

BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



Tracy's Corner Message from the Director

It is true April showers really do bring May flowers. Wow what beautiful weather we have had and enjoyed by all of us at the center. The students have really been enjoying more outside time and it has been wonderful to watch them playing independently and with other students in great team work activities. The teachers have been really taking advantage of the great outdoors as another classroom. The students have enjoyed doing art, science, and large motor skill activities outside. When the weather becomes warmer we will even incorporate snack outside. Please make sure your child still continues to bring a coat to the center, we are still have cooler mornings and please make sure your child wears tennis shoes. No flip flops please!! I would like to take a moment and welcome a new teacher to our program Ms. Jackie. We are so happy to have her as part of our building blocks team. Ms. Jackie will be working with the pre-school program and team teaching with Ms. Wendy. Ms. Jackie has her bachelor's degree in elementary education with a science major. She also has a certified teaching degree through the 8th grade from Oakland University. She is a welcome addition to our staff and has a great

wealth of knowledge to share with our students and families. Please make sure to read her addition to the newsletter this month.

Last month I really enjoyed the opportunity to attend the MIAEYC conference in Grand Rapids with Suzanne, Mary, and Wendy. We know that current training is key to a Quality Program. We are filled with the most up to date information. In one of the many conference classes I attended... I really enjoyed a class on effective parent communication. This is one area that is very important in terms of running a high quality program. I strive to make every effort to talk to parents on a daily basis and address all questions and concerns in a timely manner. Please make sure to share your ideas, thoughts, concerns, and compliments with me so I can share them with the staff and help create a stronger center. I also would appreciate if you could make sure all schedule changes, vacation requests, etc. is in writing with a 4 week notice. It helps make my life a little easier and my records much more intact and organized. Please also continue to check your file folders on a regular basis for useful information.

It is also now with great excitement that I get to

share some very exciting news with you on a new great form of communication for Building Blocks. Ms. Suzanne has been working countless hours creating a state of the art web site for Building Blocks Pre-school Daycare. This site has a great wealth of information regarding our program, our mission, information on our great teachers, an FAQ area, and a downloadable area where you will find our monthly newsletters, event photos, and other great resources of information. This is a very cutting edge website and something we at Building Blocks are very proud of. We hope to utilize this as a marketing tool for all new prospective parents. Please take the time to checkout our website at

www.buildingblocksschool.com. If you have any questions or concerns please let me know and make sure to let Ms. Suzanne know what you think of the new web site.

A big thank you goes out to all of the families that attended our Easter egg hunt on April 15, 2006. We had over 90 people attending. It was great to see everyone. You can also download pictures from the hunt right off the website. I look forward to seeing all of our "Special Mom's" at our Mother's day tea on Friday May 12, 2006. Enjoy flowers and May! Mrs. Tracy



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May 2006

Special Dates

To remember

***May 10 Picture Day.** Life-touch will be in to take spring pictures of your child.

***Mothers Day Tea-** Friday, May 13, 2006- from 4:30-5:45, fun activities and special presentation at 5:00

*Fri. May 19 HVS schools closed



***Graduation Ceremony,** all Pre Kindergarten Class Parents

who's child starts Kindergarten this year Please Join Us Friday, June 2-4:30-5:30

Inside this issue:

General House Keeping Items	2
Mrs. Nicole's Baby Dolls	2
Mrs. Janet's Toddler Tidbits	3
Mrs. Mary's Marvels	3
Ms. Wendy's Newsbits	3
Enrollment	4
<i>Birthday</i>	4

General House Keeping Items

Late Fees- Please note all incoming late tuition will be charged \$20.00 per each day it is late. We hate to do this but have been left with no other choice. All tuition must be in by Fridays 6:00 p.m. in order to be on time. There will be no more Monday grace period. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sickness/health

We strive each and every day to have a healthy center and environment. We promote healthy habits, hand washing, healthy being. As stated in our parent handbook we ask all parents "if your child has a fever of 99* or above, diarrhea, vomiting, undiagnosed rash or sore, any profuse nasal eye/nose discharge' that they to keep there child out of the center for 24 hours or until the symptoms are no longer present." Or have a signed doctor's statement stating that the child is non-contagious and can return to school. This is a State of Michigan health department requirement and we ask that all parents respect this policy. We have been doing our best to be on top of things lately, however it is very difficult to help keep our staff and students healthy when children are brought into center ill. We understand this can sometimes be an difficult to miss work and have to make arrangements for alternative care however the children health and well being is always our #1 priority.

Check in Time

Please note if your child is not at the center on their **scheduled day by 9:00 a.m.** they will be marked absent for the day. If you are running a little late or have a morning appointment, please call ahead and let the staff know so we do not take your child off the class list.

Healthy Snack Menu Snacks

Please don't forget to bring in snack for your child's class. This is an exciting day for your child, they get to help pass out snack to their friends, and it helps promote our philosophy of sharing. As you have probably noticed our center is growing with more and more enrollment making our class sizes bigger. Please bring in a healthy snack for your child's class. We do serve 1st and 2nds so please make sure you have enough snack and juice or milk. We ask that you bring in a gallon of milk/or healthy juice and a healthy snack. Here are several great snack ideas. Cheese and crackers, a bag of apples, oranges, carrots and dip, celery and raisins. The students love putting their own snack together, you may bring in peanut butter and crackers and the students can put them together. This is a great opportunity to utilize their math skills. Our infants/ toddlers should have enough snacks for 12 students and our young preschool/preschool should have enough

snacks for 24 students. This includes 1st and 2nds. If your child would like to celebrate their birthdays with a special treat we ask that you please include a healthy snack with their birthday treats if you plan on bringing in on their snack day. Those families who do not bring in snack will be charged \$10.00 to their account.

Summer Schedules/Fall schedules

It is hard to believe that summer and fall are just around the corner. Our enrollment is quickly increasing and we want to make sure we have a space for everyone. We will once again be offering our great school age summer camp "Camp Wahissa" for our students ages 6-12. Please talk to any staff member about our camp program and for enrollment information.

Also, for any students that will be enrolling in Kindergarten in the fall, please make sure to let the staff or Tracy know of your child's schedule and any adjustments that will need to be made.

Spring Pictures

We will be having Spring Pictures in May 10 at the center. We will be working again with Life Touch photography. We are very excited and look forward to taking pictures of their smiling faces.



Mothers Day Tea Party



We will be having a great afternoon for all of our mom's on Friday, May 12, 2006 from 4:00-5:30 p.m. What a wonderful way to spend the afternoon with your child or children at Building

Blocks. We will have special projects to create, treats to share, and moments to enjoy. Please feel free to have their Aunts, Grandmas, special family friends come and attend especially if you will not be able to

be there. We will also have a sign up sheet to help have a more accurate number count. We can't wait to see you there!

Happy Mothers Day to you !! Mom you are so special!!!



May is here and so is the sun. Don't forget the sunscreen for your little one, SPF 45 is a must. Please check your folder for sunscreen permission slips. I would like to welcome a new friend to our program; Hannah is an adorable sweet little girl who will be celebrating her 1st birthday at the end of the month. I am so glad to have you apart of our program. We have several birthdays

Mrs. Nicole's Baby Dolls

in the infant program in May, Kennedy will be celebrating her 1st birthday on May 12 and our friend Tyler will also be celebrating his 1st birthday on May 20. Happy Birthday friends! Big kudos to Kennedy and Tyler who are learning to crawl and pull themselves up! Great job guys! The alligator egg cartons that the older babies made were a big hit. The children loved making them and painting them. We will be working

on a similar turtle project the week of May 22-26, 2006. What great fun we will have. Please feel free to have your children bring in any of their stuffed animal friends for our zoo week the week of May 22-26. A BIG Thank you to Genna's Mom for the darling photo gift. Thank you Holly Topness for such a thoughtful gift. Mrs. Nicole.





Mrs. Janet's Toddler Tidbits



We are finally getting outside and enjoying the sunshine. The toddlers are having fun digging with their shovels and making birthday cakes. They really enjoy collecting sticks for the candles. They are also having fun digging for worms, bugs, and anything that crawls and

wiggles. They sometimes just enjoy swinging outside the whole time. Hunter, Nathan, and Brendan are working very hard on potty training. Keep up the good work boys. The girls have really been enjoying playing in the dramatic play area in the big room.

Kaylyn and Kailee have been pretending to be chefs and enjoy taking the grocery carts and grocery shopping for ingredients. It is wonderful to see all of the students pretending and enjoying their play. Mrs. Janet



Mrs. Mary's Marvels



What a great learning experience we had at the MIAEYC last month in Grand Rapids. It was a wonderful opportunity to come back and share new ideas with the staff, children, and families. We just recently finished up our reptile themes and the students

loved it. We made 'Habitats'. The kids collected sticks, grass, and leaves outside, we then painted the shoe boxes green and glued our nature science inside. The kids chose what kind of reptiles they wanted in their habitat and placed them where they wanted to. It was so

much fun and a great learning opportunity.

We have a new friend to welcome to our class. His name is Peter. Peter is a sweet and caring friend. Welcome Peter, to Ms. Mary's young preschool class. Mrs. Mary



Ms. Wendy's Newsbits



First of all I would like to welcome Ms. Jackie to our preschool program. She will be a great addition to our team and Look forward to working with her and our preschool class. Yeah! Spring has sprung! The preschool class truly takes advantage of these beautiful days. The children are already asking for snack, lunch, and even asking to take their rest outside. Some lucky days we even have 3 outside recess times. I am sure you will all agree how important fresh air and outside time is. I would like to share some information regarding the

conference that I attended at the end of March. The MIAEYC was a great experience with many wonderful educators sharing their skills and knowledge. I am inspired and recharged to share all I have had learned with my students and the staff. I also had the opportunity to attend another conference the 1st weekend in April with five other staff members called Flowers, fun, and friendship for child care. It was another great opportunity to learn about and utilize great resources within child care. We believe that Training is very impor-

tant to our program. This past month the students had the opportunity to take 2 pictures with a disposable camera of anything they wanted too. They loved being photographers. I showed the children how to work the camera and they were off taking their pictures. This month we will be displaying the pictures that the students took. Keep a lookout for them. A Huge kudos goes to Rowan Marchie who had a special performance in the Play around town drama theatre performance of 'The Wizard of Oz



Ms. Jackie's School Bits



Thank you very much for the wonderful welcome you have given me. It has been a most pleasant experience starting a teaching journey at Building Blocks. I have really enjoyed the children; I can tell they come from very loving families. It is wonderful working with a very dedicated staff. Everyone has the common goal to provide a safe

and happy environment which allows the children to grow mentally and socially. I have raised 3 beautiful children that I am very proud of. I was very involved with the PTO and after school enrichment. I have also taught swimming and water safety for many years. My experience as an educator began in 1999. I have had the opportunity to substitute teach

and have also had the opportunity to work as a teacher at a Montessori school. I also tutor children based on their own individual education needs. I enjoy working with children and it is my desire to make a difference in their education. I look forward to my journey and welcome and feed back and ideas from staff, parents, and children. Ms. Jackie



Happy Big 1 Kennedy May 12
 Happy Big 1 Tyler May 20
 Happy Big 2 Danielle May 29
 Happy Big 4 Elizabeth May 30
 Happy Big 4 Cameron May 31
 Happy Big 4 Emma May 31
 Happy Big 1 Hannah May 31

Staff—Amy Jo May 16
 Wendy May 29

Good Luck Ms. Melissa!!

Ms. Melissa is moving to Las Vegas, NV. Her fiancé was offered his dream job in a hospital in Las Vegas. We will miss you. We wish you great happiness and success.

Parent Education

Off to a Good Start...activities to do at home to extend the classroom experience

Kindergarten Readiness: Creating easy, fund ways for practicing, helps children master new skills.

Social Skills:

Social skills development is critical for Kindergarten success. The Kindergarten sitting requires behaving in a responsible manner. Social development includes be9ing able to show respect and concern for other s and their feelings. A kindergarten should be able to “see” when someone is happy or sad. “ Sara is crying; I will give her a hug”. Parents can help reinforce children's concern for other s by providing ways to share their feelings.

Responsibility:

Kindergartners are expected to be responsible and organized with their own belongings and classroom supplies. Responsibility is learned over time by observing habits and routines that have been established at home like,; simple chores, sharing and taking turns, and following and sticking to rules.

Self Care / Independence

Kindergarteners should take care of their personal needs by having strong bathroom skills, dressing themselves, as well as tying their shoes (the hardest skill children will master).

Sprint Picture Day

Livetouch photography will be here to take your Child’s Spring Pictures on Wednesday, May 10, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. This is always a fun and exciting day. Please make sure to check your folders for picture day information. Lifetouch will also be offering a special graduation picture complete with cap and gown for all of our students that are graduating from our Preschool program and attending Kindergarten in the fall. This will be a great way to capture their graduation from preschool and their transition into “big school”. Please see staff if you have any questions.

Enroll you child now for day camp.

**SURVIVOR CAMP
 Wahissa**



Wahissa comes from the Cherokee tribe meaning Happy Place . *We at Building Blocks offer a fun filled adventure for your child AGES 5-12.* Our summer program is about having hard earned fun. You child will take on a new theme each week, and master lessons and activities designed to expand the mind and strengthen developmental, physical and social skills.

- **Weekly Themes such as** “Grossology- the study of all things gross”, “Stars and Stripes”, “ Lights Color Action”, “Under the sea” just to name a few
- **Wacky Wednesday, A celebration of the wacky and wonderful and Thursday Water day.**
- **Monday– Friday 6:30 am-6pm**
- **State Licensed, you supply brown bag lunch & we will provide the Snacks. Teachers are CPR and First Aid Certified, low staff to child ratios**
- **Before May 1 registration fee is \$50.00 After, May 1 registration fee is \$75.00**

Enrollment-Tell you friend’s

We have a few 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 signs up for a minimum of 3 part time days.



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

The more that you refer and sign up the greater the savings you will receive. If you could do this please see Tracy.