

# The BCCL BURST

FALL 2023

VOLUME 04

905-453-8841

34 Church Street West,  
Brampton, Ontario, L6X 1H3

[www.bramptoncaledoncl.ca](http://www.bramptoncaledoncl.ca)



## IMPORTANT DATES

December 25th & 26th BCCL Offices Closed

January 1st BCCL Offices Closed

March 11th Caledon Connections Registration

March 13th Brampton Connections Registration

March 29th & April 1st BCCL Offices Closed



## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's that special time of year to forget your troubles, gather with loved ones and celebrate the holidays together.

BCCL is proud of the diversity among people supported, families and employees. The holiday season represents something different for each of us but there is always a common theme we share; showing compassion to those less fortunate and gathering with loved ones to celebrate the holidays and ring in the new year.

This holiday season, I wish everyone good health, good fortune and peace!  
Happy Holidays!

*Anne-Marie Hawkins*



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It was wonderful to see so many people in person at the AGM this year. Thank you to all the staff who worked so hard to make it a special night. The speakers were incredible and inspiring.

Congratulations to all the staff who received service awards this year.

Hope you all have a wonderful holiday and all the best for health and happiness in 2024.

*Carmen Baker*  
President



## BCCL ADVOCATES FOR FUNDING INCREASES

BCCL Executive Director, Anne-Marie Hawkins and Director of Community Resources, Margarette Guerra met with MPP Sylvia Jones to discuss the current state of the developmental services sector.

Agencies across Ontario including BCCL, are advocating for an immediate 5% increase to base funding for developmental service providers as well as to families through SSAH and Passports.

Learn more about this initiative by clicking <https://bit.ly/5ToSurvive>



## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IN PEEL REGION



Families with children born in 2020 can start registering children for school online at both of the school boards in Peel for the 2024-2025 school year. For further information about registration, requirements for registration and information sessions please see the school boards website (Links to both sites are included below).

For any families receiving support through the PIRS program, please feel free to speak to your PIRS Resource Consultant.

### Peel District School Board

[Kindergarten - Peel Board Office Site \(peelschools.org\)](https://www.peelschools.org)

Kindergarten Information Night for Students with Special Needs will be held virtually on Thursday, February 1, 2024, from 6:30-8:00pm.

Click the link : [Link to Live Presentation - Kindergarten Information - SESEL, Special Programs](#)

### Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board

[Kindergarten Registration \(dpcdsb.org\)](https://www.dpcdsb.org)

An Entry Planning and Transition for Students with Differing Abilities meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, from 7:00-8:30pm at St. Marcellinus Secondary School on 730 Courtneypark Drive, Mississauga. For more information and to register click for the website above.





## TERRY JOINS BRAMPTON 45'S

For more than a decade Terry has been playing for the Brampton 45s Intermediate/Senior hockey team. A dedicated player, Terry practices and plays in games every weekend from October to December.

Terry and his team travel to and host games against other teams in the GTA. A highlight of every year is attending a tournament, often held in the US.



## BCCL CELEBRATES MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS

We've been delighted to celebrate some big birthdays with the people of BCCL in the last few months in style, with friends and loved ones around to enjoy the celebrations too. Michele had a blast celebrating her 57th birthday with her best friend Tracie and her dad as well.



Michael celebrated a major milestone this year turning 65.

He had a great time with his friends, housemates, and loved ones and even had a big surprise!

He was able to celebrate the occasion with his mother who flew in for the occasion and has been out of the country for 40 years. It was a tearful reunion for the family and the partygoers as well, and the celebration kept going long into the night.



## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERING



Alessia and Nicole from Caledon Connections volunteer each week with the cats at the Caledon Animal Shelter. The shelter inhabitants look forward to the attention, cuddles and play from their dedicated volunteers!

## YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Donors, no matter how big or small, make our community a more inclusive place for people with disabilities to live, work and play!

To support and empower people who have an intellectual disability, to lead enriched and meaningful lives with your donation visit our website today.



## THE ZONE HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Brampton Caledon COMMUNITY LIVING INTÉGRATION COMMUNAUTAIRE Brampton Caledon						
DECEMBER 2023						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 	25	26	27 Playdium	28 Peel Art Gallery, Museum and Archives	29 Activate Movies	30

Have a  
Fun-Filled  
Holiday

The Zone, our respite initiative for families of children identified with autism spectrum disorder between the ages of 9-17, has some fun activities planned for the winter school break.

Contact Sam Fagbenro

[samf@bramptoncaledoncl.ca](mailto:samf@bramptoncaledoncl.ca) for more information

2024						
01 JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 BOWLING MOVIES	3 THE ESCAPE ROOM	4 RIPPER AQUARIUM (TORONTO) ARCADE GAMES (TORONTO)	5 THE REC ROOM	6 
7	8 	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	24	24	25	26	27
28 	29	30	31 			



# WHAT OUR YORK STUDENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES AT BCCL

"I desire to teach, alongside a diverse group of students, families and parents in an inclusive, responsive and empathetic manner hoping to inspire education"

- Hareni ( Virtual Programs)

" My journey at BCCL has been positive and empowering. I am excited to expand my learning, develop new skills, and build a person-centered approach"

-Sara ( Caledon Connections)

"My hopes for the future of education is to be able to inspire more students to pursue a career in the field of the Arts."

-Iceyvara ( Virtual Programs)



"I am a student with high hopes to become an exceptional future educator for young adults. I am extremely grateful to be here and volunteer and give back within the community"

-Ashley ( Virtual Programs)

" Treat others as you would love to be treated, which is very important for this community. I can't wait to see how this experience will integrate with my teaching in the future"

-Amy ( Fisherman)

Working with so many lively and joyful people at BCCL has been such an amazing experience and I'm so excited to continue working with them in the new year.

-Arpanjot( Virtual Programs)

"I hope to be a special education teacher one day. I am really enjoying my time at BCCL. Everyone is so wonderful and I feel lucky to be there"

- Megan ( Rutherford)





# BRAMPTON HAS SOME GREAT INDOOR WINTER ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS



## WE ROCK THE SPECTRUM KID'S GYM FOR ALL KIDS

A new gym has opened in Brampton called We Rock the Spectrum Kid's Gym for All Kids is a place for all children. Some of the things included are swings, crash mat and crash pillows, zip line, indoor play structure, calming room, swimming pool and more. Please check out the website for further information.

[www.werockthespectrumbrampton.ca](http://www.werockthespectrumbrampton.ca)

## MULTI-SENSORY ROOM

A therapeutic space that can provide a personalized sensory input experience. The facility is located at Paul Palleschi Recreation Centre (formerly Loafer's Lake Recreation Centre) in Brampton. They offer two different drop-in programs: Parent and Child for children 6 months to 4 years and an All Ages. All Ages.



The room is equipped with lighting effects and tactile sensations that appeal to the senses.

Active parent/guardian participation is required. For information on fees, times and registration please visit the link below.

[Inclusion Booking Page \(perfectmind.com\)](http://perfectmind.com)

## SNOW MUCH FUN!



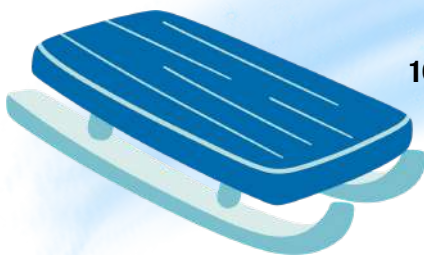
### LINKS TO KEEP YOU BUSY THIS WINTER

City of Brampton Winter Camps

<https://bit.ly/BramptonWinterCamps>

10+ Outdoor Winter Things to do in Brampton, Mississauga & Georgetown

<https://bit.ly/WinterinBramptonMississauga>



# PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST WINNERS



## REGISTER NOW FOR 2024 SIBLING WORKSHOPS

### Sibling Workshops

Jan 15, 2024 | Feb 12, 2024 | Mar 11, 2024 | Apr 15, 2024 | May 20, 2024 | June 17, 2024 |

Sibling Workshops will be available online via Zoom platform for people living in **PEEL** region. Sibling Workshops are offered to children who have a brother or sister with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and/or an intellectual disability.

We offer monthly sessions for children between the ages of 6 and 13. These workshops will focus on sharing experiences, learning about other disabilities and meeting new people.

There is no fee for the online Sibling Workshops.

- Dates: Monday Evenings (*siblings can register for multiple sessions*)
- Jan 15, 2024 | Feb 12, 2024 | Mar 11, 2024 | Apr 15, 2024 | May 20, 2024 | June 17, 2024
- Time: 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- Age: 6-13
- Location: ZOOM – A computer and internet connection is required

To register or for more information, please contact Kerry's Place at [intake@kerrysplace.org](mailto:intake@kerrysplace.org) or 1-833-77-KERRY (1-833-775-3779)



### NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Sheri Thiffault	Chris Fryer
David Marcinek	Kim Cunningham
Esther Kamwanga	Susana York

## BCCL TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

### Assistive Product Spotlight

**Project Leonardo**, introduced at the Consumer Electronic Show (CES) in January, is a customizable controller for the Sony PS5 designed to allow people with disabilities to game more comfortably.

Playstation worked with accessibility organizations AbleGamers, StackUp and SpecialEffect to create the configurable split controller design. The controller addresses common challenges faced by many players with limited motor control, including difficulty holding a controller for extended periods, accurately pressing small clusters of buttons or triggers, or positioning thumbs and fingers optimally on a standard controller.

The controller kit includes swappable components to create a wide variety of control layouts depending on the players range of motion, strength and physical needs.



