



SEPTEMBER OCTOBER NOVEMBER

A community newspaper and program guide brought to you by the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association. We are a community centre and neighbourhood house offering recreation, childcare, community events, and much more, right here in your neighbourhood!



Rooted Here Growing Together

celebrating 50 years
of community

This September, the Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA) is celebrating its 50th anniversary!

The FGCA has deep roots in this community. Since our beginnings in 1975 as a network of neighbours advocating for their needs, the FGCA has grown into an organization that makes life better for thousands of people each year. This incredible milestone is the result of countless contributions—neighbours gathering around kitchen tables to dream and plan, volunteers giving their time to strengthen our community, and staff creating positive experiences for children, families, and residents of all ages.

Our strength lies in how we work. We are not here simply to provide services—we are here to co-create our community with the people who live here. Everyone who has volunteered, attended an FGCA event, taken a yoga class, worked at a summer camp, or completed a survey has helped make the FGCA an indispensable part of Fairfield Gonzales life.

In these pages, you'll discover many ways to get involved and give back. We invite you to celebrate with us—building the community that we want to live, work, and play in for the next 50 years, and growing alongside the needs, hopes, and dreams of our neighbourhood.



INSIDE

Fall Fairfield
Sept. 21

Impact
Stories

Neighbourhood
Events

Drawing Contest
Results

www.fairfieldcommunity.ca

 **FairfieldGonzales
CommunityAssociation**

 **@fairfieldcommunity**

CONTACT US

1330 Fairfield Road

Victoria BC, V8S 5J1

250-382-4604

place@fairfieldcommunity.ca

RECEPTION HOURS

9am—4:30pm Mon to Fri

Closed Sat, Sun, Stat holidays

*Want to stay up to date
with neighbourhood
news and events?*

**Sign up for our monthly
e-newsletter at
fairfieldcommunity.ca**

*Our neighbourhood of Fairfield
Gonzales is located on unceded
(never surrendered) territories
of the Lkwungen peoples, now
known as the Songhees Nation,
the traditional stewards of this
land. Our centre is committed to
expanding our understanding
and actions relating to truth and
reconciliation.*

BECOME A MEMBER

Membership is free! As a member you will; have a say in who is elected to the Board, how the FGCA is governed (constitution and bylaws), be eligible to run for the Board and serve on committees. Visit our website and fill out our online membership form.

CONTRIBUTIONS & ADVERTISING

If you would like to contribute an article, artwork, ad, idea or something else, email office@fairfieldcommunity.ca

*The views expressed in the
Fairfield Gonzales Observer do
not necessarily reflect the views
of the FGCA.*

Giving Back to Your Community

The Fairfield Gonzales Community Association (FGCA) is rooted in this neighbourhood and growing with you into the next 50 years. Together, we can build the kind of community we want to live, work, and play in—a place our children and grandchildren will be proud to call home.

People in Fairfield Gonzales give back in many ways: by volunteering, donating food, organizing events and projects—and by making financial contributions. If you're able to support our work financially, here are some ways to give. All donations over \$25 are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.



Charity Name: Fairfield Community Association of Victoria (dba Fairfield Gonzales Community Association)

Charitable Registration Number:
128 210 259 RR0001

Address: 1330 Fairfield Rd.,
Victoria, BC V8S 5J1

Phone: 250-382-4604

Website:

www.fairfieldcommunity.ca

HOW WILL YOU GIVE?

DONATE ONLINE

Visit CanadaHelps.org and search for our name to make a one-time or monthly donation.

DONATE DIRECTLY

Call us, mail a cheque, or visit the centre in person to make a donation.

SET UP MONTHLY DONATIONS

Monthly donations allow us to plan more effectively for the future. Contact us to set up automatic contributions from your bank account or visit CanadaHelps.org to set up monthly donations by credit card. Even \$5 a month helps!

PAYROLL DONATIONS

Ask your employer if they offer payroll deductions for charitable giving. If you're a provincial employee, you can donate through the *Provincial Employees Community Services Fund*.

DONATE SECURITIES OR MUTUAL FUNDS

Gifts of securities or mutual funds are one of the most tax-efficient ways to give. You won't pay capital gains tax, which means your gift goes further. To donate, search our name on CanadaHelps.org and select "Donate Securities."

PLAN YOUR LEGACY

Leave a lasting legacy with a planned gift. A gift in your will to Fairfield Gonzales Community Association will make a difference right in your neighbourhood and provide significant tax advantages. If you would like to make a provision in your will, discuss it with your lawyer or notary. If you'd like to discuss where you'd like to direct your impact, please get in touch!

GET INVOLVED WITH FUNDRAISING

Support our fundraising efforts by attending events, baking a pie for the pie contest, or buying our swag! Check out our limited edition 50th Anniversary tote bags, designed by our Community Development Coordinator, Ashley Chun. Available at Fall Fairfield or at the centre for \$25.

Join Our Board!

Join other community-minded individuals in helping to build a connected, collaborative, inclusive and sustainable community! We are eager to recruit individuals to stand for election to the Board at our October AGM.

Interested? Contact Vanya at
250-382-4604 or vmcdonell@fairfieldcommunity.ca



From Drumming to Dinners: A Family Finds Belonging in Victoria

In June 2023, Kyrylo, Iana and their daughter Liza arrived in Victoria, leaving behind the uncertainty and danger of life in Ukraine. A musician and cobbler, Kyrylo wanted not only of safety for his family but also of a fresh start-somewhere they could rebuild, belong, and thrive.

As their departure approached, Kyrylo scrolled the internet, learning all he could about Victoria and what it has to offer, eager to get to know the community they were about to join. One post in particular caught his eye: a call out from Annalee, the summer camp manager at the FGCA, looking for musicians to engage with camp participants. Kyrylo reached out. That message sparked a conversation and opened the door to something bigger.

Once Annalee heard their story, she turned to the FGCA team. The FGCA got creative and were able to offer camp space for Liza, to help support the family while they began the work of settling in. While Kyrylo and Iana tackled piles of paperwork, school registration, and employment, - all without speaking English - Liza would be in camp, making friends and enjoying activities in her new city.

Fast forward two years and the

entire family speaks English with Liza proudly being the most fluent, often coaching her parents on their accent. They have all made friends through work and school, having people over to enjoy Kyrylo's delicious cooking.

"Generally, Canadians are quite.... soft, it's a good thing" Kyrylo reflects, kindly. "It's not like this in Ukraine. If you are poor, that's your problem. Here, people help each other. It's normal to help other people here."

Inspired by this approach Kyrylo and Iana decided they wanted to give back to the community that welcomed them in, to help build belonging for others. They started volunteering at the FGCA's community dinners, loved it, and ended up helping at every one for the whole year. If you visit the next round of Community dinners starting in October it's likely you will see them serving, washing, chatting, casually building belonging. They bring such cheer and enthusiasm to their roles, truly embracing community spirit, showing us that the community you want, is the one you make.

Find Kyrylo's cobbler services:
@family.cobbler (Facebook)



Kyrylo serving up meals at Community Dinner

Friends & Fulfillment at Community Pantry



Netta at Thursday Market Shop

Like many others feeling the pressure of rising living costs in recent years, Netta started exploring different ways to get groceries. She began visiting food programs around the city - community fridges, pantries, any place that would help stretch her dollars a little further.

She heard about the Thursday Market Shop at the FGCA, a program that rescues food nearing its expiry date from local businesses, lays it all out like a store, and invites people to "shop" for free. At 5pm shoppers draw numbers to determine the order, so if you're near the end, you find yourself standing in line for a bit. Waiting for her turn Netta did what comes easily to her: she started chatting.

A natural people person, Netta struck up conversations, shared stories, learned about people, had some laughs. Week after week, she saw the same folks and soon, the

wait time became a social catch-up.

Eventually, she found herself coming early, just to chat with people. One day, she got there too early, found herself waiting alone, and thought: *Instead of sitting around doing nothing - I could help set up!* so, she offered to lend a hand and became a volunteer.

Now, Netta helps lay out the food, organize the produce, and greets everyone with genuine care. She's become part of the program's good energy, a friendly face who makes people feel seen, remembered, and welcomed.

"You don't know what kind of day someone's had," she says. "If you can just say hi, remember their name, make their day a little nicer, that's what it's about."

For Netta, Thursday pantry has become more than just handing out food. After a 30-year career as an esthetician with a loyal base of clients (many of whom became

lifelong friends) Netta took a spontaneous road trip out west and fell in love with the coast. She moved, leaving behind her family, friends and community. The pantry offered more than support, it offered belonging.

"Being here helped me realize I like to give," Netta says. "I might have come for food, but I stayed for the people."

Now, she knows everyone's name. And everyone knows hers. That kind of mutual recognition, the simple power of being *known*, is what community is all about.

At its heart, the Community Pantry is more than free food. It's a place where people come for groceries and leave with connection. For Netta, it's become a weekly ritual of joy and generosity - a place to be needed, and to help others feel the same.

How We Can Help

Advocacy
on policy issues that affect our lives & communities

Assistance
navigating provincial government & community resources & services

Information
on provincial government policies & services

Outreach
by promoting, attending, or speaking at community events

Recognition
of unique contributions or milestones with congratulatory certificates & letters

We'd love to hear from you!





LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
of BRITISH COLUMBIA

Grace Lore
MLA for
Victoria Beacon-Hill
Community Office

1084 Fort Street Victoria, BC V8V 3K4
250-952-4211 Grace.Lore.MLA@leg.bc.ca



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WEEKLY ACTIVITIES at the FGCA

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	WEEKEND
Family Playgroup + Lunch 10am-12:30pm* Drop-in by donation 1335 Thurlow Rd. Starts Sept 15	Parent & Tot Playgroup 9:30-11am* Drop-in, by donation 1330 Fairfield Rd. Starts Sept 16	NEW! Yoga & Pilates Active Aging 9-10am Sep 17-Dec 3 12/\$156 Registered	Kindergym 9:30-11am* Drop-in by donation 1335 Thurlow Rd. Starts Sept 18	<i>*Family Drop-ins are closed during School District 61 Pro-D days, breaks and statutory holidays</i>	Moss St. Farmers Market Saturdays 10-1pm Nov-April 10-2pm May-Oct Thurlow & Moss St mossstreetmarket.com



The City of Victoria's Leisure Involvement For Everyone (L.I.F.E.) program improves access to recreation services and programs for individuals and families living on a low income. Get free drop-ins, credit toward programs and discounts. To apply drop by Crystal Pool or email crystalpool@victoria.ca

Essentrics 9:15-10:15 am Sep 9-Dec 2 11/\$110 Registered class	NEW! Seated Dance 10:15-11am Oct 8-Nov 26 8/\$60 Registered class	Iyengar Yoga Support & Restore 11:45am-12:45pm Sep 11-Nov 27 12/\$144 Registered class	Gentle Chair Yoga 11:30am-12:30pm Sep 19-Dec 5 10/\$130 Registered class
Iyengar Yoga All Levels 11am-12:30pm Sep 9-Nov 25 10/\$150 Registered class	NEW! Move with Me dance for ages 2-4 11:15am-12pm Oct 8-Nov 26 8/\$60 Registered	Iyengar Yoga Beginner 1-2pm Sep 11-Nov 27 12/\$144 Registered class	
Good Food Box Pick up 1:30-4:30pm Order your box online www.thegoodfoodbox.ca	Thursday Pantry Shop 5pm Drop-in, Free. Recued food shop		
Zumba 5:30-6:30pm Sep 8-Dec 1 12/\$120 Registered class	Iyengar Yoga All Levels 5:30-7pm Sep 9-Nov 25 10/\$150 Registered class	Zumba Toning 5:30-6:30pm Sep 10-Dec 3 13/\$130 Registered class	Hatha Yoga 5:45-6:45pm Oct 9-Dec 11 10/\$110 Registered class
Soqi 6:30-7:30pm Sep 8-Dec 1 12/\$120 Registered class	Unwind Knitting Club 7-8:30pm Starts Oct 7 Free!	Somatic Yoga 6:30-7:30pm Sep 10-Dec 3 13/\$130 Registered class	Spanish for Travellers 6:30-8:30pm Oct 2-Nov 6 6/\$105 Registered class
Royal Astronomy Society Club 7-8:30pm Wolf Den, back of the FGCA, Free pastpres@victoria.rasc.ca	Beginner Hand Drumming 7pm-9pm Sept 9-23 3/\$90 Registered class	Drop-in-Evening Net sports coming in October see website for updates!	Level 2 Hand Drumming 7pm-9pm Sept 11-25 3/\$90 Registered class
	Narcotics Anonymous 7:30-8:30pm Drop-in Free Everyone welcome		

REGISTER ONLINE
fairfieldcommunity.ca

For registered classes see our website for detailed course information

ROOM RENTAL

We have several spaces to rent including a few classroom sized rooms, our large Garry Oak room for up to 100 people standing, and a commercial kitchen.

See our website for our rates, availability and how to submit a booking request.

FREEBIE NIGHT FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS
2nd Monday of the month, 7-9pm, rental by donation

If your workshop, meeting, event, gathering or info session, is public and free to attend, you can book for free. Rooms are classroom sized and can accommodate up to 30 people. 250-382-4604 to book

CHILDCARE

Huckleberry Infant Toddler
10-36 mths | Full Day | \$10/day

Camas Early Years Centre
2.5 -5 yrs | Full Day | \$10/day

Moss Rock Preschool
3-5 yrs | Half Day | \$10/day

Before & After School Care
Grades K-5
Fairfield-Sir James Douglas & Margaret Jenkins Schools
Cost varies based on enrollment



EVENTS & WORKSHOPS at the FGCA



Clothing Swap
First Saturday of the month
OCTOBER 4
NOVEMBER 1
DECEMBER 6
10am-1pm
By donation
1330 Fairfield Rd.
Give away clothes, pick up new ones!



Art at the Place
SEP. Crystal Millions
OCT. FGCA Staff Show
NOV. Tereza Allen
9am-5 pm Mon-Fri
1330 Fairfield Rd.
Visit our foyer to see art by local artists.



Community Dinners
2nd Friday of the month
OCTOBER 10
NOVEMBER 14
6-7:30 pm
1335 Thurlow Rd.
\$5 suggested donation.
Stay & eat, or bring your container for take out.



Repair Cafe
Saturday
OCTOBER 4
2-5pm
By donation
1330 Fairfield Rd.
Drop by and get your broken items repaired by volunteer fixers!



Paint Night
Thursday
SEP. 18 Octopus
OCT. 30 Glowing Pumpkins
NOV. 20 Pour painting gift boxes and canvas painting
DEC.11 Snowman
6:30-9pm
1/\$40, Registered class
Unleash your inner artist!



Meet A Stranger
Saturdays
OCTOBER 18
NOVEMBER 15
DECEMBER 20
2:15-3:30 pm
Free. 1330 Fairfield Rd.
A chance to chat with a complete stranger.
www.westcoastspeaks.ca



Food Forest Work Parties
Porter Park
Help us grow the garden, learn about plants and sustainable harvesting.
Check our website for dates and times.
www.fairfieldcommunity.ca
Everyone Welcome, no experience needed!



Annual General Meeting
Monday
OCTOBER 27
7pm-8:30pm

Everyone is welcome to the FGCA's Annual General Meeting. We will celebrate our accomplishments of the last year and members will vote for our board of directors.

15TH ANNUAL
Fall Fairfield
Music, Arts, & Food Festival celebrating fall!

PIE CONTEST • BEVERAGE GARDEN • LOCAL VENDORS
FOOD TRUCKS • LIVE PERFORMANCES • FREE CRAFTS

FREE ENTRY

When
SUNDAY, SEPT 21
12-4PM

Where
ROBERT PORTER PARK

More Info
FAIRFIELDCOMMUNITY.CA

ENGELVÖLKERS
PIZZERIA PRIMAVERA

NOV 21 | DEC 19 | JAN 16

LIVE MUSIC
IN THE
GARRY OAK

50 years of the FGCA *photos from the archives*

- 1975—Fairfield Community Association incorporated as a non-profit society by a group of neighbourhood residents
- 1976—'A Community Plan for Fairfield' drafted and presented to City Hall
- 1976—FCA members help begin and sponsor Fairfield Activity Centre (now Cook Street Activity Centre)
- 1977—FCA newspaper starts publication, Fairfield Community Press, Fairfield Observer
- 1978—Fairfield Homemaker service begins
- 1983—annual Swiftsure Breakfast starts, runs until 2010
- 1984—annual Hallowe'en Bonfire starts, runs until 2010
- 1984—FCA opens Fairfield Community Place in the brick annex to SJD school on Thurlow Rd.
- 1984—Along with Vancouver Island Recycling Society, FCA starts curbside recycling
- 1986—Summer Camp and Out of School Care for Sir James Douglas School begin
- 1989—evening Youth Program starts
- 1991—FCA petitions City to change name of 'Fairfield Hill' to common name 'Moss Rocks'
- 1994—FCA begins operating before and after school care at Margaret Jenkins School
- 1995—FCA members and neighbours save Olive St. Commons
- 1997—Garry Oak Room and Corrine's Kitchen are built as part of the new SJD school
- 2000—First Car Free Day—runs until 2005
- 2005—Fairfield Visioning Process
- 2008—name change to add 'Gonzales'
- 2011—Youth Space completed and begins operations
- 2011—first year of annual Fall Fairfield
- 2013—Fairfield Food Forest is planted
- 2014—Neighbourhood Yard Sale Day has its first year
- 2017—Camas Early Years Centre starts
- 2019—Community Inspiration Project – asset mapping
- 2020—Huckleberry Infant Toddler care started
- 2020—FGCA starts community food programs
- 2024—Ross Bay Native Plant Garden established
- 2024—First Gonzales Sunset Beach party held



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- ✓ Expert knowledge of the latest tax laws and updates that affect your return
- ✓ Meticulous attention to detail ensuring accuracy in every filing

Who We Help

- ✓ Employees with T4 income and basic returns
- ✓ Investors managing multiple income streams
- ✓ Business owners and self-employed individuals
- ✓ People with side income or complex tax situations

380 Cook Street, Victoria, BC V8V 3X7

250-410-2144

Community Spotlight Award by West Coast Speaks

Kindness is contagious and that one simple act of compassion can ripple out and touch countless lives. The Community Spotlight Award celebrates those remarkable individuals whose warmth, generosity, and humanity inspire others and strengthen the heart of our communities.

- You can nominate someone who:**
- ★ Acts with Kindness and Compassion
 - ★ Regularly extends care, empathy, or support to others in ways big or small.
 - ★ Builds Community
 - ★ Helps foster a sense of connection, belonging, and kindness within their neighbourhood, workplace, or social circles.
 - ★ Leads by Example
 - ★ Serves as a positive role model, showing others what it means to live with integrity, heart, and generosity.
 - ★ Spreads Joy and Peace
 - ★ Brings light into the lives of those around them through simple acts of warmth, encouragement, and joy.

- ★ Inspires Others
- ★ Demonstrates through words or actions that no act of kindness - however small - is ever wasted, as each one ripples outward to lift an entire community.

Who can be nominated?
Anyone! A neighbour, coworker, friend, barista, coach, teacher, or stranger you witnessed making a difference.

Why it matters:
This is about celebrating everyday heroes, those whose good deeds and open hearts help build a more connected, compassionate world - one act at a time.

If you would like to nominate someone, reach out to West Coast Speaks with as details about your chosen nominee.
info@westcoastspeaks.ca

More info at www.westcoastspeaks.ca/communityspotlightinfo

amaze

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Nov - Apr
10am to 1pm



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Draw what you want your neighbourhood to look like in 50 years!

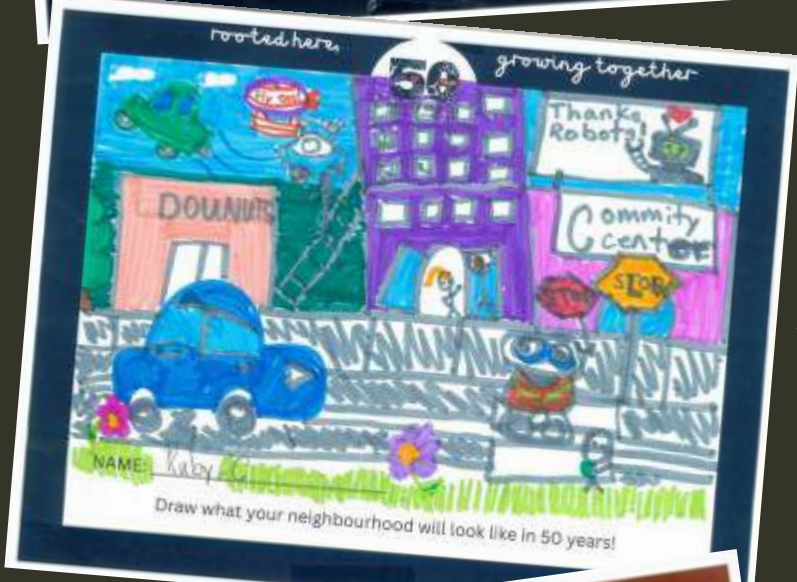


Flying cars, modern houses,
roof gardens, people will
wear jet packs, post selfies.
Hopefully there are birds and
rainbows!
Luna >>

My family to still
have houses close
to each other
<< Cecilia



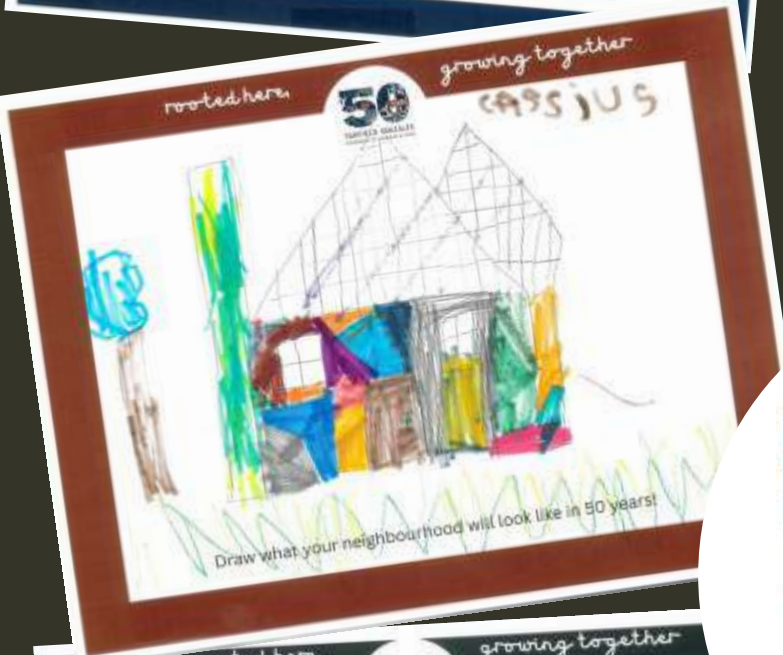
I want my
neighbourhood to
have to have a mix of
old and new homes ,
space cars and leermas
Nico >>



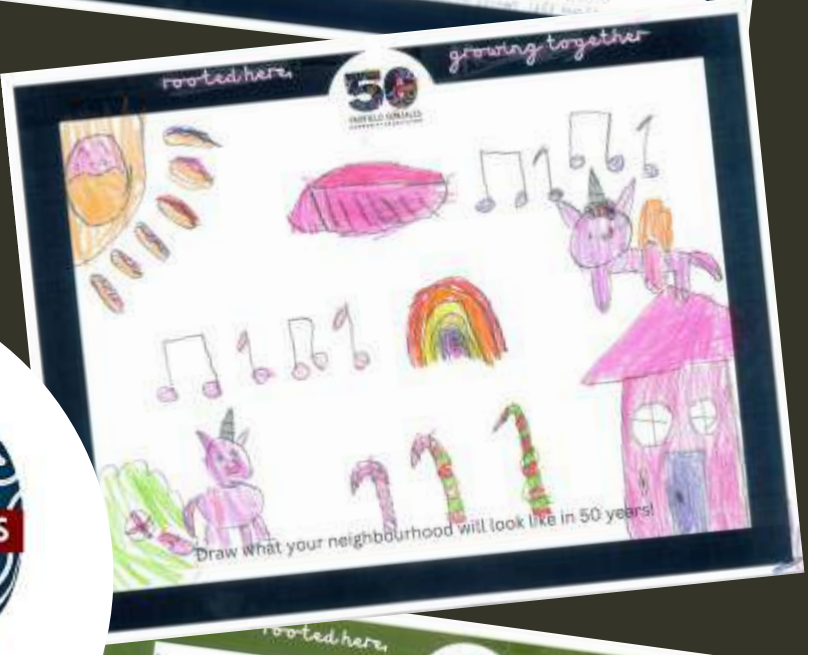
Robots, flying cars,
loving and not hating
and teamwork!
<< Ruby



I want Kittycorns dancing
through rainbow tunnels
Audrey >>

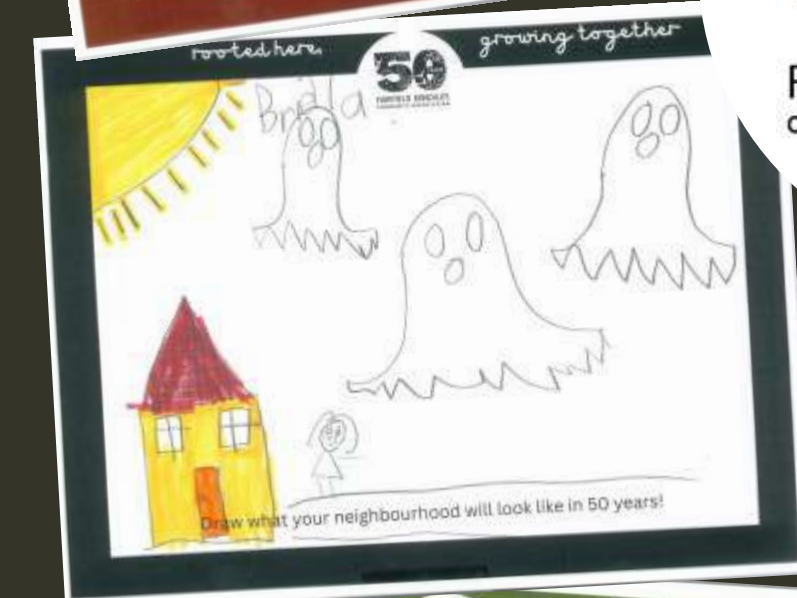


Rainbow House
<< Cassius



I want my
neighbourhood to have
neighbours in it
Evan >>

In 50 years? Ghosts!
<< Briella



I want my
neighbourhood to
be full of Rainbows
and Cats
Noelle >>



Lots of Candy,
Chocolate , Caramel
and Cotton Candy.
Multicoloured World!
<< Sephira

