



B.C. First Nations Head Start Parent and Tot Garage Sale

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SEABIRD ISLAND HEAD START ORGANIZES A PARENT AND TOT GARAGE SALE TWICE A YEAR—one in fall to raise money for Christmas celebrations and to purchase gifts for families in our community, and one in spring to raise funds for the year-end celebration which includes going to Vancouver Children's Festival.

"The garage sale has been hugely successful. In the past two years, we have had four garage sales. The first event was organized by our staff and our parents group volunteered to work at the garage sale as well as baking for it. The next three, the parents helped organize, advertise and volunteered. The whole community donates items for the sale (books, toys, furniture). There is somehow an attachment to a child that attends the program and they then donate items because they know someone who attends our program.

Our most successful fundraising event was a "Loonie Auction" last year. We made \$1200! Parents donated items to be "auctioned" at the loonie auction. Parents gathered to make baskets with the donated items (pretty decorative wrap, ribbons, etc.). Parents and community members also volunteered in the concession, collecting loonies, counting money and handing out prizes. The proceeds went to our Parent and Tots Christmas party where over 80 people were in attendance. We were also able to purchase really nice gifts for our children at parent and Tots. We also surprised our parent volunteers with a gift to acknowledge their hours of commitment to our program.

Special little tidbit: every year we have a volunteer appreciation day at Parent and Tot. We have guests come and drum and sing the honor song for our volunteers and we acknowledge them with a special gift. It helps out in people participating in the program.

Candace Robotham
EC Program Administrator, Seabird Island Head Start