

SPRING NEWSLETTER!

Check out what we have been up to and what is on the horizon!



From the Executive Director

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter!

It's awesome to be able to gather in person again! Meeting with children, youth and families, is so much more rewarding in person! Please take a few minutes to glance over what our staff, interns, placement students, and volunteers have been up to!! The main goal of Investing in Children is to do "whatever is possible" in regard to serving children, youth and families in London and the surrounding region; and we are fully committed to doing just that, through our 12 free programs! Please also check out our website www.investinginchildren.on.ca for much more information! Thank you for your continued interest and support!

Sincerely Yours,

Ted Gorski

tgorski@investinginchildren.on.ca | cell:519.670.8557

Family Literacy and Math Events

Investing in Children has just wrapped up the Storybook STEAM themed Family Literacy and Math Events for JK to grade 3 students and their families. We visited 10 schools to offer fun and engaging activities centred around Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math that were all connected to a book. Over 2,000 people participated. We enjoyed support from the schools, community partners and our amazing volunteers. We are looking forward to our next round of FLMEs which will begin in April and are themed Show Me the Money. The activities will include a foundational financial literacy component. Our schedule for 2023/2024 school year will be posted on our website.



Youth Guitar Program



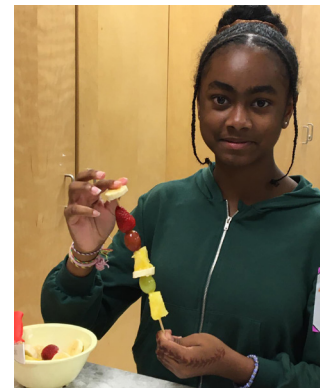
To date, our Free Youth Guitar program has served 481 students since its inception in 2019! We just completed our sessions at Family Centre Carling-Thames, Nshwaasngong Family Centre and Family Centre Argyle. Our Spring sessions will start again during the week of April 17 at Family Centre Fanshawe (Cedar Hollow School), Oneida Community Centre, Family Centre Fox Hollow (Arthur Currie School), and Family Centre Westminster (St. Francis School). Check out our website for full details!



HARK After School Program

Our HARK After School Program has been running since September at Family Centre Argyle on Mondays, Family Centre Carling-Thames on Tuesdays and Family Centre Fanshawe on

Wednesdays. During the free program, students in grades 6, 7 and 8 enjoy learning about nutritious foods, cooking and sampling the foods, playing physically active games, looking at personal wellness and much more! We still have a few spots left so please contact us for more information.



Blue Boxes for Books Program

We have been ramping up our Blue Boxes for Books Program with 10,000 having been disseminated this year! We are in the process of getting back into locations we were in prior to covid and we are expanding our reach so that we can get books to all children and youth. We have boxes back in Family Centres, Community Centres, the Food Bank and businesses throughout London, Middlesex, Elgin and Oxford. If you are interested in hosting a bin at your location, please fill out the host registration form on our Blue Boxes for Books page. If you have books you wish to donate, please let us know!

Kids Power Conference

In November it was wonderful to be back in person for our Kids Power Conference. We were thrilled to have a record 120 students in grades 6 and 7 register for the free one-day conference at Central Library. Students were able to participate in informative, interactive workshops that enhanced their leadership skills. A BIG thank you to the London Public Library for partnering with us for this event and to Growing Chefs, MVMT Strength and Fauzia Agbonhin for being inspiring workshop presenters!



Smile Cookie Week



We are THRILLED to have once again been chosen as a recipient for the Tim Hortons Smile Cookie Campaign. Tim Hortons announced a NEW TIME OF YEAR for the Smile Cookie Campaign. Smile Cookie Week will be **May 1 to 7**. As before, we really appreciate the support of Investing in Children's partners and friends in helping spread the word and buying cookies!

Kids 1st Day

Investing in Children's Kids 1st Day sponsored by Kiwanis Club of Forest City-London will be Friday, June 2nd! It is the last elementary PD Day for both LDCSB and TVDSB students. We had so much fun being back in person last year, we can't wait to do it again this year. We already have 30 locations signed up and are hoping to get close to 60! If you would like to offer a free or low-cost activity for Kids 1st Day, please visit the Kids 1st Day page of our website and fill in the host registration form. While you are on the page, check out the slideshow to see all the fun we had last year! The deadline for hosts to register is May 5.



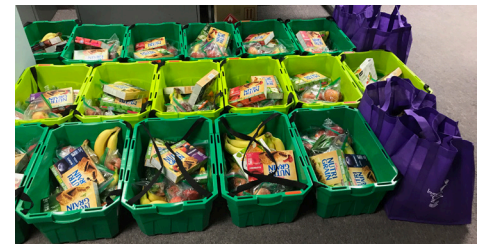
Special Olympics



Plans have begun for the 2023 TVDSB Special Olympics Track and Field Events and Investing in Children are happy to once again be a part of it! Athletes and their peer mentors will fill the Western Alumni Stadium June 12 and 13 to participate in a wide array of track and field events. We are always seeking sponsors to help with this amazing event.

Snack Stop

Last summer we saw a big increase in the request for Investing in Children's Snack Stop bins. In 2021, we provided 19 bins weekly that were filled with free healthy snacks. In 2022, that number jumped to 33 bins! We were happy to provide the bins every Tuesday to Family Centres, Libraries, Resource Centers, Friendship Centers and City-run Day Camps! With the increased cost of groceries, the bins were well utilized with 14,000 free healthy snacks provided during July and August. Looking to get a bin again this year? Please use the registration form found on the Nutrition page of our website to host a Snack Stop bin at your location.



Children's Nutrition Network



Investing in Children started the Children's Nutrition Network back in 2002. We partner with OSNP, MLHU, Intercommunity Health and London Food Bank to provide money to schools to aid in their School Nutrition Programs. So far this year, CNN has provided \$14,750 To schools in need to aid in providing healthy food for children while at school.

Young Authors' Virtual Camp

Calling all 10 to 15-year-olds who love to read and write! Young Authors' Virtual Camp 2023 will be taking place August 14 to 18 over Zoom. We will have amazing author workshops and fun writing activities! We will also work on pieces to be published in the 2023 Young Author's Camp Magazine. Come and learn writing tips and tricks from the best and share your work in a fun, inclusive, welcoming environment. More information can be found on the Young Authors' Virtual Camp webpage.



We are always looking for volunteers! Visit the Get Involved page on our website to sign up!

Check out all our programs at www.investinginchildren.on.ca

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