

Fun & Friends Child Development Center **2008 SPRING NEWSLETTER**

A Welcome to Spring!

Spring, a season of new beginnings. Spring, a time of newness and awakenings in nature. Spring, when seeds sprout, animals return from hibernation, trees bud and the Earth transitions from the cold sleep of winter to the bright sun of summer. Spring, a time of planting, cleaning and rejoicing. Let's Celebrate Spring!

Spring has sprung upon us once again. We are awaiting the warm weather and time to take nature walks and just be able to open our eyes to the awareness of nature.

We have enjoyed all our winter activities, which have included musical shows, puppet shows, a visit from Santa, a librarian, a dentist, and some holiday parties.

Now we are preparing for some wonderful spring activities so let's take a look at *what's ahead* at Fun & Friends: **March** brought back soccer with fit4fun now know as GOL Enrichment Programs. The children are enjoying this gross motor activity every Thursday for the next 6 weeks. In **April** the Butterflies will be having their cap & gown pictures taken and we are now preparing for that big day. The Senior Center will sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt on April 6, 2009 starting at 10:30am. For **May** we will be honoring mother's for Mothers Day with a continental breakfast. Westgate Child Care will host their annual book fair the first week of May.

Enjoy Some Springtime Celebrations:

Easter-	April 5 th : make an Easter card for someone
Earth Day-	April 22 nd : Plant a tree
Cinco De Mayo	May 5 th : Learn the Mexican hat dance
Mother's Day	May 10 th : Make something pretty for your mother.



Staff Professional Development: The staff has been continually attending training and workshops to keep current on new approaches in the field.

On February 16th the Center offered two in-service workshops presented by Foundations for Families on *Challenging Behaviors & Preventing Power Struggles*, which all staff attended. All of our staff members spent the day at George Mason University Child Development Center's Professional Development Day on February 21st. There were many new topics available, some which included *Infants and Toddler Activities, Math All Around Us, Science for Preschoolers, Positive Guidance, Block Play, and Literacy*.

Several staff will be attending GMU's Spring Workshops on March 26th, April 21st, and May 7th.

The Infant Program (Dreamers & Lambs) and Toddlers (BBB's) have begun a new curriculum called 1-2-3 Read! An early literacy curriculum for Infants and Toddlers. Ms. Liza attended the training for this program on February 21st & February 28th and has already put it into action. The children and the staff are really enjoying these new activities. Ms. Louise attended training on March 21st & March 28th and is looking forward to implementing new ideas with the BBB's. We are excited about this program for our Infants & Toddlers.

On April 8th, our Directors, Inell and Elizabeth, will be attending a dynamic childcare management conference about Leadership Strategies for Success presented by the Appelbaum Training Institute. This Institute will be offering another training in the area on May 9th, Celebration of Caring for Children, and, yes our staff will be participating.

CLASSROOM REPORTS:

Dreamers & Lambs-

Spring is here! That means the Dreamers class will be able to go outside more frequently and enjoy fresh air & sunshine. Recently Audrey Coleman, Kaylin Rossi and Quinn Benedick moved to the Lambs room. Over the next few weeks Allison Haag, Ethan Borek, and Emma Greenberg will start transitioning to the Lambs as well. We would also like to welcome Grace



Gibbens, Kira Ellis-Williams, Ian Sanders, John & Benjamin Shankroff, Kai Gannon and Delilah Tanner to the Dreamers class.

Alyssa Evans, Melody Mortazie, Sophia Rolo, Daniel Lee, Mary Gordon, and Catherine Fisher have graduated to the BBB's class. We welcomed Georgia Barton, Alexandria Merritt, and Julia Friefeld new to the Lambs class.

We are starting a new curriculum called 1-2-3 Read! It is especially designed for the development of Early Literacy in Infants/Toddlers. Be on the lookout for new exciting projects and activities in the coming weeks. The departure of one of our teachers, Mrs. Jessy Gonzales-Perez, was sad for the Dreamers. Mrs. Jessy moved back to her home country of Peru. We are going to miss her!

Happy Birthday to: Zoe Adams-Christian 1/12, Leo Nolan 1/25, Bay Lee Briceno 2/8, Tyler Bernhardt 3/11, Eric Shelsta 3/26, Audrey Coleman 4/18, Kaylin Rossi 4/24, Quinn Benedick 4/25, Ms. Liza 3/6, Ms. Nelly 3/16 and Ms. Luisa 5/20.

BBB's-

We are so happy to welcome our newest students from the Lambs room-Alyssa Evans, Daniel Lee, Mary Gordon, Melody Mortazie, Sophia (Sofi) Rolo and Catherine Fisher all are doing very well. Alexander Kirby, Maya Sharma and Aidan Carey transitioned to the Cubs class and the great news is they have adjusted and are doing well with some old friends and new friends. The BBB's made it through the winter doing wonderful winter projects and enjoying special activities one being taking pictures with Santa Claus in December.

Spring is already here and we are looking forward to the warmer weather so we can get outside more. Some of the warm weather fun we will enjoy this spring will include nature walks, picking flowers, painting with bright colors, participating in special activities and much, much, more!



Happy Birthday to: Noah Shea 1/11, Zachary Speroni 1/27, Hannah Vargas 2/07, Jonah Cline 3/13, Parker Borek 3/29, Ms. Marina 2/1 and Ms. Louise 2/5.

Cubs-

Although winter came in like a storm it left peacefully, leaving behind some pleasant memories. For instance new life with budding trees & flowers and siblings to some of our Cubs students, congratulations to Aidan Gannon & family on the birth of little brother Kai.

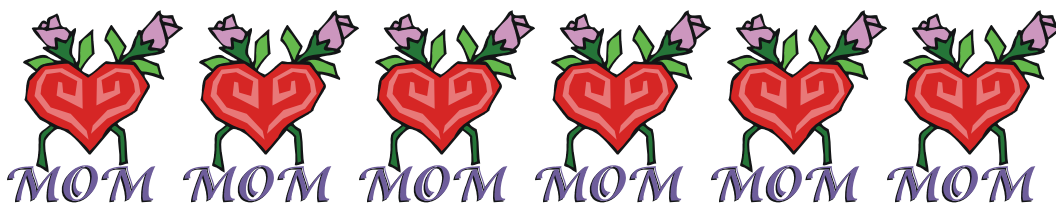
Yes, winter was a joyous time, BUT did you hear?... Spring is here! Cubs anticipate the warm weather and lovely cherry blossoms that come with it. It is also that time of year for soccer. Soccer is back, so if you wish for your child to participate notify one of the Cubs staff for registration forms. The soccer coach not only teaches the students the art of the sport but the children also will be building up their endurance and teaching them teamwork. During the month of March we worked on our 5 senses. We did some really interesting projects like making spice racks, having tasteing and smelling test, taking a smell walk and doing some free art. We look forward to more spring activities that will include flowers; painting with pastel colors, making birds, singing songs, water play and much, much more.

We welcome Maya Sharma, Alexander Kirby, and Aidan Carey to our class. All three are doing very well and have adjusted to the routine. We also welcome a new staff member Noemi Melliz. Ms. Noemi is enjoying working with the children and being in the classroom. We welcome back to the Cubs class Ms. Kristin Ellis who began as a Co-Teacher, she is happy to be back and looking forward to new beginnings with the Cubs.

Happy Birthday to: Evan Mattos-3/18, Alex Haag-3/24, Ava Jones-3/29, Brendan Rossi-4/10, Eric Heiney-4/24, Jack Lucas-4/29, Madeleine Stigall-5/18, Dean Rostom-3/15, and Ms Noemi-3/30.

Butterflies-

The calendar says that spring is upon us and warm weather seems to be here right on schedule. We have added Lauren Gendron who has transitioned from the Cubs and James Barton who is new to Fun & Friends.



Our most important work is continuing to practice positive social skills. Ask your child whom he/she played with today. I'm always happy to see first time friends play together.

Half the class will go to Kindergarten in the fall and little by little, they are approaching literacy. Most of the class can write their name as well as recognize many names. There is great improvement in careful drawing and cutting. The children enjoy listening to a few pages of a chapter book at the start of rest time. We are getting a feel for geography with our world map. Thanks to the parents who have shared information on your day trips and travels.

Happy Birthday to: Hannah Everette-3/18, Libby Salopek-4/8 Colin Henry-4/12, Isabelle Andreoli-4/12, Katie Zelenski-4/26 Teresina Bradley-Ventura-5/3, Rianna Arsenault-5/4, Sarah Foster-5/9 and Freya Milbury-5/11.

Parent Resources:

New Guide Smooths Road to Kindergarten

Parents of children in the Butterflies class may want to visit the Fairfax County "Fairfax Futures" website (www.fairfax-futures.org) to download a new resource "Paving the Way to Kindergarten". You can also sign up for the bi-monthly e-newsletter that features current information on early learning and school readiness.

Thank you to all our parents who have participated in some way donated items or just had a kind word. We appreciate you and all your support.

Welcome to Spring!
Fun & Friends Child Development Center