

**UPDAT ED**

**Monday, Oct. 30th, 2017**

**Volunesia: that moment when you forget you are volunteering to change lives, because it is changing yours**

* Thanks you to all of you who so willingly have volunteered in support of the Telethon. I have been grateful for the quick responses I have received to my requests. If you haven’t been given a job, we still need you to come down to the Theatre to cheer loudly and jump up and down with glee. Hope to see many of you there.
* Yes, we still have lots of raffle tickets. If you think you can sell a book or two, please do so. If you have unsold tickets, please put on the last push to sell them all and get the proceeds back to Robyn asap.
* Don’t forget the Project Inclusion Halloween party tomorrow at noon. It is sure to be a Boo-you-tiful time.
* The shout out this month goes to Meghan and Laurel H. They collaborated on a successful first time Sibling Support Group, an important addition to family centred services. Thanks to you both for your leadership.
* The Lunch and Learn this month will be an overview of the Making Connections conference to be held in Nanaimo this upcoming weekend. This will be on the 21st at noon.
* Get out your jingle bells. We are starting the Xmas season early this year with a staff gathering at Roys Town pub on Thursday, November 30th. Stay tuned as the details roll out.
* Also thanks to all of you who said you would help out with the Xmas Parade. The parade is at 2 p.m. on Sunday, November 19th. We are trying to arrange for the decorating to be done on Friday afternoon.
* I have asked Program Managers to complete all Performance Reviews by the end of December so you will be hearing from your Manager soon to get this set up.
* Also a reminder that agency policy requires that you carry over no more than two weeks worth of vacation at the end of the calendar year. Please make your plans to reduce vacation hours if necessary. Any exceptions to the two week rule must be approved by your Program Manager with a clear plan to reduce the hours early in 2018.
* Another reminder about our challenging space and the need to keep your voices low and hold private conversations in private spaces. This is particularly important in the staff lunch room and in the reception area.
* Final note: Apparently flu and cold season is upon us. Hack, hack! If you are sick, STAY HOME.

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| November 2017 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sun |  | Mon |  | Tue |  | Wed | |  | | Thu |  | Fri |  | Sat | |
|  |  | 30  Meet and Learn 9 - 12 |  | 31  PI Halloween Lunch |  | 1  Laurel H.  C:\Users\joasch\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\E51NO1WV\happy-birthday-with-stares[1].png  Accessibility 2:30  Telethon Mtg.  7 p.m. |  | | 2 | |  | 3 |  | 4 | | |
| 5 |  | 6 |  | 7  Telethon Wind Up 6 p.m. |  | 8 |  | | 9 | |  | 10 |  | 11 | | |
| 12 |  | 13 |  | 14  Program Managers  12 - 2 |  | 15 |  | | 16 | |  | 17 |  | 18  Connie  C:\Users\joasch\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\E51NO1WV\happy-birthday-with-stares[1].png | | |
| 19  Xmas Parade  2 p.m. |  | 20 |  | 21  Lunch and Learn |  | 22  Board Meeting 7:30 |  | | 23  Clover  C:\Users\joasch\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\E51NO1WV\happy-birthday-with-stares[1].png  Social Committee 12:00 | |  | 24  Timesheets Due |  | 25 | | |
| 26  Jenn Mc.  Deb N.  C:\Users\joasch\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\E51NO1WV\happy-birthday-with-stares[1].png |  | 27  Early Years Collaborative 1 p.m. |  | 28  Penny  C:\Users\joasch\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\E51NO1WV\happy-birthday-with-stares[1].png |  | 29 |  | | 30 | |  |  |  |  | | |

**Cultural Corner**

**Day of the Dead**

Day of the Dead is an important Mexican holiday that celebrates and honors deceased loved ones. In Mexico, the celebration is held from October 31 to November 2nd, coinciding with the Catholic feast days of All Saints and All Souls, but the festival's origins are rooted in a combination of elements of indigenous beliefs and Catholic teachings. Over time it has evolved, adding some new ideas and practices, ultimately transcending its origins to evolve into the truly Mexican holiday.

There were many ethnic groups living in Mesoamerica in ancient times, as there still are today. The different groups had and still have different customs, but they also had many things in common. A belief in an afterlife was very widespread and dates back to over 3500 years ago. In many archaeological sites in Mexico, the ornate way in which people were buried shows evidence of the belief in the afterlife, and the fact that tombs were often constructed beneath homes, meant that deceased loved ones would remain close to their living family members.

Altars are usually decorated with flowers, candles, pan de muerto, ceramic skulls, and most importantly pictures of loved ones. Food placed on the altar consists of the loved ones favorite dishes and treats. Drinks are placed in the altar to quench the thirst of the dead after their long journey back home.