2024 Shining Stars

Congratulations to all of the 2024 nominees.

Continual Learner - these shining stars not only value on-going learning and professional learning opportunities, but their learning is observed to impact their work and practice.

The nominees in the Continual Learner category are:

Amanda Clement CELC-Minden

Caitlin Maddeaux CELC-Minden

Carey Connaghan CELC-Lindsay

Carley Duncan CELC-Archie Stouffer

Catherine Knapton CELC- Minden

The nominees in the Continual Learner category are:

Chantele Kalenborn Fenelon-Langton

Hannah Woods Bobcaygeon

Jessica Lamontagne CKL Children's Services

Jessica Macdonald CELC-Jack Callaghan

The nominees in the Continual Learner category are:

Kinga Baricz

Mallory Smith CELC- Lindsay

CELC-Minden

Rachael Duncan Bobcaygeon

Scott Waud CELC-Leslie Frost

The 2024
Shining StarContinual
Learner
is

Carley Duncan CELC-Archie Stouffer

On top of working as an educator and attending professional development, Carley has been working towards her ECE diploma. Carley is finishing her ECE program this semester; watching her growth over the years as she has leaned into her schooling and gained knowledge, incorporating it into her practice has been amazing. Carley is very reflective of her own practice and has sought out professional development that aligns with her curiosities about children or that will support her practice as an educator. She is very reflective in her work, thinking deeply about her observations, reflecting with other educators, and adapting her practice to support all children.

Her intentional learning and reflective work make her an amazing educator and I am very privileged to have the opportunity to work with her.

Mentor – these shining stars take the time help mentor other educators and staff in this profession.

The nominees in the Mentor category are:

Andrea Williams CKL Children's Services

Anne Kuipers CKL Children's Services

Brenda Macalpine CELC-School Age

Erin Smith Kids In Motion

Hope Cormier CELC-Jack Callaghan

Julie Crego Bobcaygeon

Kaehly Shanahan CELC-Victoria Graduate

Laurie St. Thomas

Bobcaygeon

Kimberly Drake

CELC-Leslie Frost

Kinga Baricz

CEC-Minden

Mary Hughes

Fenelon-Langton

Melissa Bodechon

Fenelon-Langton

Michelle Chamberlain

CELC-Lindsay Program

Sarah Hood

Fenelon-Langton

The 2024
Shining
Star-Mentor
is

Kaehly Shanahan CELC-Victoria Graduate

When I think of the word mentor, Kaehly immediately comes to mind. Her co-educators look to her for advice, perspectives and connection. If Kaehly doesn't have the knowledge or resources to support them to the best of her ability, she will go to great lengths to gather what is needed. Kaehly takes pride in connecting with everyone that she comes into contact with. She is compassionate, committed and empathetic. Kaehly's core value is relationships, and you can see this present in all interactions. She sees others for their strengths and capabilities and mentors them to continue to grow. Kaehly continues to be an asset to our program, and all that cross her path.

Leader - these shining stars stand out as a leader in our profession by inspiring and empowering those around them. Be sure to understand we do not mean only those in a leadership type of role, but this is an opportunity to see everyone has the potential to be a leader regardless of their position title.

The nominees in the Leader category are:

Avery Barnes

Brenda Macalpine

Donna Armstrong

Janine Mitchell

Kimberly Drake

Kinga Baricz

Fenelon-Langton

CELC-School Age

Bobcaygeon Daycare

CKL Children's Services

CELC- Leslie Frost

CELC-Minden

Lindsay Jowett

CELC-Archie Stouffer

Michelle Chamberlain

CELC-Lindsay

Stacy Lott

CELC-Jack Callaghan

Steven Eckl

CELC

Tara Everett

CELC- Leslie Frost

The 2024 Shining Star-Leader is

Donna Armstrong Bobcaygeon Daycare

Fewer people have had more of an impact on my career than Donna. She possesses all of the skills you would expect from a leader and more, but rarely does she see herself that way. She is the first person to reach out and help someone out, from opening the centre early to closing it down at night, all with a smile and a hug and she never, ever gives up. She always rises to any challenge and can be anywhere in the building from writing policies in the office, to the program at the school, to using a leaf blower to clean the playground, to cooking up a storm in the kitchen. She is hands down one of the kindest, strongest, and most resilient ECE's I have ever had the pleasure of working with and she is always willing to share the treats she keeps stashed in her desk drawer too.

New Educator/Staff – these shining stars have joined our early learning and childcare community in 2024.

The nominees in the Leader category are:

Chelsey Morrison

Michelle Stetson

Bobcaygeon Daycare

Bobcaygeon Daycare

The 2024
Shining
Star-New
Educator is

Chelsey Morrison Bobcaygeon Daycare

We hired Chelsey Morrison back in April as a part time staff that was available when we need her. This is Chelsey's first time ever working in a childcare setting. Chelsey assisted in the Junior room as an enhanced staff. From the moment she started we could see her building relationships with the children and knew the Junior Room was a great fit for her. During the Summer we saw Chelsey's growth with setting out activities, with reading to the children and planning a circle with them as well. In September we made some changes and Chatted with Chelsey about her growth and how comfortable and at home she seems in the Junior Room. In September we had to make some changes with staff and happily made Chelsey one of the main educators in the Junior room. I continuously praise Chelsey for her patience, creativity and initiative she brings to the Junior Room and our center each day.

Advocacy – these shining stars take the time and effort to continue to advocate for our profession.

The nominees in the Advocacy category are:

Ashley Higgins

CELC-Victoria Graduate

Melissa Joyce

Fenelon-Langton

Rose McHugh

CLTH

Sandi Ashton

CELC-HCC

The 2024
Shining
StarAdvocacy is

Ashley Higgins CELC-Victoria Graduate

Ashley has been a respected educator and leader for many years. She advocates for all children, families and educators that she has interacted and engaged with. Ashley continually demonstrates her belief in the capabilities of all children, families and educators. Ashley advocates for the inclusion of all children and will collaborate to ensure that the best interests of the children and families is taken into consideration. Advocating for children, families and educators, occurs not only at the program level but in the local and neighbouring communities. Ashley is in a role where she leads by example and is willing to co-create an open and welcoming environment for all and provide mentorship to educators with a lens of inclusion to build capacity within our community.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility – these shining stars go above and beyond to incorporate inclusive and anti-bias learning/practices into their daily work.

The nominees in the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice and Accessibility category are:

Andrea Williams

CKL Children's Services

Brianna McEachern

CELC-Victoria Graduate

Cara Murtha

CLTH

Carey Connaghan

CELC- Lindsay

Jenna Coulton

Michelle Chamberlain

Sarah Jowett

Fenelon-Langton

CELC-Lindsay

CELC-Archie Stouffer

The 2024
Shining StarDiversity,
Equity,
Inclusion,
Justice and
Accessibility is

Sarah Jowett CELC-Archie Stouffer

Sarah strives hard to ensure that every child has a strong sense of belonging, honouring their differences and using inclusive and anti-bias materials. She seeks out professional development about supporting children with neuro-divergences and other differences and incorporates that learning into her practice, ensuring that her classroom has the adaptive materials for each child to be successful. Making her room a safe space for all with a strong sense of belonging, where each child's unique needs are met.

Sarah brings a sense of calm to difficult discussions with children about complex topics like racism, disability, sexuality/gender, and discrimination. In our community we have often heard children share racist/sexist/homophobic opinions, typically overheard from somewhere else, and Sarah will respectfully, non-judgementally, but intentionally have conversations with children in the moment and over time that has shifted children's perspective on these topics. This approach has led to a lot of growth in the classroom culture and children's understanding of and interactions with the wider world.