

# BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



## Emily's Corner Message from the Director

Wow, another month has passed! I'm really enjoying getting to know each of the children on more of an individual level and I love all the hugs I get every day. November started off with Picture Day which I'm sure all of you can agree that Lifetouch did a wonderful job. We've got a spring Picture Day set up in April too! Look for special holiday gifts this month with those pictures included! The Thanksgiving holiday brought together our families to collect food items for the Highland Good Fellows. Our families quickly signed for our special Thanksgiving Lunch and shared yummy passing dishes. It's great to know we have such caring and supportive families at our center. A hot topic this past month has been addressing a variety of challenging behaviors in our child care setting. All parents want

their children to show positive behaviors and at the very least not be disruptive, or hurt anyone, including themselves. Discipline is not just stopping children from doing something or punishing children for unacceptable behavior. Discipline means teaching. The goal of discipline is to teach children to be responsible for their actions, develop self-control, and develop the ability to make better behavior choices. The staff members at Building Block are encouraged to use positive guidance techniques to help children learn acceptable behaviors. Three important positive guidance techniques include: **Setting clear rules/expectations:** For preschoolers set clear rules and make sure they understand what they are. **Giving choices when appropriate:** Give children a sense of control and

practice in making choices. Don't offer choices you are not willing for them to have. **Praising and noticing children when their behavior is acceptable:** If children only hear when they are doing things wrong, they may continue to do them if that is the only way they get attention. Remember, guidance and learning self-control takes time. As children grow older, so will their abilities to control their emotions and behavior. They need time, patience, consistency, and most of all; children need to know they are loved, even though sometimes their behavior is unacceptable. Let also remember to keep the communication open between yourself and your child's teacher when dealing with challenging behavior problems. Happy Holiday's to our Building Blocks families! Mrs. Emily

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## \*\*Dates to Remember\*\*

**Holiday Closings** - Building Blocks will be closed on December 25, 2006 and January 1, 2007. As stated in our contract you are responsible to pay tuition if a holiday falls on a day your child is regularly scheduled to attend.



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## New Licensing Rules Effective December 7th

The Michigan Department of Human Services Office of Child and Adult Licensing have made changes to the administrative rules that govern Child Care Centers. These rules set forth the minimum standards for the care and protection of children attending Michigan's Child Care Centers. A copy of the revised rules will be available in the parent resource library for you to check out

if your interested. The majority of these rule changes are things we've already been doing here at Building Blocks. One example is that now all staff members are required to have 12 clock hours of training in early childhood education and care each year and our staff has participated in over 100 hours in 2006. More conclusive background checks are done on child care center em-

ployee's through fingerprint scans and I-CHATS. Infant Safe Sleep requirements are outlined including placing infants under 12 months of age to be placed on their backs. If you have any questions of concerns regarding any of the rule changes you can visit [www.michigan.gov/dhslicensing](http://www.michigan.gov/dhslicensing) for more information.

### General House Keeping Items

**Tuition**– Just a friendly reminder that tuition is due on Fridays by 6:00 p.m. A \$20.00 late fee will be posted on Monday to your account if tuition is not received on time. Notices will placed in your child's folder when a late fee has been applied to your account. If something comes up and your unable to make a payment on time please notify us. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

### Lunch Menu-

Our December lunch menu will be distributed to all families this month. Ms. Mary and some of the other staff members have added new meals for this month. It's a great idea to post the menu at home and talk with your child about what will be served each day or to follow up with your child each night. If you feel your child will not eat what is being served feel free to bring another option for

them at lunch. It is our goal to expose the children to a variety of foods but when the children choose to not try anything on their plate we want to make sure their getting what they need.

### Checking-In and Checking-Out

Please remember to use the computer each and everyday when dropping-off and picking-up your child. It is a State Licensing requirement that we keep accurate record of attendance. Thanks.

### Holiday Closings

Building Blocks will close on December 25, 2006 and January 1, 2007. Please notify us if your child will not be in attendance or taking a vacation time during the upcoming holiday season. This way we can plan for appropriate staff coverage. Please see Ms. Emily if you have any questions.

### Infant Room Exit Door

Please remember that the exit door located in the infant room is not to be used by parents for drop off or pick up. If your child is on the playground please walk around the outside of the building to the main entrance. Especially with the weather changing we can not have shoes tracking snow and salt into that room. Thanks for your cooperation in advance.

### Huron Valley School District Snow Closures

As it is stated in our parent handbook we will be on modified hours when the Huron Valley School District is closed for snow emergencies. The hours are 8:00am—5:00pm. This way we can allow our staff to safely arrive and depart during snow emergencies.

## TEACHER FEATURE



Amy Jo Perfetto

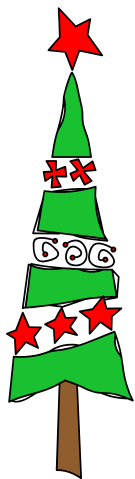
When you're asked to tell about yourself where to you begin? I decided to start right at the beginning. I was born Amy Jo Frankovich on May 16, 1982 in Manistique, Michigan. That's in the upper peninsula, yes I am a yooper, eh! I am the oldest of five children. I have three brothers and one sister. My mom's name is Barb and my Dad's name was Mike.

Previously I worked as a manager for seven years at Burger King. I have wonderful

daughter named Coral Jade. She will be seven years old in January and she amazes me everyday. On November 4 of this year I married my high school sweetie, Austin Perfetto! We met at Burger King six-in-a-half years ago and started dating right away. Together we have two nieces and three nephews.

Some of my favorite things are lasagna, children, crafts, animals, cooking, baking, and hanging out with my whole family!

### Building Blocks Adopts A Family for the Holiday's



This year the staff and families of Building Blocks will have the opportunity to purchase gifts for a family from the Highland area in need of items this holiday season.

Gift Tags will be available for you to take home and purchase the items listed on the tag. Then simply wrap the item and return it to Building Blocks with the gift tag in tacked.

Ms. Amanda is coordinating this project and if you have any questions feel free to ask her.





Wow, Turkey dinner was so yummy! Thank you to all the families who participated! We had so much fun learning about our feathered friends, families, and "The Giving Tree" this past month. We made so many fun things and we hope you enjoyed all of our creative projects.



This month the toddlers have been exploring science! Ms. Wendy shared a lot of nature items like leaves, pine cone, pine needles, and more. We've used magnets and talked about what words you use to describe what's happening when they

## Ms. Amanda's Baby Dolls

In November Amelia got her first tooth and started saying, "dadadada." Kennedy is turning into a very independent young lady and likes to do everything by herself. Megan continues to impress us with her sign language and personality. Alex has been doing fantastic with his communication skills. It is so much fun watching baby Emily grow

little by little each day and all the kids love watching her. December is going to be full of fun learning all about our holiday's. We can't wait to show you all of our plans for December and the up coming year! Happy Holiday's for all of us in the Baby Room! Ms. Amanda



## Mrs. Janet's Toddler Tidbits

stick together.

With the weather being warmer we took advantage of our outside times and ran around the playground and played with friends.

Alivia shared a very special cake and ice cream with everyone for her 2nd

birthday on the 12th.

Look for more news from us next month and Happy Holiday's!



Another month has flown right by. Christmas is right around the corner. December will be filled with many holiday projects.

November was a great month, we learned about our bodies, and what we are thankful for. Alexa and David have become great

## Mrs. Mary's Marvels

friends and Skylar loves to play them too. Karissa, Lindsey and Danielle have joined our class few times and soon they will become young preschoolers, too.

I put together books all about each young preschooler. We have been reading them at circle time. I will be sending them home this month.

Mrs. Amy Jo has been doing a lot of math and science activities with our young preschoolers in the afternoon. The class has been doing a lot of predicting, estimating, and counting. Look for more science activities next month.

Have a safe and happy holiday.



We kicked off the month by talking about our families. We charted and discovered fun things about each others families. We turned our 'good deed tree' into our "thankful tree" and the children shared what they're thankful for. We covered a lot of ground this month. Our theme was our bodies. We did many activities and discussions about our bodies. I had to laugh when the children made pictures of skeletons and thought it was not something that was part of the bodies. We discovered how important bones are and how they protect our lungs, heart, and other vital organs. We talked about muscles and how they protect our bones, and help us carry heavy

## Ms. Jackie's Pre-K

things. Our heart is special and pumps blood through our entire bodies. We felt our blood flowing through our bodies by feeling our wrists and our necks below our ears.

We covered the letters "J", "K", "L", and "M". Our author of the month has been Shel Silverstein, and we will finish our month with the book entitled the, "The Giving Tree." We continue with fun activities involving math, science, social studies, and literacy. Of course we had fun learning about Thanksgiving and how the Indians and English became friends and shared ideas and a dinner. The children relate Thanksgiving to a special big dinner with their families and a time for love and having fun together.

We're looking forward to December.

We have many fun learning activities planned for the holidays. The children are great and I know you will be pleased when they enter kindergarten. They have made incredible amounts of improvements since September. I have enjoyed teaching them and as always I am open for ideas, feedback, or concerns.

We're opening up December with "Joy to the World." If you have anything to share about your family's ethnic backgrounds it would be much appreciated. Wishing you a most blessed holiday filled with love and peace.

Ms. Jackie



# Happy Birthday To You!

## December Birthday's

Alex Hubbard ~ December 11

Ms. Danielle ~ December 27

### Building Blocks TEAM

We are committed to staff development. During 2006 the following teachers participated in 113 hours of continuing education in child development and care. Please join us in recognizing the following teachers for their accomplishments.

**Ms. Amanda**

16 Hours

**Ms. Amy Jo**

6 Hours

**Ms. Danielle**

5 Hours

**Ms. Janet**

12 Hours

**Ms. Mary**

16 Hours

**Ms. Nicole**

6 Hours

**Ms. Wendy**

16 Hours

**Ms. Emily**

14 Hours

**Ms. Suzanne**

22 Hours

### Enrollment-Tell friends about Us!!



We offer children the opportunity to explore new ideas, practice making choices, feel competent and in control, interact with others and fine tune new skills.

We are looking for a few new friends to play with here at Building Blocks. We are very excited about all the great things the children are doing here and looking for friends to share it with. We have enrollment spaces available and if you know of anyone looking for care, please recommend us.

We will be more than happy to give you \$50 off your weekly tuition for every referral that

*"We are very excited about all the great things the children are doing here and looking for friends to share it with."*

signs up for a minimum of 3 part time days.

The more that you refer and sign up the greater the savings you will receive! Also, if you have community boards in your place of work we would like to display some of our brochures/flyers. If you could do this please see Emily.

### Thanksgiving Lunch

On Wednesday, November 22 we had a special Thanksgiving lunch. Building Blocks supplied the turkey and parents provided the side dish's. We ate stuffing, sweet potato casserole, cranberry sauce, rolls, green beans, mashed potatoes, applesauce and pumpkin pie with cool whip for afternoon snack. A special thank you goes out to all the parents who provided the yummy food!

