



*Fun & Friends Child Development Center * 1609 Great Falls Street * McLean, VA 22101*

Winter Newsletter – 2008-09

It's time again to move into a new Season. Winter has just begun and the holidays are upon us. It's hard to believe that the year is almost over. It was nice to see the new children settled in their classes and really enjoying each other as well as the wonderful activities that their teachers planned for them during this season. The "Back-to-School" nights in September were well attended, we hope that you gained a better understanding of your child's curriculum and had an opportunity to meet other parents and students. October's costume parade with the Senior Center was a huge success, all the children participated (yes, even our babies!) they made it all the way around the building and ended in the Adult Day Care for lots of goodies. Later in the month Butterflies, Cubs and BBB's enjoyed a magic show. We ended the fall season with our Family Thanksgiving Luncheon that was fantastic. Thank you, parents, for your participation and to the staff for doing such a great job putting it together.

We are winding down on our Fall Season and preparing for the winter with more great activities and fun. The winter season started out with a musical show "Holidays around the World" and a visit from Santa Claus at the Adult Day Care Center. The classrooms celebrated with Holiday parties. A puppet show with Kaydee Puppets has been planned for January (date to be announced) and February will bring a visit from the dentist for Dental Health month.



Classroom News

Infants: The Halloween Parade was fun. The majority of the babies took part and dressed up. We had a great turn out of parents that joined us.

Thank you to all the parents who participated in our Thanksgiving Luncheon. The parents had so much fun making an art project with their babies in both Dreamers & Lambs before enjoying a delicious meal.

As much as the Dreamers staff would love to keep the babies forever we have to say goodbye to Leo Nolan and Bay Lee Briceno as they have been promoted to the Lambs class who are very excited to welcome them. Best wishes to both!

Just a few Infant room reminders:

- ✓ Mom & Dad please remember to bring appropriate clothing for your baby. Even though the weather has changed we will continue to take the babies outside. Do not forget hats & mittens.
- ✓ Now is the time to review the Center's illness policy. Babies are already getting sick. According to the policy you are to notify the Center immediately if your child has a communicable illness so that we can post "exposure notices" for other parents.
- ✓ If you are called to pick up a sick child please come as soon as possible to limit exposure.

We look forward to the winter season. Happy Holidays from the Infant Program & Staff.



Classroom News:

BBB's: The BBB's had a wonderful time these past months meeting new friends and doing arts & crafts. They are growing and have learned new vocabulary as well as advanced in motor skills as they play on the playground running and jumping. BBB's would like to thank all the parents who have participated with our fall season activities. Thank you to the parents who joined us during the costume parade in October. The children had a great time parading around the building showing off their costumes and receiving goodie bags from the seniors. The seniors had just as good a time giving the children goodie bags. November's Family Thanksgiving Luncheon went very well, the children, parents and staff really enjoyed all the good food and being able to meet & greet each other.

Now we are preparing for a new season and getting ready for the Holidays. We have learned some new songs, "Jingle Bells" being one of our favorites, listened to some great stories about Ramadan, Hanukkah and Christmas and are looking forward to doing some winter arts & crafts. We wish you all Happy Holidays!

Cubs: We have done very well with our "Read Together Talk Together" series of books. The children love listening to them and interacting. The staff has enjoyed reading them. It's a fun way to read the books and the children get a great deal of learning out of it. We are looking forward to more fun reading.

We have a great time doing our projects and working in our centers. We have been gluing, painting, stamping and cutting and getting so good at it.

We had the most fun walking in the costume parade and visiting the Senior Center. The Cubs wish to thank all the parents who participated in our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. We enjoyed sitting, eating, and chatting with families.



Classroom News:

Cubs cont: Now we are preparing for the holiday season. We had a Holiday party and gift exchange on December 24th. Happy Birthday this winter to: William Gotts, Jacob Peel, Jeremy Delaville, Arman Machiavello and Jason Babilitis, all are turning 3 years old.

Butterflies: The Butterflies have completed the first 3 OWL units on Family, Friends, Wind and Water. In December we focused on learning about colors. The children are also listening to chapter books read by Ms. Pam at the start of rest time. Ask about Gus, Grandpa and Skipper! For Social Studies we intended to introduce the meaning of the word “vote” and we ended up learning much more. We will continue to vote on matters of importance to preschoolers, such as their favorite color, ice cream, etc. We are also beginning to look at maps. The wind and water unit involved science concepts such as bodies of water, cloud watching and evaporation.

During the fall season we enjoyed a Magic show and a costume parade. As we enter the winter season we will participate in a musical show “Holidays Around The World” and a puppet show in January.

Congratulations! All of our CDA recipients have passed their CDA tests and received their certificates. We are very proud of Ana Ayala, Elizabeth Rada, Kristin Ellis, Louise Brown, Elizabeth Sejas, Soila Arriza, Shamielka Hodges, Yelisa Cueto, Liza Lopez, Marina Fernandez and Veronica Valera on this big achievement in their professional development.

We continue to work with the County on improving lighting and security to the building in regards to the theft that occurred out side the building. We'd like to thank Mr. Lucas, a Fairfax County police officer who has given us some very helpful advice in measures we can take to bring more light outside the building.



Friendly Reminders:

- ✓ Activity Fee of \$100 due January 2, 2009.
- ✓ Tuition due on or before the 1st of the month or the 1st & 15th of the month. Late fees apply after these dates.
- ✓ When updating physical/immunization forms please bring a copy to the Center.
- ✓ Center will be closed January 1st.

When withdrawing from the program please include a current address on your withdrawal letter to the Center to ensure that your deposit will be returned in a timely manner.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

- ❖ **To the Gordan Family (Mary Elizabeth) and the Lee Family (Daniel) for donations of toys. The children love playing with them.**
- ❖ **Mrs. Rolo (Sofi) for all the cakes, brownies and other goodies she has baked for the staff. Mmm, Mmm Good!**
- ❖ **Mrs. Mattos for thinking about the staff and providing Pizza lunches, they always arrived at a perfect time.**

And to all parents for trusting us with your precious cargo.

We Wish You All Joyous Holidays!

**Happy
New Year!!**