

The Phyllis Bodel Childcare Center at Yale School of Medicine, Inc.
January, 2008 Newsletter

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Calendar:

January 9: Music for Pre-School and Kindergarten
January 10: 8:30 Auction meeting in the office
January 18: Board meeting at noon in the Mezzanine
January 21: Center closed, Martin Luther King Day.
January 23: Music for Pre-School and Kindergarten
February 1: Center opens at 8:30, All-Staff meeting

Special Thank you's:

Keona Kuo's parents for the bouncy seat for infant 1.
Eli Driscoll's Mom for the Cheerio's for the infant rooms and the toy phone for Infant 2
Alexandra VanGelders family for the puzzles and art smocks
Alice and Jack Blanchfield's Mom for the books for Toddler 2 and diapers for the diaper bank.
Mia Mayer's family for the books for Toddler 2.
Ariunbold Purev-Chang's family for the plastic trays for art in Toddler 2.
Lyla and Payton D'Errico's family for the infant toys in Infant 3
Serena Lo's family for the toys and books in Infant toys and books for Infant 3
Rohan Connally's family for the toys for Infant 3
Helena Woelfel's family for the toys and CD's for Infant 3
The families of Sophia Ruser, Julius Herzog, Brennan Clarke, Matthew Mande, Albert Pallesen, and our own Susie Gravel and Sarah Ferns for items for the Kindergarten.
To the Family of Felix Kibbey for coordinating the donation of a new couch for the Dolphins.
To the families of Tyler Lam and Aaron and Benjamin Bruce for the donations to the Manatee Room.
To Alec Fillmore's family for taking care of Lucy over the break.
To Jerry Li and his family for taking care of MoonDog over the break.
To Olivia Gross and Julius Herzog and their family for taking care of Skunk over the Break.
To Madisyn D'Errico and her family for the new house and treats for MoonDog.

Auction Update:

This year will be our 6th Annual Auction. I want to invite all our families to begin to think about how they can help support the Center by participating in the Auction. Each classroom will begin to see in February a sign up list for classroom baskets that will be offered at our Silent Auction. For families new to our Center I would like to take a moment to explain the Silent Auction. Each April, during the Week of the Young Child, we ask our families and businesses from across the area for donations to our auction. Families have donated a week at a Time Share, baseball tickets, football tickets, boat rides, belly dancing lessons, fly fishing lessons, quilting lessons, cooking a gourmet dinner, etc., etc, the list is long and creative. On the day of the auction, there is a bid sheet and families and members of the Medical School community bid on the items. When the bids close at 6:30 p.m. the person with the highest bid wins the item. There are great bargains to be had and all funds are used to help support our Scholarship fund. Last year the Center earned over \$7,000.00. We have a meeting this Thursday for those interested in helping and we ask all our families be think about items, skills and talents that they may be able to donate to the auction. We are a non-profit and all donations can be a tax deductible.

Parent Survey:

We have had 35 surveys returned. We need at least 20 more families to return their survey. If you have misplaced yours, please let us know. We need to have a higher percentage of returns for our Accreditation. As soon as surveys are returned, the results will be shared with all our families.

Pre- Literacy:

Do you have crayons, markers, and paper available for your child(ren_). Young children love to “write” and each age and stage is a step along the way to writing. As a guide, I would like to share the stages of written language development:

Stage 1: Random scribbling: The child makes marks on the paper randomly and with little muscle control (2-3 years old). This is why with young children we like to use crayons that require a little more effort and muscle strength to make a mark on the paper.

Stage 2: Controlled scribbling: Children “write” across the paper in linear fashion, repeating patterns over again, showing increased muscular control (3 years old).

Stage 3: Letter-Like Forms: Children make mock letters. These are written lines of letters that have letter characteristics but are misshapen and written randomly, even covering the page. They like to pretend they are writing and in their work they separate writing from drawing. They have a purpose to their letter like forms (3-4years of age)

Stage 4: Letter and Symbol Relationships: Children write letters to represent words and syllables. They can write their name. They know the word that represents their name. They can copy words. Reversals are frequent (4 years of age).

Stage 5: Invented Spelling: Children make transitions from letter forms to invented spelling. This requires an organization of letters and words on a page. They use a group of letters to form a word. Many of the letters will be consonants. They understand that letters relate to sounds. Some punctuation appears. They can copy words from their environment. (4-5 years of age).

Stage 6: Standard Spelling: Most of the words the children use are written correctly, some add punctuation. They organize words in lines with spaces and between the words, they move from left to right and from top of the page to the bottom. (5,6,7 years of age)

Some Final Notes:

Parking: It has been quiet and I have not heard from parents that there has been a flurry of tickets given out. I sincerely hope it stays that way. If you get a ticket, and have followed all the parking guidelines, please bring it to the office and we will fax a copy of the ticket to Parking and Transit.

Stop and Shop Cards: Just a reminder to all our families and especially to our families who use Peapod. The Center sells Stop and Shop Gift Cards. The percentage we earn supports our Music Program. Cards are available on a monthly basis or per diem through the office. We have them in \$20, \$50, and \$100 denominations.

Scholastic Book Clubs: For all our families, please check the bulletin boards on both sides of the Center for the book club flyers. The Scholastic companies offer excellent books at amazing prices. The points the Center earns from your purchases allow us to increase our Center library with new books. Books come in two weeks after the order is placed.

Labeling: We ask all our parents to help us by labeling all their children's items. Often children do not recognize their own items and it is difficult for teachers and subs to keep track of which hat, mittens, sweaters, belong to each child. It is a State Licensing requirement that all items belonging to children be labeled. Your help with this will be sincerely appreciated.

Did you know that all the children's foods heated in the microwave are heated on paper plates? This is an additional cost for the Center but is best practice not to heat in plastic containers. We are always looking for the best prices and any suggestions would be appreciated.

Please remember to share with your child's teachers any pertinent information about your child's health, medication, pick up person's etc.

A special thank you to the many parents who have responded to our request for appropriate winter clothing... The teachers really appreciate your efforts!

