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Dear OMA Friends,

We are closing 2011 with a lot of joy and excitement. Nearly all our 2 years olds have achieved emergent verbal communication; our pre-schoolers learn to get along with their peers and our older ones gain recognition at schools.

The thrill we felt when we heard the young ones uttering their first words, signing their first signs or their first waving bye-bye is incomparable. One of our 14 years olds has been notified that he is to write the grade 9 EQAO in 2012. To OMA, this is not just a notification; this is recognition of his hard work; given the fact that he came to us with a grade 2 literacy level only 2 years ago - some spectacular achievement ! Another 16 years old has been offered a place in a more advanced classroom, leaving his small segregated classroom behind. This young man is excited about having to do home work at last !

In 2011 we have implemented 2 social groups, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. During these hours and under the guidance of the teachers, our children play interactively together, exercising what they have learnt in the classrooms. They team up and play group games. Our playground is always filled with laughters, cheers, screams and shouts. The din from the playground often excites those who are in the room working. Therefore, in 2012, OMA have planned to create a quiet area for the hard working bunch so that they do not have to share the excitements just outside their doors.

As we work with our children we start to identify their talents. We have budding musicians, dancers, singers, sculptors and athletes. . . etc. Therefore, in the New Year we are looking into developing new programs eg. Ice-skating or dance (circumstances permitted). We aim to develop strategies to help children to overcome fear and hurdles and to learn to enjoy these popular activities.

Before we sign off 2011, we would like to say a sincere and heart-felt thank you to our friends and parents who donate their toys and books, old and new, to enrich our library collection.

In all, we enjoy working with our children. We will do our utmost to empower them with skills that will help them to develop their potential to the fullest. We look forward to sharing an exciting and rewarding 2012 with all our children and their families.

2012, we can't wait !

Happy Holidays, everyone !

From all of us at OMA