



1609 Great Falls Street * McLean, VA 22101

Fall Newsletter-2008

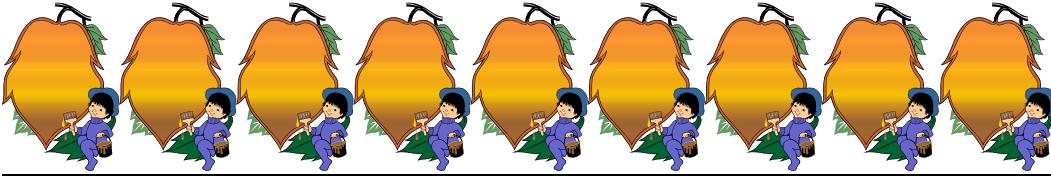
What a wonderful summer we had. The weather was beautiful and allowed us to have some great outdoor activities. The children enjoyed them all. They had visits from puppeteers, magicians, musical performers and even from the Zoo. They did great with the animals. These were not your average Zoo animals- there was a miniature full grown horse, an alpacaca (similar to a Llama) from South America, a velveteen rabbit, a hen and a rooster, ducks that showed us how they took a bath and a very loud squealing pig.

During water days everyone got wet, even the babies had fun with the water. We had another successful year competing in Olympic field games with the YWCA Children's Center. The children from both centers really enjoyed the events and put their whole heart into it. Everyone was a winner! After all the games they had a picnic lunch and ice cream.

It's hard to believe that another school year is upon us. The first day of our Fall Season began Tuesday September 2, 2008. As always we used the month of August for "pre-transitioning" time for all those students who go to the next group. It was a very smooth transition for most.

All of the classrooms received some changes. Dreamers, the youngest Infant class is now in Room 102 (BBB's old classroom) and the BBB's are now in room 108 (Dreamers old classroom). Both rooms look wonderful with new carpets, new arrangements, and paint and so far all is working very well for the children and the staff. Butterflies and Cubs have new colors and arrangements as well as carpet. Lambs got a "fresh" coat of paint.

Welcome to all our new students, families & staff. Thank you to all our returning staff for their hard work and enthusiasm which makes our summer program a success and thank you to all parents who participated.



Looking Ahead:

We have some great activities planned for our Fall program. Back to school night is an event to watch out for in September. This is an opportunity to meet with the teachers, other parents, and get better acquainted with the classroom, curriculum and activities. Fit4Fun soccer is due to return near the end of September. In October we will have "picture day", a costume parade with the Senior Center and classroom parties. The season will end with a Family Thanksgiving Lunch in November. Keep watching for specific dates and other events. Lesson plans will be posted every week for your viewing as well as sent home, please take time to look at them.

Classroom Reports:

Dreamers have settled into their new room and continuing with their routines. The babies are busy interacting with staff as well as exploring some of the equipment on their own. Their wonderful staff are: Liza Lopez (Head Teacher), Elsi Espinoza, Jessi Gonzales, Veronica Valera and Luisa Cruces.

Lambs are growing and moving all about the class. They had 11 children move up to the next group-see how they're growing! Those staying will be lovingly attended by: Elizabeth Rada, Nelly Rosales, Carmen Claros, Elizabeth Sejas, Martha Campos, Soila Arriaza, Jaqueline Linares and Ana Ayala.

BBB's have not only expanded the room but the group. The children have really been busy and enjoying their new room. They have been observed dressing dolls, making roads with legos to drive cars & trucks across them, doing puzzles and playing with puppets just to name a few. The teachers who have been interacting and busy with them are: Marina Fernandez, Louise Brown (Head Teacher), Samia Toema, Lourdes Camacho, and Kristin Ellis (who worked in the Cubs room previously).

Cubs had a great summer with water play, bike day and the "Big Red Bus". They've had many BBB graduates come in over the past months who are so proud to be "A Cub". The Cubs will be introduced to the new curriculum this Fall called Read Together, Talk Together which will expand children's language and emergent literacy skills. Cubs staff



Shamieka Hodges (Head Teacher), Yelisa Cueto, Pilar Vilcarromero (who worked in Lambs room previously) and Delmy Ayala. All look forward to implementing this new early literacy program.

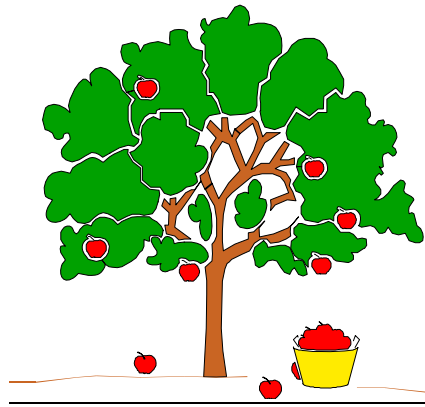
Butterflies said goodbye to 11 graduates going into Kindergarten this year. They had a wonderful graduation ceremony in June and went straight into a great summer with lots of outside activities. *Butterflies* will go into the Fall season with Pamela Hamby (Head Teacher and new to Fun & Friends), Susie Butuyan, Karla Garrido and Ana Velez.

General News

- Louise Brown, Kristin Ellis, Elizabeth Rada, Ana Ayala, Soila Arrizaz, Elizabeth Sejas, Marina Fernandez, Yelisa Cueto, Liza Lopez and Shamieka Hodges have all completed their CDA tests. Everyone felt very confident about the test and are now awaiting the arrival of their certificates.
- Again this year several staff members will be attending George Mason University Child Development Center Fall Workshop sessions during the months of September, October and November.
- As the Fall term commences you will notice changes in the staff in some classes as well as hours.

Holiday Change: This year there may be a change in the Holiday schedule regarding Veteran's Day. This building has been a polling place for years and normally we are open on Election Day. However due to the anticipated larger than normal turnout this year we **WILL** be closed for Election day (November 4th) and open for Veteran's Day November 11th (previously scheduled as a holiday). With this large anticipated turnout, and therefore a tremendous number of strangers expected to be in our building, we wanted to ensure the safety and security of our children, the classrooms, and the staff. We thank you in advance for your understanding of this change.

Dropping off: Parents please walk with your child to their classroom and make sure that the staff know that they are there. Do not leave without the teacher acknowledging that the child is there.



Just a few reminders:

- Please remember that **ALL** payments are due on the 1st and the 1st & 15th of each month (for bimonthly payers). Any payments received **AFTER** these dates are considered late and are subject to the late charge fee. We wish to avoid passing these charges on to you, but to do so, we need your prompt and timely payments. Thank you.
- As the season/weather changes now is a good time to check extra clothing in your child's cubbies/bags for appropriateness.
- Do not park your car in the "No Parking" areas this includes the front entrance and areas that are marked "For Buses Only". These areas need to be clear for emergency vehicles and the buses that pick up & drop off children and the seniors. Police will be issuing tickets to violators.
- Adhere to the 5MPH driving zone.

Entering a new season we continue to stand by our goal "to provide a challenging environment, comprehensive curriculum and qualified staff to motivate and teach our children to want to learn."

Fun & Friends Child Development Center