able to visit with her on a few occasions to make sure all was well.

McKenzie School parent group hosted its annual Festive Dinner. Little Lions staff and children along with the entire school and members of the Shuniah staff and bus drivers all had a great turkey luncheon. What a great way to end the year.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Gail Goyan*

McKenzie School Site

Little Lions Waldorf Daycare & Kindergarten

St. Paul School Site

Welcome to Little Lions St. Paul Site. It is hard to believe that we are fast approaching our 10-year mark! 2016 has been a year of change and restructure. We have had to say goodbye to a few long-time educators here at St. Paul but with that comes new faces and new relationships. Changes were made to our outdoor play space as well, adding a mud kitchen, logs, a wooden tee-pee, wood chips and a pathway made of wood cookies.



Community

"A feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals."

Little Lions strives to connect home, child care and community together to best serve our children and families. Here at St. Paul we have certainly spent the past year reaching out, getting to know and be a part

of our surrounding community. This relationship with our community also fits well with "How does Learning Happen?" Ontario's Pedagogy for the Early Years document (2014). There are Four Foundations; which are Belonging, Well-Being, Engagement, and Expression. We have focused our attention on Belonging/Community which actually goes hand in hand with all, for if you have a healthy sense of belonging/community you will have success in the other foundations as well.

The following is an overview of our year here at Little Lions St. Paul:

- In January our staff took part in Aboriginal Competency Training in partnership with The City of Thunder Bay, which consisted of watching "Walk A Mile" a documentary (in two sessions) that was filmed right here in Thunder Bay and having conversations about racism and stereotypes in our city.
- In February some of our staff visited the Head Start Program to see how we could potentially share aboriginal culture in our centre. Staff took part in the morning smudging ceremony, learned how to set a rabbit snare and toured the facility.
- March brought us out to Tapiola for a family day of dog sledding, snow shoeing and sliding! The children also enjoyed homemade muffins and hot chocolate.
- In April parents were invited to join us for our Annual Toddler Easter Egg Hunt which always leads them through our wonderful forest area. The toddlers enjoy searching for special treasures and the parents always appreciate the opportunity to spend some time "in a day in the life"...
- May 1st is a special day at Little Lions, we celebrate MAY DAY! Spring time showers, flowers, and warmer weather. Parents are welcome to join in the dancing and singing around the May Pole and share our special cake, made with love by Miss Rosa.

- This June Little Lions joined together with the JK and SK classes at St. Paul School to take part in "Weed Out Hate". The children planted the "seeds of peace" together and a sign was posted as a reminder to us all to promote fellowship and peace.
- In August Little Lions welcomed Alana Mamakeesick as our Indigenous Learning Facilitator. She spent six weeks here at St. Paul in each program getting to know the children and educators. Alana brought in a traditional moss bag to the preschool program so the children could carry their babies. She also spent an afternoon with the school age children teaching them how to make dream catchers. Alana joined us at our staff meetings to share knowledge about her culture and respectful ways to incorporate it into our environment. During this time she explained the Medicine Wheel and the 4 directions and gave us gifts sage, cedar, tobacco and sweet grass for our smudging bowl. Alana also hand crafted the "Seven Grandfather Teaching" wall hangings for us to display and share with all of our children and families. We truly enjoyed our time with Alana and look forward to her visits from time to time.
- Little Lions St. Paul and Claude Garton sites, Eco-Superior, City of Thunder Bay, and CAA joined together to promote "WATCH FOR BIKES" a community wide initiative to keep children and adults safe on our roads.
- In October our preschool children had the opportunity to visit the "Old Fort". They enjoyed visiting the farm, playing traditional games, having a picnic lunch and last but not least the **School Bus Ride!** A big thank you to Old Fort William Historical Park for graciously providing the bus and free admission for our children.
- Due to a mild November, our toddler and preschool friends were fortunate to be able to visit with the Hodder Ave Fire Station Firefighters! The firemen let the children explore the Engine and showed them their tools and equipment. Definitely a highlight for a lot of the children.



- Topping off the year we gathered together for our Annual Family Christmas Dinner. This is definitely one of the favourites and we always enjoy our time spent with the extended Little Lions family. Thank you to our Board Members who also came to take part in the celebration and wonderful home cooked feast! Miss Rosa always does such a great job and adds a special touch with homemade goodies to top off supper. It is truly a time to be thankful for the community that we have here at Little Lions St. Paul.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Stacey Landers-Ray*

Little Lions Waldorf Daycare & Kindergarten

Valley Central Public School Site

Winter

During the winter months, we enjoyed sliding down our hill, and creating snow forts. We also had a lovely Christmas tea celebration where the children baked cookies and prepared apple cider for their family.

Spring and Summer

During the Spring, we had the fairies from our annual fairy festival leave us wonder flowers to plant. The children took wonderful care of our garden by weeding and watering the flowers. Furthermore, we were able to receive a wooden teepee to add to our outdoor play space. The children enjoyed playing house, pretending to be on a camping trip where the teepee turned into a tent and they even turned it into a bird nest with our leftover hay!

In the summer months, we enjoyed building many different types of forts to keep us cool from the hot sun, and to run around in the sprinkle of course!



The bird nest dramatic play came from the birth of our three baby robins. We monitored the nest every day and were able to see them grow and fly away!



Fall

During the fall months, we enjoyed watching the scenery around us change colour. Our favorite outdoor fall activity was to use the leaves and play parachute! It was very difficult to keep all the leaves in the blanket, we had to use our team working skills to make sure all the leaves stayed put.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Jessica Gauvin*

Little Lions Waldorf Daycare & Kindergarten

Kakabeka Falls School Site

Winter

During the winter months, we enjoyed playing on the small hills, and creating snow forts. We also had a lovely Christmas tea celebration where the children baked cookies and prepared apple cider for their family.



As per tradition, we enjoyed our weekly Thursday field trips to Kakabeka Fall's Provincial Park! During our field trips we enjoyed the walk, the water pump, and our picnic lunches.

Spring and summer

As mentioned in last year's annual report, we received our very own outdoor play space for our full day program. During the spring and summer months, we worked very hard to create a beautiful tomato and flower garden. The children took wonderful care of our garden by weeding, watering and picking the tomatoes. Also, we now have a sandbox with an attached walkway. We are currently working on creating walking paths and different textured areas with our river rocks. Furthermore, we were able to receive a wooden teepee to add to our outdoor play space. The children enjoy playing house as well as to pretend to be on a camping trip where the teepee turned into a tent!

Fall

During the fall months, we enjoyed watching the scenery around us change colour. Our favorite outdoor fall activity was to use the hay bale and the log pieces to create obstacle courses. We practice our building, team working and gross motor skills, all while having fun! Also, we enjoyed bringing the falling leaves indoors to create leave rubbings and other wonderful art projects with nature.



*Respectfully Submitted by
Jessica Gauvin*

Little Lions Waldorf Daycare & Kindergarten

Agnew H. Johnston School Site

2016 was an exciting year for meeting new educators and reuniting with old friends. The excitement carried through the year with the educators' dedication and introduction of new activities, the arrival of our long-expected playground equipment and our continued blossoming creativity and imagination.

This spring, with the help of local and national carpenters, our site became even more special and homey. With the addition of our enclosed sandbox, storage shed, and our teepee, the children have had a renewed love for our outdoor space. The teepee has been transformed into such things as a lovely home, a spaceship, and a home base for various games of tag and chase. Our sandbox has found many adventures in the sand within; sand castles, water trenches and subterranean tunnels – just to name a few. Our storage shed has allowed us to expand our outdoor equipment and expand our imaginations!



create little harvest gnomes. The children very carefully used hot glue to create the gnomes. Once the gnomes were complete, we made a house for them out of a pumpkin. The children helped us carve and clean out the pumpkin. They glued leaves to the outside and put a candle inside to make it homely.

The children at Agnew are a very crafty group. They love to get messy and create all sorts of wonderful crafts, structures and hide-a-ways. They have created many things with our educators. One of the crafts that they are most proud of was our harvest craft. The children gathered pinecones from the yard and around the neighbourhood. In program we decorated the pinecones with different materials to



During our Christmas Tea we brought back our Christmas play! The children put a lot of hard work and effort into their performances. Each program performed their own production. With the help of their educators they learnt their parts, developed their character, and – of course – put their creative abilities to work making props and costumes to make the play come alive! The gym was buzzing with excited guests and parents. After the performances, everyone enjoyed snacks and games that the children also helped us prepare. We look forward to an exciting 2017 filled with more awe and wonder!

*Respectfully Submitted by
Nicole Laramée* ²²

Little Lions Waldorf Daycare & Kindergarten

St. Pius X School Site

A Year of New Friendships

This year we have expanded our space to allow us to make many new friends! We have had a focus on incorporating science with art. Outside, we have many new toys and equipment that we all enjoy sharing. The children have been busy helping to contribute to our environment by hand-making their own toys.



Kindergarten Program

It has been a busy fall for our newest program here at St. Pius. We started the year off in the Library where the children enjoyed creating bracelets and necklaces from beads and ribbon. In November, we moved into the JK classroom where we feel more at home with special places for all our activities. We have all become very fond of music circles. We would go on into all hours of the night if we could!

School Aged Program

We have been very involved with enhancing our space and the toys available. This year the children assisted in two projects that has provided more toys for us to play with. The first project was making bean bags. It all started when the educator was mending a beanbag that had ripped. Many children asked to be taught how to make them. We spent a couple of days learning to sew and made new beanbags for our program.



The second project we worked on was making building blocks for outdoor play. The blocks were generously donated by Schulzki Construction. The children took care to ensure that all surfaces on the blocks were smooth and safe for play. We used sandpaper to smooth the wood; we had lots of fun and took pride that this was another activity that would give us more toys to play with.

Every Friday, both programs join together for a Nature walk and forest play behind the school. The children truly enjoy participating in risky play by climbing trees and, in the winter, skating down the "river" that runs through our little forest. Many dramatic play scenarios have emerged from our forest time. The children have been hockey players, adventurers, campers – just to name a few. We have added to our toy collection during these nature walks; one day we discovered that a tree had fallen during a storm and someone had cut it up into stumps. The school age children carried and rolled them all the way back to our storage bins so we could play with them anytime we wanted.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Kim Zellweger²³*

St. Pius X School Site

Little Lions Waldorf Daycare & Kindergarten

First Nations Teachings: Bring Everyone Together

Little Lions—Clarke

Having Alanna Mamakeesick, our Indigenous Learning Facilitator, at our centre has been an enriching experience for everyone. Alanna spent one day in each program (Mondays-infant, Tuesdays-toddler, Wednesday-preschool, Thursday - afterschool) bringing her wisdom of the Ojibwe culture and First Nations teaching to our staff and children. By rotating programs, Alanna was able to observe each program and to build relationships with staff and children. While in program, Alanna sewed, drummed, sang, read, and baked with the children in relation to her culture while also providing the resources and information to the educators. For example Alanna baked bannock with the children and provided the educators and cook with the recipe – it was delicious! Alanna also sewed the figures of the 7 Grandfather teachings for our programs and gave the patterns to the educators. She gave the animals to the children after telling them a story.



Alanna worked to develop the sensitivity among our staff by leading discussions and activities in staff meetings, meeting with program staff, providing information about First Nations people in regards to (not only the cultural practices but also) the Canadian government, and by making herself available to the staff. Alanna brought information in an interesting and hands-on way to our staff meetings; for example, we learned about the medicine wheel, its meaning,

and its symbols by guessing the 4 areas on the beautiful, hand-made wheel Alanna made. She extended our learning by teaching us the 4 medicines (sage, cedar, tobacco, and sweet grass) and what they're used for, by bringing the medicines in for us to touch and smell. Alanna also made sensory jars for the children to smell 3 of the 4 medicines.



Alanna brought resources to the centre, providing the site with reading material of the most current information: the history of Indigenous people of Canada (colonization and the fur trade, treaties, the Indian Act, Indian education and residential schools), indigenous people today, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and resources to help issues many First Nations families face, such as poverty.

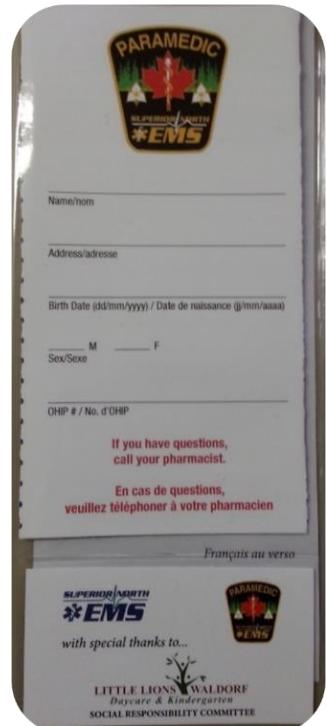
In such a short period of time, Alanna has become a big part of our centre and our teaching team. We appreciate Alanna's time and resources and were sad to see her move to another centre. It has been a pleasure for all of us at Clarke to work with Alanna and we all see the benefit of having a cultural learning facilitator in our programs. We welcome Alanna back at any time and we are looking forward to carrying her teachings and resources further.



*Respectfully Submitted by
Courtney Huls*

EMS Folders

Little Lions subscribes to the belief that a community which is good for 8 year-olds and 80 year-olds will be good for everyone. Through our Social Responsibility Committee an exciting new partnership started in 2016 between Superior North EMS, their paramedics and Little Lions. We created and distributed EMS folders which have the potential to improve patient care and even save lives. These small folders are designed to be kept on your fridge door (held by magnet or velcro, your preference) and contain all the useful information that the paramedics will need when they arrive at your door when you call 911. The folder has your name, emergency contacts, OHIP number, your doctor's name and number, your pharmacy, medical information, and your current medications. This handy folder, readily accessible when EMS arrives at your door, can also be taken with you to doctor's appointments and on trips. Little Lions sells these at cost for \$1 each. Ask your supervisor or call the CEO to purchase.



Watch for Bikes Project

There is no doubt that spring has arrived when we see children riding their bikes outside. At Little Lions we believe that it is important for children to be healthy and active and riding a bike can play a role in that. But we also, like many parents, have safety concerns about this. We decided to make a contribution to the safety of children by partnering with the City of Thunder Bay Active Transportation and the Canadian Automobile Association on the Watch for Bikes project. 5,000 brochures (in English and French) with decals were distributed in 2016 in an attempt to bring awareness to drivers that they play a critical role in keeping our children safe. These decals are meant to be put on the bottom of your car mirror so that every glance in the mirror will remind you to "Watch for Bikes".

Decals are still available. Please contact the CEO if you would like to have some for yourself or your organization.



Respectfully Submitted by
Marilyn Grudnisk²⁶

Weed Out Hate Project

For many years Little Lions has celebrated spring by planting flowers, but to us, the planting of sunflowers has taken on a very special meaning. Through our Weed Out Hate project, we have encouraged people in the community to use gardening as a metaphor for weeding out the hate, bias, prejudice, racism and bullying that happens in our community and in our schools. Some of our centers have posted signs that explain to the community that when they weed those negative aspects out of their lives, they plant seeds of peace and this is symbolized by planting sunflowers. Mayor Hobbs and the Crime Prevention Committee agreed with us and so we held a joint event at City Hall last year. Students from McKellar Park School participated along with our Little Lions children from the McKellar and the Hyde Park sites. Speakers included the Mayor, Jeff Upton, the Chair of the Crime Prevention Council, Lee-Ann Chevrette from Crime Prevention and Joyce Hunter on behalf of the Aboriginal Liaison. Children and adults planted sunflower seeds together in front of city hall. Watch for sunflowers at our many Little Lions sites again this spring!



Respectfully Submitted by
Marilyn Grudniski

Big Boreal Adventure

2016 was indeed a big year for the Big Boreal Adventure. Not only did we create, print and distribute the 3rd Big Boreal Adventure Goes Historical Guidebook to complete the set of 15 walking tours, we also created, printed and distributed the Big Boreal Adventure Water Does Wonders Nature Guidebook. This certainly kept the coordinator, Julia Crewdson, very busy before her maternity leave. We are deeply appreciative of the excellent work she did on this project and are so very pleased with the results.

Water Does Wonders was a partnership with the Healthy Kids Community Challenge. Because of their contribution to the production costs, we were able to produce a unique guidebook which focused both on environmental stewardship and health. Children learned about the importance of water to human beings as well as to fish and plants. This was in support of the current Healthy Kids Community Challenge theme: Water Does Wonders and linked nicely with other community activities.

One highlight of the 2016 year was the Bike Tour of Mission Island which was held in July in partnership with EcoSuperior. We began with some instruction by EcoSuperior staff on road safety for cyclists as well as a lesson on how to wear a bike helmet correctly. The historical bike tour involved an 11 km bike ride over much of Mission Island and culminated with an exciting visit to a tugboat owned by Gravel and Lake Service Tugs. There we were hosted royally by owners Paul and Donna Lee Lecuyer and Captains John Paul and Steven Lecuyer. Participating families were allowed to go on board the newest tug, the Teclutsa, and this opportunity to explore an actual working tug was not to be missed! We were grateful that we had wonderful community support, which made the bike tour such a success!



*Respectfully Submitted by
Marilyn Grudniski*

Waldorf Training

Little Lions is a Waldorf Child Care Centre which is accredited as a full member through the Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN). To support our staff and ensure that they subscribe to the Waldorf principles that we hold so dear, we started our own training centre which has not yet been accredited. This early childhood training has been invaluable in assisting the students in their own self-reflective spiritual journey and the deepening of their understanding of child development and the practical elements of their daily work. This transformative process takes 400 hours, spread over 2 years.

To achieve this, in 2016 we brought to Thunder Bay international presenters Olivia Olsen and Kim John Payne (of Simplicity Parenting). Much loved Bernadette Raichle honoured us with a training session by Skype from her home in New Zealand. Canadian presenters Mary Mitchell, Elliot Doxtater-Wyn and Kim Hunter (Time For Play) all found time for training sessions. These 6 special people brought new insights, fresh ideas and inspiration to the 10 students who are currently following this path of inner development. They add to the knowledge and expertise of the two main teachers, Arlene Thorn and Marilyn Grudniski, who carry the impulse for this new training centre.



Waldorf Training Highlights



Board of Directors

Lindsay Gaw-Martin	President
June Gaw	Treasurer
Laurie Mallon	Secretary
Stacey Landers-Ray	Ex-Officio
Sandra Stewart	Director
Nicolas Bigaignon	Director

Staff

Marilyn Grudniski	Chief Executive Officer
Dinah Jewett	Administration
Brandee Popowich	Financial Officer
Melanie Kaltenbach-Hofmann (Courtney Huls)	Clarke Street Supervisor
Nicole Laramee	Agnew Supervisor
Marcia Arpin (Sandy Stewart)	Claude Supervisor
Lindsey Dann	Hyde Supervisor
Lauren Allam	JSL Supervisor
Jessica Gauvin (Sarah Feaver)	Kakabeka Supervisor
Vicki McQueen (Jessica Gauvin)	McKellar Supervisor
Gail Goyan	McKenzie Supervisor
Stacey Landers-Ray	St. Paul Supervisor
Kim Zellweger	St. Pius Supervisor
Jessica Gauvin (Karen Pope)	Valley Central Supervisor

Supporters and Community Partners



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION



THE DISTRICT OF THUNDER BAY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION BOARD



Ontario
Trillium
Foundation



Fondation
Trillium
de l'Ontario



generator
INSIGHTS | STRATEGY | CREATIVE



Roots of Empathy
Racines de l'empathie



WARMTH AND WEATHER

