



# TAKOMA PARK

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

310 Tulip Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 | (310) 270-6824 | info@tpcdc.org

### February 2014 Newsletter

#### February 17th

TPCDC Closed

#### March 8th

TPCDC Pasta Dinner!

#### March 28th

MCPS Professional Day



### From the Director:

January has seen the full range of weather from spring-like to bitter winter, with much snow and ice; hopefully we're near the tail-end of the bad weather. But, I want to thank all of you for your patience through the late openings and the closings. It seemed the system of getting the announcement on TV (News Channel 7 & 8) worked very efficiently, but that the emails alerts still have some bugs to get ironed out on my end. I apologize for the confusion that this has caused, and we will continue to find a way to get emails out to all families by routing it through the room parents and other vehicles. Please keep in mind that we follow the Federal Government as a rule for inclement weather, and you can go to:

<http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/snow-dismissal-procedures/current-status/>

if you are unsure of the decision of the Federal Government. I've found that announcements may even be posted the night before.



## Our Staff

**Director:** Terry dela Santa

**Office Administrator:** Joan Byrd

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

**Munchkins:** Cecilia Gallagher,  
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

I will be gone from late January until February 10<sup>th</sup>. My husband and I have a great opportunity to help with a Medical Mission in the Philippines with a group of doctors, nurses and dentists from the Chicago area. There is such great need there in wake of Typhoon Haiyan (although we won't be in the hardest hit area because of a lack of housing/facilities) and we hope we can provide good support to the teams. I know that the Center is in the capable hands of Ms. Joan and the teachers, so I can go with an easy heart.

Several staff have gotten their good grades from their fall classes in Early Childhood Education field and are now enrolling for the spring semester. Many of them have earned scholarships from Montgomery College or the State of Maryland. This is yet another reason to be proud of their dedication; they work full-time, take care of their families and go to class at night or on the weekends, working to become better teachers of the children.

Please save the date: Saturday, March 8th will be the Pasta Dinner Fundraiser. It will be held in the big gym and will feature performances by the children, an Art and a Bake Sale, and delicious food in a fun atmosphere. For our new parents, please make sure to come; it is truly a special night to see your child perform with their class up on the stage. Grandparents and family members are welcome and tickets will be available soon.

Our fundraising goal is to put at least \$2000 in the TPCDC staff development fund, which will help cover a portion of the staff tuition expenses, which is a truly worthy project. And, we are trying to raise an additional \$3000 for additional building improvements, like repainting and new flooring in the educational building. So please join and support! We also need parent volunteers to help with set-up, preparation, bake sale items, staffing tables and clean-up – let us know how you'd like to help. The planning committee will be reaching out to recruit you – please lend a hand.

Ms. Terry

## Classroom Updates

### *Teddy Bears*

Dear Parents, The teddy bears continue to enjoying the activities in the classroom at the same time learning at their own rhythm. Many of them are showing more vocabulary as well as more interactive play.

For the month February we will talk about shapes and colors focusing on stars, heart, square, and circles. We will also work on some colors recognition such as: yellow, red orange, and green. The children will be able to start building the concepts of different kind of shapes as well as to identify colors. Through the daily activities such as art, reading books about shapes and providing opportunities to play with different kind of shapes in an interactive way, the children will develop social skills as well as language.

Enjoy the rest of the winter.

### *Munchkins*

We hope everyone had a happy and wonderful holiday. We've begun the new year by creating challenging, fun-filled activities for Munchkins class.

This February, there is so much to see and do in our Munchkins class. We will work all together, teachers and children to accomplish some meaningful, educational, and challenging activities and tasks. We will talk about shapes, teaching the children to recognize and create shapes like circle, diamond, square, rectangle, oval and heart. Teachers will encourage each child to make shapes in their own unique ways and letting them assemble shapes to form art. We will use our growing literacy, math and science skills everyday, counting, coloring of

shapes and story telling. For Valentines Day we will have pot luck meal and exchange valentine's cards with our good friends. We also learn about friendships and how to be kind to and share with our friends.

### *Rainbows*

During the month of February we will focus on friendship. Rainbows are eager to continue to learn and develop their social, cognitive, fine and gross motor skills. Rainbows will learn how important it is to have a good relationship with friends, families, and teachers. Rainbows will have the opportunity to share with each other, use kinds words towards others, team work and taking turns. The children will experiment science through cooking projects, such as heart cake, strawberry shake, and sandwich shaped heart. For math we will discuss colors of valentine, play games, sing songs with numbers, and number recognition 1-5. Also, we will continue working with fine motor skills, such as lacing, painting, coloring, cutting, and play dough manipulation. For gross motor we will have music movement and gymnastic activities. We have planned a fun and exciting field trip to Disney on ice Feb 13. Rainbows will conclude friendship month by exchanging cards on Feb 14 along with a pot luck lunch. For Show and tell please bring anything related to the theme, such as books, recipes or own creation.

We are looking forward to have a fun and an exciting month.

### *Explorers*

February is here! Our theme will be Presidents and money. We have lots of fun activities planned for the month of February. Sunday February 2nd is groundhog day. On February 3rd we will discuss groundhog facts and do a special activity. We're also very excited about the week of

Feb10-14th. We will talk about why friendships are important to us and ways to show kindness to others. On Thursday Feb13 we will go to the Verizon center to see Disney on ice. Friday Feb14 we will celebrate valentine day by exchanging valentines cards, playing games having a friendship dance and having a yummy special snack. A list of classroom names will be posted on the board in the hall and emailed to the parents. Continuing with our theme we will discuss money and the presidents on it. Our activities will include using real and pretend money to help us count, match and classify, drawing coins & bills, writing the amount, and matching presidents to the money they are on.

For social studies we will go on a field trip to the Bureau of Engraving, to observe how bills are printed. Information about field trips will be posted on the parent's board soon.

## 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**

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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.