



TAKOMA PARK

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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

May 2014 Newsletter

April 30th-May 5th

School Picture Days

May 5th-9th

Teach Appreciation Week

May 17th

Spring Clean-up Day

May 20th

Mr. Gabe's Concert at TPCDC

June 6th

3pm Explorer Graduation Day

4pm Family Day Cook Out



From the Director:

Spring has **finally** sprung, but includes lots of spring showers! Despite this, the children enjoy the weather and the time spent outdoors. Have you checked out all the plants and the gardening they've been busy with?

The focus for this month is "Staff Appreciation." During the week of May 5-9, we will have our annual

Staff Appreciation week. The teachers and support staff at our center are essential to creating a warm, energetic learning environment for our children. These dedicated, imaginative, spirited and loving people have a huge impact on children and families lives. Let's show them how much they mean to us!

Here are suggestions for ways to show the staff how much you appreciate them:

All Week Long – Post Love Notes on the Staff Bulletin Board or Classroom Door.



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

Monday May 5: Breakfast will be provided by the Parent Board.

Tuesday – Children Bring Flowers for the Teachers

Wednesday – Children bring cards, letters or pictures for their teachers

Thursday – Children bring treats for their teachers

Friday – A Teacher Appreciation Lunch (being coordinated by the Room Parents.

Week of the Young Child was lots of fun. The children had a blast, especially when the staff performed familiar fairy tales for them, and they also enjoyed the special breakfast time with parents. It was nice to celebrate our precious children.

We also held our first Parent Town Hall, with an amazing number of participants. Many suggestions were gathered to move towards program improvements, particularly in the areas of communication and staff development. The meeting also secured more parent volunteers for the Parent Board and other upcoming events.

TPCDC was also honored with recognition at the Montgomery County Child Care Celebration Night, for achieving the Maryland State Department of Education, and numerous staff members were recognized for earning the Staff Credential and/or the Montgomery College Scholarship. Way to Go Team! Our staff train to sharpen their skills, through college courses and continuing education workshops, so that they can become even better teachers, so please take the time to recognize the difference they make in your children's lives.

We have a spring clean-up day planned for Saturday, May 17th, from 9 -12. We are asking parents to volunteer to help out for a shift during that time to help make TPCDC clean and bright for a fun-filled summer. As you can see, we've gotten the ball rolling by replacing some of the playground equipment. A survey monkey will be going around soon, to allow parents to sign-up to tackle specific jobs on May 17th, and we promise food and fun for the morning. See you there!

--Terry

Classroom Updates

Teddy Bears

Dear Parents, the teddy Bears have had a wonderful time talking about Zoo Animals and Baby Animals. They are able to name some of them as well as to make some animals sounds.

For the month of May we look forward to continue enjoying and learning at the same time while talking about Flowers and Colors. The children will be able to recognize and name some flowers as well as they will continue practicing colors recognition through some art activities such as coloring , painting , and pasting . To enhance the topic, we will have a field trip to Brook Side Garden where the children will be able to see the variety of f lowers and its' colors.

We hope you to enjoy the spring time.

Munchkins

Welcome to the month of May!

During this month, the Munchkins will learn all about Flowers. The children will become familiar with all types of colored flowers. They also learn the different kinds of flowers and sizes. Our activities for this month will be a flower collage, coloring flowers, and planting seeds.

We will start having a monthly calendar for show-n-tell, please look at the date for your child's show-n-tell, and try to have your child bring something related to our theme: books about flowers, gardening tools, flowers from the garden at home, or any other related activity (instead of toys, please).

We will be visiting the National Children Museum at the National Harbor on May 14th, and Glen Echo park on May 28th. Please remember to have your child wear their yellow

shirt and bring a brown bag lunch.

Starting this month (on May 2nd), every Friday, we will be eating lunch at the park, so please pack the lunch in a paper bag (everything disposable if possible).

Thanks,

Ms. Yanira, and the the Munchkin teachers.

Rainbows

April showers bring may flowers.

Our May theme is all about spring. Throughout this month the children will learn about the many changes that take place during spring. Some spring activities, include spring colors, plants that grow in the spring, spring animals, and how the temperature slowly rises. Rainbows will have the opportunity to plant seeds of their own. Stories The tiny seed, spring is here, the enormous carrot and the famous story that all the children know or they are familiar with it. The very hungry caterpillar. We will have two field trips one to the Smithsonian museum to see the butterflies and the other one to the national zoo. More information will be posted on the parents message board.

Show and tell days: Please bring anything related to the theme spring

Activities at home:

Math: Sort and count seeds by colors and sizes.

Science: Save seeds from fruits and assist your Child in planting.

Social studies: Take your child for a walk and observe signs of spring.

Fine motor skills: Make seeds collage

Have a great blooming season.

Explorers

Welcome to the month of May. We have many exciting events this month. We're finished with rest time, it's the last month for show n tell and we're preparing for graduation. Graduation invitations will be sent out at a later date. Our theme this month is Things That Crawl and Fly. Many children are interested in things that crawl and fly so this should be a fun unit for them. We'll discover many exciting facts bugs/insects, do fun art activities, watch caterpillars and ladybugs change, create a worm habitat and see what interesting things we can dig up on the playground. In May, the Explorers will have lunch at the park every Friday. Lunches need to be in a backpack with a bottle of water (non-perishables and no glass containers).

Our show n tell theme is Things In The Garden. Children should bring items related to things that grow in a garden (pictures, a snack to share, a book etc).

School Agers and Shining Stars

For the month of May the School Agers and Shining stars will reflect on the school year. We will make memory books about the things we have enjoyed throughout the school year. We will start our end of the school year count down. A COUNTDOWN POSTER will be in the classroom and each day we will remove a number from the chart. We will have a May day, with games and prizes. We will have a dance/limbo contest. There will be face painting and yummy treats. For Family day we will create special projects for the people we love the most, Our Families!!! If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to let the classroom teachers know. Summer is quickly approaching; please make sure you sign up for summer camp here at TPCDC. We have many fun filled camps for the

kids to enjoy. If you need a brochure please go and see Ms. Joan in the office. We are looking forward to a great May.

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.