

Phyllis Bodel Childcare Center at Yale School of Medicine, Inc.
April, 2010 Newsletter
bodelchildcare.org

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Calendar:

April 2: Center closed. Good Friday

April 6: Hip and Cool! Fruits and Vegetables Rule. Noon in Harkness Lounge

April 9: All Staff, Center opens at 8:30 am.

April 12-16: Week of the Young Child

April 15: Celebration of Children. Pot Luck, Children's Fair, Raffle, Celebration of Teacher Anniversaries.

April 16: Board Meeting, Noon in the Mezzanine

April 30: Kindergarten Field Trip to Nature Center

April 6th: Parents, and if you wish bring your children, are invited to a Nutrition workshop at noon in the Harkness Lounge. Bring your lunch and join us for a workshop with Jess, the fruit and vegetable chef and Captain 5 A Day. There will be music and games and prizes. This event is sponsored by the UCONN Dept of Allied Health and we know it will be helpful and informative. This is part of a grant so there will be minimal paperwork required at the end of the session. We have invited parents from the Hospital Daycare to join us and we hope to see many of our parents there. Please let me know if you plan on attending and if you are bringing your child as I need an estimate of the number of chairs. There are flyers posted in all the rooms.

Week of the Young Child Events: April 12-16, 2010 is the National Week of the Young Child. During this week you will see signs of celebration of children in the classrooms and we extend a very special invitation to our families to visit the classroom to read a story, sing a song, spend time on the playground, do a little project, cook a snack or just play a game with the children. On the evening of April 15th beginning at 5:30 will be a Pot Luck Dinner, a Children's Fair, our Raffle and the Celebration of the five year anniversaries of Jaclyn Germe and Susie Gravel, the ten year anniversary of Diana Santaella and the fifteen year anniversary of Dannielle Sidaoui.

Raffle: This year, the raffle tickets will be going out later than the very hard working committee ever hoped that they would. The Police Department "sat on" them and then held up the approval process for over three weeks. There is still a slim hope to have them to our families by Thursday, April 1, 2010 but more likely they will be available Monday, April 5, 2010. This will give us only 10 short days to do our best to sell these tickets. Each family will be given a pack of 20 tickets. Each ticket is \$5.00. for a total value of \$100.00 per packet. There are incredible prizes and I urge you to look them over carefully and to do you very best to support the Center and all the activities (including our scholarship fund) at the Center by selling the tickets, purchasing the tickets and in general doing your very best to support this fundraiser. . Parents are responsible for the tickets. (Please don't lose them or throw them away) These tickets are filed with the State

Gaming Commission and we are responsible for the accurate accounting of each ticket. We need your support to do you very best to help us. We know that there are some families who would prefer to just make a donation and that is greatly appreciated too! Tickets will be distributed by your child's teachers (many of whom worked very hard on the committee). Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. The Drawing is 6:30 p.m. on April 15, 2010.

Results from the Parent's Survey: Each year the Center sends out a survey in December to give parents an opportunity to make comments and to let us know what is needed, what we can improve on and what we may be doing well.

Usually in February I write a summary of the results but this year it took us into March to reach the over 50% returns to make the survey valid. The following are the comments where more than 2 parents either wrote no or did not know. All other questions were 100% yes and do not need explanation

Question 4: I talk with my child's teacher at least once a week. There were two parents who answered no. For all our parents, the teachers are there everyday and would love communication with you. Please do talk with them. They can be such a resource for you and your child.

Question 9: There were a few parents who did not feel invited to participate in the classroom. In each classroom is a posted invite that clearly states "parents are welcome". We can start to do a better job of making certain that parents have specific invites.

Question 10: When I disagree I feel comfortable talking to the teachers. For all our parents, the teachers come from a center perspective and you bring the home observations. It is so important to share for the sake of your children.

Question 20: Transition to Kindergarten: We have a kindergarten open house board that goes up each October. This year we had a parent meeting with former Bodel parents who graciously came to talk about their transitions to a variety of Kindergartens. Our children go to so many different schools that the teachers have visited and many of whom we have relationships that we hope that parents will come and talk. We are totally open to providing a more detailed process and will be sending out a questionnaire in December to assess the need and elicit suggestions.

Question 23: When the evaluation is completed I receive information on the findings. I believe this was addressed in the first paragraph.

Question 24: I feel respected by the staff and my contributions are valued. The staff and I feel a great sense of "sadness" that any parent in our Center would feel this way. We have tremendous respect for our parents and appreciate the stress that they are under as parents of young children and having very busy work schedules. Fortunately it was only a two families who wrote this but we take this seriously and have renewed efforts to work with our families. We do our very best to understand when sometimes families are not as respectful as we would like them to be with staff and we hope that we in no way every react in any way that is not supportive and understanding and non-confrontational.

Special Thank you's:

From the Kindergarten thank you to Madisyn's Mom and Vassia's Mom for going on the field trip to the Peabody.

From the Dolphin room thank you to Skylar's Dad for the fish.

From the Beluga room, thank you to Eli's Mom for making the Matzah brie with the children and to Julia's Mom for bringing in the masks.

Final Notes: Spring is here and the flowers are growing and so are your children. Please check their cubbies for outgrown clothing and to replenish missing items. (Always Label Please).