

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

In this Newsletter you will find:

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Dear Parents,

On Tuesday, September 2nd all our parents are invited to stop by Harkness Lounge after they have successfully dropped off their children to meet our new families, peruse information and to look over the Classroom Portfolio's for each of the groups to see some of the learning opportunities that our great teachers are providing for the children. The Portfolios show how much thought and planning goes into the daily activities provided, in addition to the warmth, affection and care, for each of your children. We ask that you take note of the numbered criteria (ex. 6.A.04). One of our goals this year is help increase the dialogue with parents about the intentionality of the teachers plans to ensure the highest quality early childhood experience for children and to support our partnership with families by demystifying the 'jargon' of NAEYC. (The National Association for the Education of Young Children, our accrediting agency)

Parking:

It can be of no news to anyone that parking for drop off and pick up at Phyllis Bodel can be frustrating and difficult. This whole issue over the past six months was made even more challenging by the change in administration at Parking and Transit at City Hall in New Haven. I am very pleased to share the following information with our parents and to acknowledge the support of the Medical School in helping to negotiate with the City for the proposed parking relief.

1. The Medical has ensured for the time being (pending construction at some point on Harkness Dorm), that parents, using their parking pass (which are available in the office) may park for 10 minutes in the assigned spaces by the loading dock of Marigold's and for 20 minutes in the Yale Child Study Parking lot.
2. There are stroller storage closets on both sides of the building. Though they cannot handle the large, non collapsible infant carrier strollers, they can handle umbrella like strollers. Parents are encouraged to use strollers to bring their children into the Center from their parking lots.
3. Parents for the present time can drop off children between the Nathan Smith over pass and York St., on the right hand side of the street only, for up to 10 minutes, between 7:30-9:00 am and between 4:30-5:30 pm. At other times, parents are

required to use the parking on South Frontage or a meter on Cedar St. If you get a ticket, and you have parked on the right side of the street, within those time frames, please bring me your ticket and I will pass it on to the City. With the support of the City of New Haven's Director of Parking and Transit, new signs are being requested from the City Council to post on Cedar St. that between those times, parking is only for Bodell families for drop off and pick up. This is a 'huge' step forward and Dean Alpern and members of the medical school administration have been incredibly supportive and instrumental in moving this situation to a safe and manageable resolution. I hope that by October the signs will be in place. We have 98 children enrolled in the Center and on any given day over 70 families are trying to either drop off or pick up their children.

Construction Updates:

Once again construction will impact our program. Beginning approximately September 10th, the sky lights against the wall of Harkness Dorm and the large skylight on the lawn will be dug up and repaired and the current unsafe glass replaced with stronger and more energy efficient glass. I have been to the construction meeting and have been assured that even though construction will be outside our infant and toddler rooms, the noise is minimal and there will be limited impact on the children. In addition, all construction will cease during nap time. While they are working on this project, the stairway from the loading dock and Yale Child Study Center will be blocked and parents parking there must enter either the door on ground level or by the loading dock. Your ID's should open these doors, if not, please let me know to be certain you all have your ID's properly coded for this building. There will also be large 'blue' walls on either side of the Harkness entry door from the courtyard. All construction is to be completed by Thanksgiving. The construction will be handled by Taulman Construction. They are the company that did all our renovation on the apartment side and are particularly responsive to the Center's needs. I do not anticipate too many problems.

Website Information:

We encourage all our families to mark in their favorites our website, bodellchildcare.org. We continue, with the support of our parent, Caleb Kleppner, to update the website with necessary forms and links to increase its usefulness to our parents. In addition, each month you will find our calendar of events and delayed starts or closings are listed. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated.

Calendar:

September 1: Center Closed for Labor Day

September 2: Center opens 7:30 am. Parents encouraged to visit in Harkness lounge

September 5: All Staff, Center opens at 8:30 am.

September 17: Music for pre-school, starts at 8:30 am.

September 19: Board meeting, noon in Mezzanine. New Board voted in.

Special Thank- you's:

Krishna Scholand's mommy for the construction paper for Toddler 2.

Leila Ruser's family for the CD's for Beluga's.

Gordon Drew's family for the AA batteries for Toddlers

Our own Ana Martin for the paper plates for Toddlers

Kentoro and Kiyoko Sasaki's parents for the wonderful donation of toddler and infant toys for the Center.

Benjamin Rudikoff's grandmother for the donation of egg cartons and plastic eggs for the Dolphins.

Felix Kibbey's family for the paper plates and note pads for the Dolphins.

Ways to Support Bodel:

We have always strived to not burden our families with a variety of fundraisers. This does not mean that we do not need the support of our families to help us pay our bills, support scholarship and purchase materials. Many of our families are not aware that we are tuition based and that with out fundraising, the extras necessary for our program would have to be reduced or eliminated.

Our fundraisers are:

Sale of Stop and Shop gift cards. If you shop at Stop and Shop, if you use Peapod, please consider purchasing gift cards from the Center. We have \$20, \$50, and \$100 denominations. The Center earns 5% from the sale of the gift cards and that money pays for our music program.

Evan's and Jessie's Toy stores. If you purchase toys at Evan's in Hamden or Jessie's in Orange, please mention you are affiliate with our Center. We receive a percentage of all sales.

Shop on Line? Go to School Pop.com. under schools type in Phyllis Bodel Childcare Center and then shop. We received a percentage of the sales (this varies by the companies but every little bit helps).

Book Fairs: In the Rotunda the week before Thanksgiving in November and the week before Mother's day in May we hold our book fairs. We have this year changed vendors and are very excited about the variety and quality of the books offered by this vendor. We earn 15% of the sales.

Annual Auction: In April, during the Week of the Young Child, we hold our annual Silent Auction. This is our largest fundraiser and community event. You will be hearing more about this beginning in October.

Music Program:

Sandie Apuzzo is our music teacher. Due to serious illness last year her ability to be present was compromised. She is regaining her health but to minimize her taxing schedule we will be combine our three's for a class, then our four's for a class and then the kindergarten.

Final Notes:

We welcome all our families 'old' and new to an exciting new academic year. If you have any questions or concerns about anything, please always feel free to stop by the office or email. Your partnership in this early childhood experience for your child is very important to us.

