

BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



Emily's Corner Message from the Director

Boy, did January fly by fast! We finally got snow and lots of it. It been fun watching the children enjoying the snow. The Pre-K group keeps asking me to bring my boots and snow pants so I can roll down the hill with them!

January was a busy month for us here at Building Blocks. We worked on updating the big-room's

learning center's with more materials and pictures to help the children place item's at the correct learning center when cleaning up. Look for more updates and changes thought out the center as the year continues.

I was very excited to see how the families of Building Blocks got out there and sold so many items from the Little Caesar's Fund-

raiser!

Our journey towards incorporating the Reggio Emilia approach is well underway after our staff training on January 8th. We were very happy that Holly Topness was able to join us for the presentation. Another training will be offered soon and we'll keep you posted if anyone wants to join us!

www.BuildingBlocksSchool.com

Volume 3, Issue 6

February 2007

Dates To Remember

* Wednesday, February 14 3:00pm—
Valentine's Day Celebration

Helping Young Children Celebrate Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is a wonderful opportunity to show appreciation for people we love. As parents, we can do a lot to help our children put Valentine's Day in perspective.

For many young children in preschool and daycare settings Valentine's Day translates into a fun filled class party with great excitement and anticipation as valentines are distributed and sweet treats are consumed. Sometimes, the holiday is used as a way of teaching children about sending and receiving mail. Time is also spent making special valentines for family members.

Many teachers insist that children give valentines to everyone in the class. This spirit of equal-opportunity is the best solution for a classroom. We can use this broad gift-giving as a way to help teach children tolerance and an appreciation of differences among their

classmates.

Parent's can also use Valentine's Day to examine their own attitudes towards the holiday -- the way you celebrate it in your family and the effect it has on your children. Be clear about your own feelings about Valentine's Day. Is it a holiday that's important to you? Do you expect gifts or cards from family members? Do you feel about the increasingly commercial aspect of the holiday?

Children and parents often exchange cards to emphasize their strong bonds of love. You may want to initiate this to help your child understand family love as part of the holiday.

Remember that as parents, we transmit values to our children through our behavior. If we celebrate Valentine's Day by exchanging expensive gifts, it is likely

that our children will want to do the same. It's never too early to help children express love and friendship in ways that transcend materialism.

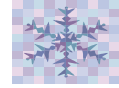
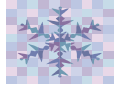
Because young children are concrete thinkers, it's hard for them to understand a concept that can't be represented by objects. But by watching you give gifts of kindness, time, compassion, respect, and thoughtfulness to the people you love --- not just on holidays but throughout the year -- they will learn that "I love you" means so much more than three words inscribed on a candy heart.

Warmly, Ms. Emily



Inside this issue:

General House Keeping Items	2
Parent Resource Library	2
Welcome	2
Ms. Amanda's Baby Dolls	3
Mrs. Janet's Toddler Tidbits	3
Mrs. Mary's Marvels	3
Pre-K	3
February Birthday's	4
Little Cesar's Fundraiser	4
National Children's Dental Health Month	4
Valentine's Day Celebration	4



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 co-operation.

Cubbie Clean Out

Please take a minute this month and clean out your child's cubbie. Take home any toys, artwork, and outgrown or out of season clothing. Each child has their own tub in the laundry room for extra clothing and nap items. Be sure to check

General House Keeping Items

the lost and found box for any missing items. Artwork should be taken home on a daily basis.

Licensing

Only one more month until our license is up for renewal in March. We're in the process of making sure every child's file is complete and updated. We many be asking some families to update emergency card information, sign forms, or update your child's physical or immunization records. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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.

Winter Clothing

Please remember to bring warm winter coats, snow pants, hat, and gloves or mittens every day for your child.



Parent Resource Library



Check out the newly organized Parent Resource Library located on the canoe bookshelf on the porch! Reference books from pregnancy to potty training and child room decoration are available for you to check out. Community resources, development guides, and lunch and snack menu's are also available. If you have any questions please see Ms. Emily.

A special welcome goes out to The Thiel Family and The Yank Family the newest members of our Building Blocks Family.





The beginning of 2007 has been a lot of fun for us in the baby room!!! Emily has been saying lots of dadadadada's and her squeals make us all laugh. Amelia has been doing a great job standing up all by herself! Megan likes to make sure everyone knows how she's feeling.

Ms. Amanda's Baby Dolls

We welcomed Ethan this month and he has made a lot of new friends and he's a lot of fun! Kennedy and Alex have been carrying on conversations all month. Alivia loves showing that she can have a grown up attitude. In February we're introducing the shopping carts and will continue working on our sharing skills. We

will also focus on our manners and language skills. Hope you all have a Happy Valentines Day!

Ms. Amanda



Mrs. Janet's Toddler Tidbits

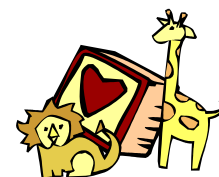
The toddlers are having a lot of fun playing out in the snow. Genna's favorite thing to do outside is make snow angels. Makenzie, Alivia, Abbi, and Mason have a blast sliding down the hill on the sled. We have been working on cleaning up

as a team. Genna gets everyone started because she wants to get outside or onto a new activity.

For February, we will be working on the colors red, white, and pink. Keep a look out for our "Song of the Month." There will be a copy available each

month of a favorite song that you can take home and sing along with your child.

Mrs. Janet



Mrs. Mary's Marvels



Wow! Time fly's when we're having fun. What great fun we're having with Danielle, Karissa, and Lindsey in our class. Singing and dancing is our favorite thing to do. In January, we started family style meals at snacks and lunch. The children are in charge of serving

themselves from serving bowls on the table and spooning the food onto their own plates and passing the serving bowl onto a friend. Remembering our "Pleases" and "Thank-You's" has been a consistent reminder of our manners and they're doing great! Learning to use tongs without touching the food

has been a little tricky but they are learning. This is a great fine motor skill.

Next month, is Valentines Day! Be on the lookout for special projects from your "sweethearts!"

Happy Valentines Day,
Mrs. Mary

Pre-K

The New Year brought about a lot of change for our pre-kindergarten group. With Ms. Jackie taking a leave of absence we spent time with Ms. Emily, Ms. Mary, and a new teacher Ms. Laura that decided to take another position elsewhere. We've enjoyed the addition of a listening center in the big room. We're able to listen to books on tape with headphones and turn the pages by ourselves when we hear the turn page signal. We also have a new writing center and art center in the big room as well. Our unique creativity is represented in our open-ended art projects made with all types of collage materials available to us. Check out our yarn art dis-

play on the doors to the literacy room! Next month we will focus on using our writing center to practice writing valentines!

Ms. Emily created a Job Board for us and we've started with a couple jobs these past two weeks and can't wait to have the chance to try out the rest. We wrote our names ourselves on the magnetic paper and did such a great job! It's posted on the door to the upstairs in the big room!

We finished our second chapter book last month titled, *Lucky Lucy* by author.

Ms. Mary read the chapter book at lunch and before nap. Each day we recalled the events from previous chapters and guess what would have in the next chapter. Next month we will begin the chap-

ter book series, *The Magic Tree House* by Mary Pope.

We're started a positive behavior activity with two boxes of rocks and when all the rocks from one box make it into the other we'll have a pizza party!!! Whenever we're caught doing something positive like helping a friend, using our words to express our anger, cleaning up, or solving problems on our own we're able to put a rock in the pizza box. Sometimes if we forget to express our feeling positively or our actions are not positive we have to take a rock out of the pizza box. Stay tuned to find out when our pizza part will be!



Happy Birthday To You!

February Birthday's

Olivia ~ February 2nd

Mikayla ~ February 22nd

Staff-**Ms. Janet** ~ February 12th

LITTLE CEASAR'S FUNDRAISER

A special thank you goes out to the following Building Blocks Families for participating in our first fundraiser for 2007:

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Topness Family | Tyrell Family |
| Lee Family | Gabli Family |
| Ms. Jill's Family | Borst Family |
| Russell Family | Bjorkman Family |
| Sword Family | Pearson Family |
| McCullough Family | Welsh Family |

Congratulations to **David and the Lee Family** for selling **29** items!!! The **Sword Family** and **McCullough Family** will also be eligible to receive a free night of babysitting on February 9th.

Unfortunately we were unable to raise enough money to pave a tricycle path on the playground but Mr. Joe thinks we'll be able to add a small area of concrete for the amount of money we raised. We'll keep you updated!

Valentine's Day Celebration

On Wednesday, February 14 at 3:00pm Building Blocks will celebrate Valentine's Day together. Parents, Grandparents, or any other special people are welcome to join us. Look for a

sign-up sheet by the parent files!



Tell Your 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 one weeks 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. If you need more information please see Ms. Emily.

February is National Children's Dental Health Month

The annual observance of children's dental health began as a one-day event in Cleveland, Ohio on February 3, 1941. Since 1941, the observance has grown from a two-city event into a nationwide program. National Children's Dental Health Month messages reach millions of people in communities across the country. Local observances often include poster, coloring, and essay contests, health fairs, free dental screenings, museum exhibits, classroom presentations and dental office tours.

Taking good care of your child's teeth is important because even "baby" teeth help your child chew food and speak clearly. Baby teeth also hold space so permanent teeth can grow in straight. If you start your child

off with good dental habits, your child will find it easier to keep those good habits forever. You should start caring for your child's gums and teeth at birth. Gently wipe your baby's gums with a soft, wet cloth after each feeding. When baby teeth appear, start cleaning them with a soft, child-sized toothbrush twice a day. In children up to 4 years of age, use a small, pea-sized dab of children's fluoride toothpaste.

