

THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF MISSISSIPPI MILLS

QUARTERLY UPDATE

DATE: Sept 5/23

TO: Committee of the Whole

FROM: Anita Legault – Director of Childcare

SUBJECT: Childcare Quarterly Report – Q3

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- The childcare department had two pergolas installed at 110 Paterson, Toddler and Preschool yard. Health and Safety funding from the county was approved for one of the structures.
- Replenished sandboxes and mulch in the play yard at 208 State St.
- July-Aug – secured enough summer staff to offer care at all 3 locations rather than combining Schools.

2023 PROJECT UPDATES/PENDING ITEMS:

The childcare centre has secured dates for the completion of renovations for 208 State St.

- Sept. 7,8 – Replacement of cupboards, and counters on the second-floor preschool. Preschool will remain open on the 7th, but closed on the 8th
- Sept 14, 15- Flooring replacement on second-floor preschool rooms and stairs. Preschool will be closed, but the infant/Toddler program will remain open.
- Date TBD – replacement of flooring on the first floor of 208 State St.
- End of Sept - Flat roof replacement – 208 State St.
- Implementing Himama Parent invoicing starting October 2023

KPIs:

- Completed Lanark County reporting template – financials/operating capacity and Wage Enhancement updates in August.
- Childcare survey - Over 100 families completed the survey
 - Over 63% live in Almonte, 80% in Mississippi Mills overall.
 - 50% need toddler care, followed by infant care at 48%.
 - Over 50% of respondents have been on a waitlist over a year
 - 77% require full fee, and the balance requires a fee subsidy.
 - 66% interested in nature/forestry school component in programming.
- Attended a session at the County regarding changes to special needs resourcing
 - As of Sept 2023, the childcare centre is now responsible for finding staff to work with special needs children and submitting invoices to the county.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Staff development workshop – Sept 23/23

- Improve outdoor environments and indoor environments to support connections to nature and inquiry.

Waitlist

- Increase in childcare demand in older age groups requires securing additional contract staff to cover ratios.
- Over 450 children on waitlist

Research on stats re: Childcare expansion

Respectfully submitted by,

Anita Legault
Director