



TAKOMA PARK

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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April 2014 Newsletter

April 6th-12th

Week of the Young Child

April 10th 7pm

TPCDC Board Meeting

April 14th-18th

Spring Break Camp



From the Director:

Well, after the snow showers on Sunday, we really hope that Spring will stop playing April Fool's Day jokes, and finally put in an appearance. Especially, the classes are beginning to plan more field trips and outdoor activities, and the children are eager to have warmer weather for playground activities. We've also been eager to get more mulch spread on the playground, and then the snow comes again, but this week we hope that the good weather will get that job done.

Next week we will recognize the National Week of the Young Child with special activities in the Center. There will be fun and zany projects for the children to do in the classrooms, and generally much emphasis on the joys of being a child. I've found the children enjoy most the day when the teachers act out the familiar fairy tales that the children know. Don't forget that on Saturday, April 12th, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Montgomery College will sponsor a children's fair at Wheaton Plaza, near Dick's Sporting Goods Store. There will lots of fun activities for



Our Staff

Director: Terry dela Santa

Office Administrator: Joan Byrd

Teddy Bears: Ana Rodriquez,
Martha Talento, Reina Vasquez.,
Dorothy Battle, Rosy Hill

Munchkins: Corina Powell, Yanira
Salgado, Amanda Dullin-Jones,
Elzmarie Eckert, Beatriz Perez,
Brenda Roberts

Rainbows: Teresa Abanto, Dorys
Ferman, Rosa Lopez, Indhira Hill,
Ms. Beatriz Ramirez

Explorers: Sherri Smith, Arly
Reyes and Ada Cruz, Selvi
Vijayakumar

Shining Stars (K and 1st): Brenda
Roberts, Rosa Lopez, Christine
Bui

School Agers (2nd and Up):
Dorothy Battle, Jonathan Berrios,
Najwa Plunkett

Board of Directors

2013-2014

Alice Weiss (Co-Chair)
Karen Vossler (Co-Chair)
Matt Hobbs (Secretary)
Aaron Kofner (Treasurer)
Todd Christiansen
Steve Coleman
Virginia Davis
Jared Hughes
Adam Hutton
Cara Long

children of all ages, and it's free!

Spring break for MCPS will be April 14-21, there are limited spaces available still in the camp for school-age children here at TPCDC.

Thank you to all the parents who participated in the Town Hall meeting, there were so many great ideas and priorities that were shared. It was very helpful to recruit additional support for the parent board, as the board helps guide the changes and improvements we are undertaking. We welcome Adam Hatton and Cara Long to the Board.

The Pasta Dinner in early March was a huge success. This event raised close to \$3000 to support the Professional Development Fund and facility improvements. But, the best part was the community spirit and fellowship that came everyone being together for one night of fun and laughter. A big thank you to the many parent and teacher volunteers who worked so hard to make the evening run so smoothly.

Happy Spring – Terry Delasanta

Announcements:

TPCDC Diaper Drive!

Thanks to the TPCDC Community for your contributions to DC Diaper Bank!

With your help we collected: 1,138 Diapers/Pull-Ups and 1,835 Wipes!

Plus many other baby supplies for families in need in our community!

Still have items to donate?

E-mail Lisa (lisagrossman@hotmail.com) or visit www.dcdiaperbank.org for a list of drop off locations in Takoma Park/Silver Spring

Classroom Updates

Teddy Bears

Dear Parents Spring has approach and we look forward to continue enjoying and learning in the Teddy Bears. For the month of April, we will talk about Baby Animals, where the children will get the knowledge of the different names of the baby animals. They also will practice their vocabulary through naming the baby animals as well as through singing songs about them. We will do art activities related to the daily topic with the purpose of fostering fine motor skills and cognitive skills through practicing colors and the animal's recognition. We have planned another field trip to the zoo, but this time we just going to go to Petting Zoo; also we look forward in going to the Pet store, so the children can get ideas about other places where we can see animals beside the zoo.

Enjoy spring.

Teddy Bears.

Munchkins

Happy spring! The Munchkins and their teachers are looking forward to the warmer spring weather coming this month. Last month the Munchkins had been practicing routines and are now solidifying them. Parents have commented that the new habits are being practiced in the home as well, which is very encouraging and exciting to hear. We are also encouraged with the cohesion of the classroom and see how it has increased the efficiency of daily activities and time for play and fun in the classroom. We are elated to have Bilal back in the class and are enthused to hear about his exciting trip. Old friendships have rekindled and he hasn't skipped a beat while getting settled in. This month Ms. Elzmarie has helped Ms. Beatriz with the theme

and calendars, and she is very enthused about it. The theme of the month is Animals, and we will bring last month's theme of spring along, into our current theme. While we learn about animals, we will talk about those that have come out of hibernation and are foraging spring's newly grown food. Each day the children will learn a new animal, and they will paint pictures of them, learn to embody some of their behaviors, become aware of new descriptive facts, listen to stories about, participate in cooking projects and will be able to identify more animals as we progress. We have begun planting flowers and veggies for each of the children and will watch them grow as time passes as well as doing activities outside during walks, and art with the plants that we discover. Now that the children are beginning to adhere to more structure we are pleased to go on more outings and starting this month, we will go to the DC Library every Tuesday to have a story time with the librarian. Our field trips for the month will be to the Smithsonian National Zoo and to the Children's Museum at the National Harbor, dates and information soon to follow.

Rainbows

Theme: Safety Awareness April Showers Bring May Flowers!

The theme for the month of April is safety awareness. We will learn and discuss all forms of safety . Fire safety stop drop and roll,also what to do in case of a fire . Stranger danger awareness and how not to talk to strangers. How to dial 911in the event of an emergency. The children will learn to identify various safety signs and what traffic lights are used for.The rainbows will learn how to safely cross the street. The field trips planned for the month are: Visits to the local police and fire departments. We will read the story called My Body Belongs to me and how to play safe. Please make sure to bring books on

safety for show-tell day. Safety is the name of the game.

Explorers

We hope you enjoyed out pasta dinner performance, We would like to thank all of our parents for their hard work and support. Thank you again for helping us make the pasta dinner a huge success.

Our theme for April is Feathered Friends. We are excited to learn about the many species of birds their habitats and life cycles. We will go on neighborhood walks to observe the birds. We will learn the names of many different birds as well as how different birds care for their young from the eggs to feeding. The Explorers will have lots of fun answering questions like: How do birds get around? Do all birds fly? Do birds walk and swim the same way? In addition, April 22 is Earth Day. It is a day to remind us to take care of our Earth. We reflect on our planet, our environment, and learn about things we can do to help keep our Earth healthy. Explorer children will learn about the Three R's: Recycle, reuse, and reduce. We will talk about how we can save water and why water is so important. Our most important topic will be pollution and how we can limit the amount of pollution we release into our Earth. We will also discuss how to conserve energy during our daily activities such as turning off lights we don't use and unplugging un-used items.

This month our big event is the week of the young child. Parents, please stay tuned for details of this special fun filled week!

Important Reminders

Remember

Please update your emergency contact information. Make sure there is a full set of

season appropriate extra clothes in your child's cubby. Please remember to bring a sheet and a blanket for nap time and take them home at the end of each week for cleaning.

Reminder to Part-Timers

A special reminder to parents of children who are enrolled part-time at TPCDC. Please remember that your contract is for specific days of the week and not for a number of days per week. If TPCDC is closed on a day that your child normally attends, you may not bring your child on another day that week to make it up. If you wish to bring your child on a day that she or he is not contracted for, please check with the Director in advance to ensure there is space available in the classroom. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

Late Pick-Up Policy

Please come to pick-up your child early enough so that you have enough time to gather your child's belongings and exit by 6:00 pm (1 pm for morning attendees).

We appreciate your help in doing this so that our staff can leave at a reasonable time in the evening.

A \$15 late fee for each 15 minutes or portion thereof will be charged for children who are left at the center after 1 pm (morning program attendees) or 6 pm (afternoon attendees or full day program attendees).

Fees:

6:00 - 6:15 = \$15 6:16 - 6:30 = \$30 6:31 - 6:45 = \$45
6:46 - 7:00 = \$60

Chronic lateness will be assessed an extra surcharge of \$50 for each occurrence. (Please refer to our family handbook on page 17.)

Parental Assistance on the Playground

At dismissal time, there is a lot of activity on the playground with all the adults, conversations, and playing occurring. There has been difficulty in defining when the teachers turn over responsibility of children when we are on the playground at dismissal time. We ask that when you come to pick up your child and he/she is already on the outdoor playground, that you officially take over responsibility of your child as soon as you enter the playground and your child becomes aware of your presence. We thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Clothing

Children should wear comfortable clothes that they can remove easily. Children should not wear "dress" clothes as they are likely to get messy. Weather appropriate clothing should always be provided: hats, gloves, etc. in the winter months and shorts in the summer. Children must always wear shoes. Sturdy footwear is recommended. For their own safety, children may not wear shoes that expose their toes.

Toys from Home

Because toys from home are often difficult to share, easy to lose, and breakable we ask that children do not bring toys from home to the center except for show and tell. If your child has a special item he or she would like to share, please let your child's teacher know. The center does not allow toys that promote aggressive behavior such as guns, knives, or swords. Following are some appropriate and popular items: photographs, hand made toys and games, books, objects found in nature and art work.

Health Issues

It is important to keep teachers and office staff

informed of children's health issues. Please bring emergent health issues to our attention, particularly head lice, strep throat, and pink eye.

Health Insurance Card

Licensing requires that each child in the center should have his/her insurance card in their file. Please bring a copy of the card and drop it in the office.

Center Closing Policy

TPCDC follows the Federal Government's announcements for closing due to inclement weather. In the event the Federal Government has a delayed arrival, the Center will open one hour late at 8:00 a.m. If the Federal Government announces a two hour delayed opening, the Center will open two hours late at 9:00 a.m. In the event the federal government closes on any given day, the Center will also close. The Director may make an independent decision to close the Center, when the situation necessitates (i.e. loss of power at TPCDC). Closings for severe weather or emergencies will be announced on News Channel 7, and be sent electronically (by text or email) to parents whenever possible. In the event the Center must close early due to federal government shut down or Center emergency, parents will be given 2 hours notification to pick up the children.