



Creekside VKP/Kinder Newsletter 2011.12

Welcome to another snowy season at Whistler Kids. After last years La Nina record breaking season we are all hoping that she will return this winter with bucket loads of snow. The whole Whistler Kids' team is looking forward to having you back again for some great Club Days! Included in this newsletter is all the information you'll need to get your little skiers going, plus our Theme Week Calendar so you are ready for all the fun days we have planned for the season! Please read the information carefully. If you have further questions please contact the Creekside VKP/Kinder supervisor Mariana 'Maz' Guaraldo. We are all looking forward to seeing you on the slopes soon! **Anna**

Program Dates

VKP

- ➔ Mon and Wed Dec 5, 2011 to Apr 4, 2012
- ➔ Tues and Thurs Dec 6, 2011 to Apr 5, 2012

Kinder

- ➔ Monday's Dec 5, 2011 to Apr 2, 2012

No VKP or Kinder during Christmas Break Dec 19, 2011 to Jan 1, 2012.

There will be no break in the programs for President's Week or Spring Break this season.

Drop Off and Pick Up Times

Drop off and pick up location:

➔ VKP

Outside Whistler Kids Creekside along the side of the building nearest Can Ski. Please note for the first day groups will be meeting inside.

➔ Kinder

Outside Whistler Kids along the Can Ski building wall.

➔ **Drop off time:** 8:45am–9:00am

➔ **Pick up time:** 2:45pm - 3:00pm

A drop off parking area will available on the top deck of the Creekside parking lot (the spaces closest to the Whistler Kids building). This is for drop off and pick up only. This area is very busy during drop off and pick up, please be patient with other users.

The First Day

➔The first day of each program will consist of forming the teams for the season, so attendance is highly recommended. Please email Maz with your child's name and level if you will be missing the first day.

➔Both Kinder and VKP skiers will be assigned groups based on their skiing ability prior to the start date. Each group will be given a designated meeting spot where the skiers will be introduced to their coaches and the rest of their team. It is important that you return Maz's email including any requests and what skier ability level your child is as soon as possible.

➔If you have specific friends that you wish to ski with, please arrive with that friend and let the team captain of that level know upon arrival.

➔Please do not worry if your child is distressed on the first day, our instructors and supervisors have lots of experience dealing with upset children, particularly when separation is still traumatic for them. We find that if parents say goodbye and leave as quickly as possible the child soon settles, if we have any worries we will be sure call you.

➔Please don't over estimate your child's ability, it is better for their confidence to be moved up a level rather than down.

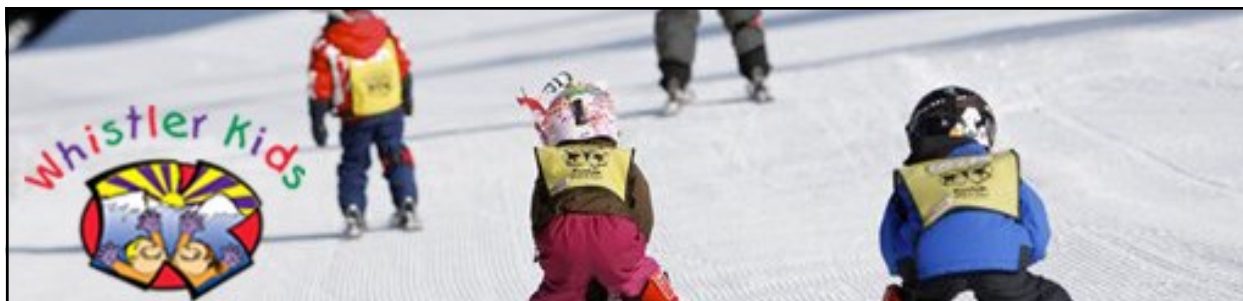
➔Please remember that the first day is always hectic, your patience will be appreciated by the instructors as they are trying to get each child into the best group.

➔Children are encouraged to leave "special toys" at home as we wouldn't want them lost during their busy day!

Attention All 3 Year Olds!!

We require ID to confirm that your child is **three years old** by **December 31, 2011** for our Valley Kids Program. Please bring your child's ID with you when picking up their pass at our Guest Relations locations.





Creekside VKP/Kinder Newsletter 2011.12

Tickets, Passes and Waivers

You will need the following before the first day of the program:

- 1. Collect or activate your child's Season Pass and sign the Pass waiver.
- 2. Safety Voucher—contains emergency contact information for your child, please ensure this information is up to date. Please attach this to your child's jacket.

Snow School Sales Locations will be open from November 24, 2011 at:

- Village – inside Guest Relations at G1
- Creekside – inside Guest Relations
- Blackcomb Daylodge

Instructor Changes

Things do change throughout the season so your instructor may change due to injury, differences in the rate that the children in the class are progressing or other unforeseen circumstances. If this occurs please be understanding, we will do everything we can to make any changes run smoothly for you and your child.



Requests

Most requests have already been submitted at the time of booking and passed on to the supervisor. Please remember that they are requests and we will do what we can, but it's not a guarantee. Requests only work if the children are compatible in the same group, compatibility will be left to the discretion of the instructor. If your child has friends that they want to ski with, even if you have put in a request, please arrive with those friends on the first day to make sign in and class formation smoother. If you do have a concern or request, please don't hesitate to contact Maz.



Chairlifts

VKP (3 and 4 year olds) classes do not use chairlifts on Whistler Mountain, terrain will be accessed by the Gondola only.

Please Note: Kinder (5 years +) **WILL be riding on chairlifts.**

Each child is paired with a responsible adult who is asked if they would like to ride with a child and reminded to pull down the safety bar. Instructors can take up two children at a time. If you have any questions about our lift loading policies please contact Maz.

Getting Your Child Prepared

All children should be ready to go (dressed in gear with their ski boots on) for the first day of their program with the following:

- Properly fitted ski equipment—boots, skis, helmet & goggles. Make sure they haven't outgrown their equipment over the summer before the first day! Please ensure skis are waxed, dried out skis makes sliding very difficult for little legs.
- Waterproof ski/snow suit and waterproof gloves or mitts.
- Lift Pass and Safety voucher—please get your child's pass processed before arriving on the first day. Safety "tickets" with your emergency contact information will be printed at any Snow School Sales location. Please attach this to your child's jacket. Please come in advance to get these if you did not receive them when getting your child's pass.
- Dressed appropriately for the weather/temperature. Dressing children in layers is always recommended. Your instructor can remove or add layers to make your child comfortable as the day progresses. Thermal long underwear & proper ski socks are good investments for your child's comfort. Thin balaclavas are also great for fitting under the helmet and protecting your child's face & neck in the cold.
- Hand and toe warmers are a great idea for cold days.
- Label all clothing and equipment with your child's FULL name. Lost items with names on will be kept and the parents contacted for pick up, any items without names will be placed in the lost and found.
- Lunch and snacks are provided but if your child has any special dietary needs, please call Maz to discuss how we can accommodate these needs.

Extra Days for \$49!!!

All Whistler Kids can come any day of the year for \$49 plus HST. Just call our Reservations Centre in advance to book on 1-800-766-0449.

You will need to pick up a day ticket as proof of payment for your drop in lesson, this can be done in advance from any Snow School Sales desk.

Please note: Children are not guaranteed to get their VKP/Kinder instructor for drop in lessons.





Creekside VKP/Kinder Newsletter 2011.12

Whistler Kids Skiing Ability Levels

Please use the level outlines below to assess what level group your child should be in. Please don't over estimate your child's ability, it is better for their confidence to be moved up a level rather than down.

→ **Never Ever**

I have never been on skis before.

→ **Level 1 Heart**

I have been on skis but I'm still learning to stop.

→ **Level 1 Star**

I can stop on my own and I am learning to turn. I am ready to practice on the magic carpet.

→ **Level 2 Heart**

I am able to snowplow to a stop. I can turn in both directions while staying balanced and have a good body position. I am still practicing in the beginner area but I am working towards skiing on the mountain.

→ **Level 2 Star**

I can link turns and follow my instructor. I am ready to ski easy green runs on the mountain.

→ **Level 3 Heart**

I can confidently link turns on green terrain and control my speed using turn shape. I am matching my skis at the end of the turn.

→ **Level 3 Star**

I can do wide parallel turns on green runs while staying balanced with good body position. I am confident on blue terrain skiing at a moderate speed. I am just starting to use poles.

→ **Level 4**

I am able to confidently and consistently ski parallel turns on blue runs. I maintain an athletic stance while holding my poles in front. I can hockey stop and side slip on both sides. I enjoy skiing black runs at a moderate speeds and going over bumps and jumps.

→ **Level 5**

I am able to ski strong parallel turns on black runs and I enjoy skiing difficult terrain, bumps, and powder. I make solid poles plants and stand centered on my skis on groomed runs. I can carve my skis and do round; short, medium and long radius turns. I can link smooth, rhythmic turns on black bump runs. I have good stance and balance while I do parallel turns in bumps and powder.

Fitness Tax Credit

VKP/Kinder are eligible to qualify for the Children's Fitness Tax Credit. If you require a tax receipt please call the Reservation Center on 1-800-766-0449 and they will email you a copy.



Missed Days

If your child will be missing days at the start of the program please let us know so we can add them to a class list. If your child is a beginner we encourage you to take some drop in lessons, priced at \$49 plus HST a day so your child doesn't fall behind the group.

It is also a good idea if you are missing days in the middle of the season to take a drop in lesson or go skiing as a family to ensure that the group does not develop ahead of your child.

If VKP/Kinder days are missed they CAN NOT be made up or refunded.



Holiday Adventure Camp!!!

All Club Kids can book our fabulous Adventure Camps over the Christmas Holidays at a whopping 65% discount off the regular price (about \$49 per day plus HST). These 3-Day camps run Dec. 19-23 and Dec. 26-30, 2011. Children will ski with the same group and instructor for the entire week and the price includes lunch, après and Whistler Kids swag!!!

5-Day camps are available at Blackcomb and the Village.

Call reservations for more info and bookings on 1-800-766-0449.

Please note: Children are not guaranteed to get their VKP/Kinder instructor for Adventure Camp lessons.

Feedback

We always appreciate your feedback. Please let us know at anytime throughout the season if you are not completely satisfied with your child's experience. The supervisor can then look into the matter and resolve any issues promptly.



The Team Approach

Over previous seasons the team approach has proved to be very positive and will again be implemented in all levels. Wherever possible, teams will be created consisting of children of similar age and ability led by a team of two to four coaches. Your child can expect to ski with one of these coaches each day.



Creekside VKP/Kinder Newsletter 2011.12

flaik Tracking Solutions

Returning for this season at Whistler Kids! flaik is a GPS real time tracking solution. A tag is worn by each child, providing extra safety and allowing participants to log their day. You will be able to see what runs they were on, how much vertical they achieved and how fast they go. It will provide an unprecedented level of safety and security for all children in our care, and extra peace of mind for parents and instructors. All children and teens in our Club Programs will wear a flaik GPS device while with their instructor. For more information and to track your child's ski day log on to www.flaik.com



After Ski Care Program

- Creekside—in the Creekside Daycare
 - Cost**
 - Drop in:
 - \$18 plus HST per day
 - Full season:
 - \$236 plus HST (one day/week)
 - \$462 plus HST (two days/week) per child.
- Please call 1-800-766-0449 to register

We will entertain your children with games, activities, quiet time and a snack until 5:30pm. Space is limited and some locations have sold out.

If you are booked into aftercare Andrea, the childcare supervisor, will send you more details directly.



Lateness

Please be aware that after the first day all classes leave at **9:00am sharp!** If you are late you will have to meet the class at lunch if possible. Please see the supervisor and they will let you know where the class will be.

Lunch and Dietary Requirements

At Whistler Kids we understand the importance of healthy eating and an active lifestyle. We have many meal options that are healthy and enjoyable for young children. If you have specific requests about what you would like/not like your child to eat please discuss this with your child's instructor. If you require more details on our menus please contact Maz.

Menu:

Morning Snack:

- Fresh fruit, crackers and cheese, juice or water

Lunch:

- Soup and Salad
- Veggies and dip
- A choice of hot dog, jam/cream cheese sandwiches, grilled cheese sandwich, veggie dog, or the daily special.
 - Examples: Ham sandwiches, mac and cheese, pasta and sauce, shepherds pie, perogies, pizza, tuna melt, baked potato.
- Sliced fruit
- Cookies or rice crispy squares
- Hot Chocolate, juice or water

Afternoon Snack:

- Fresh fruit
- Cookies
- Hot Chocolate, juice or water

Your child will be told what the lunch choices are daily, if you would like to help your child choose what to have for lunch please ask your instructor at drop off each day.

Please note that if you do not want your child to have certain food items (cookies, hot chocolate) other children in their class may still be eating them. You may want to discuss this with your child.

If your child has any special dietary needs, please call your supervisor to discuss how we can accommodate these needs.

Club Phone Directory

If you have any questions or concerns and would like to get a hold of us at you can contact us at:

Anna Boyd	Club Assistant Manager – all locations	604-905-2149	aboym@whistlerblackcomb.com
Mariana 'Maz' Guaraldo	Creekside VKP and Kinder	604-905-2148	mguaraldo@whistlerblackcomb.com
Andrea Howes	Daycare/Aftercare – all locations	604-938-7134	ahowes@whistlerblackcomb.com

To contact us immediately in case of emergencies, please call: 604-905-2206

WHISTLER KIDS – Memories & learning inspired through encouragement, accomplishment & friendship.



Creekside VKP/Kinder Newsletter 2011.12

Theme Weeks

Theme Weeks are instructor/program planned. You may be asked to bring something with you for certain themes. Maz will email you bi-weekly with details of the upcoming themes or check with your child's instructor each week. **Print this calendar and post it on your fridge!!!**

December 2011	
5-9	Welcome Week + Team Building
12-16	Safety and Goal Setting
19-23	No VKP or Kinder
26-30	No VKP or Kinder

January 2012	
2-6	Helping Hands
9-13	Crazy Helmet Week
16-20	Wild Wild West
23-27	Knights and Princesses

February 2012	
30 Jan - 3	Holiday Season
6-10	Mid Season Reports
13-17	Around the World
20-24	Mad Science

March 2012	
27 Feb-2	Choose Your Own Adventure
5-9	Photo Week
12-15	Dress Your Instructor
19-23	Fun in the Sun
26-30	Barnyard Bonanza

April 2012	
2-6	Farewell Parties