

BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



Tracy's Corner Message from the Director



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March 2006

It is officially March reading month. All of the staff has a genuine love of reading and we truly enjoy sharing it with your children on a daily basis. Did you know the State of Michigan only requires Child care centers to read to a child 30 minutes a day? At Building Blocks our staff goes above and beyond that required amount. Throughout the day we read several stories to your child, in fact we even read their 'Favorite' several times in a row if they want us too. This year we are going to once again make a reading goal. We want all of our families to help us reach our goal of reading 150 books and fill out reading logs for each book. It is quite simple, read 5 stories and fill out the log and return to the center. Your child's

name will go up on the wall throughout the center. For every 5 books you read with your child, their name will go up somewhere throughout the center. The more you read, the more your child's name will appear. The students love looking for their names and their friends names. This will also work as an identification tool. You will find a reading log with this month's newsletter. After the center has read 150 books or more, we will celebrate with the kids and have ice cream sundaes with all kinds of toppings, sprinkles, whip cream and cherries on top for their reward. You have the whole month of March to work on this and we will tally up the books and celebrate in April! I know we can do this.

The students really en-

joyed the month of February. The visit from Dr. Wilkop's dentist office was great and they loved the Valentine party. This month will be another great month as well filled with more exciting art, themes and learning activities.

I would like to welcome three new families to our center, the Gerwertz Lee family, the Probe family and the Tyrell family. We are so glad to have you here. Also, I would like to wish best wishes to Mrs. Nicole and her husband Mark and their son Cameron who recently found out they will be expecting a new little one in September! Best wishes, we are so excited for you.

Let's have a great month of March. Read On!

Mrs. Tracy

Center Evaluation's

This month we are asking all the families to fill out a center evaluation form. This will give us an idea of what we are doing well and what areas we may need improvement. You will find an evaluation

tion in your child's folder. Please fill out and return in the enclosed envelope. You do not have to put your names on the evaluations. We really do appreciate your thoughts and inputs.

We strive every day to give your children a loving and safe environment to learn in. It is a pleasure to work with them and watch them grow each and everyday. Fondly, The Building Blocks Team!

Dates to remember

School will be closed for Teacher In-Service Day, Friday, March 31, 2006

We will be closed on Friday, March 31, 2006 for a teacher in service day. Mrs. Suzanne, Mrs. Tracy, Ms. Wendy, and Mrs. Mary will be attending a NAYCE conference in Grand Rapids. The rest of the staff will be focusing and working on upcoming lesson plans and curriculum at the center. The State of Michigan is now requiring every Employee to have 16 hours of accredited ECE training yearly. We are keeping on task of completing the required hours.

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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.

Illnesses- Parents- please do not send your child to school with headaches, stomachs, fevers, or runny green noses. We make every effort to run a healthy center and we hate to have to call parents at work especially if their child was not feeling well before they came to school. If your child is on over the counter medicine they may not be on it longer than the medicine allows unless you have a Doctor's note. This is a State of Michigan child care regulation. All medicines must have a permission slip and cough drops must be given to the teachers, please do not let your child keep them in their cubbies or pockets.

Sick Days Parents, if your child is running a fever and absent from school, they must be fever free before returning to the center for 24 hours. Also, they should not be showing a rash, vomiting, or diarrhea for 24 hours as well. It is very important that you follow this health policy. It greatly reduces illnesses within the center for staff and children.



Happy March! Let's think spring, the first day of spring is March 20 with the weather slowly warming, I'm hoping to get the babies outside on a more regular basis; they love the fresh air and new environment. Also, St. Patrick's Day is March 17; remember to wear your green. We also have a paint project planned for

General House Keeping Items

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 We ask that each family provides snack on their specified day for their child's class. Please make sure to bring in a healthy snack with enough for first and seconds, along with their favorite milk or juice. If your child chooses to bring in a special treat for their birthdays such as cookies or cupcakes, we ask that you still bring in snack on their specified day. If you choose not to bring in snack your account will be charged \$10.00. The children enjoy yogurt, apples, bananas, carrots & dip, cheese and crackers, and a variety of other healthy snacks.

OUTSIDE WINTER GEAR We try everyday to go outside as long as the weather is appropriate. Please make sure your child has a hat, gloves, coat, snow pants, and boots with their name on them. We will go outside as long as the temperature is reasonable and there is not a wind-chill. We make every effort to make sure all items go home with the right student; however Building Blocks is not responsible for any lost



items. **School Closings** In the event Huron Valley schools close due to weather related issues such as snow, freezing rain, etc. Building Blocks will be open the following hours 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. This allows more time for the staff to get to the center in a safe and timely manner.

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. We have another summer jam packed with exciting themes. It will be a fun and exciting time at Building Blocks this summer. 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.

Mrs. Nicole's Baby Dolls



this day. I am very happy to welcome our new friend Lindsey into our class room, she is 22 months and we are so glad to have her here. We are always happy to have new smiling faces join us in our fun and learning. I hope you have many great experiences here with us. A great job goes out to Alivia W. who has recently started walking, Alivia has been

working very hard and has come a long way since her first day here. A very happy birthday goes out to Karissa! March 3, is your big day, your 2 now and your personality is blooming more and more each day. Hope everyone has a great month of March. Mrs. Nicole



Last month the toddlers had fun learning about "Hometown Heroes". They enjoyed the visit from the dentist office and were happy to take home their very own tooth brush. It was also an exciting day when the garbage men came and

Mrs. Janet's Toddler Tidbits



picked up the thrash. It was also fun to see them pretend to be mail carriers for a day and deliver mail to each other and their friends. The valentine party was a lot of fun and they really had fun making valentines for their family. Even though

the weather has been bitter cold lately, we have tried to enjoy the outside. Kaylyn, Hunter, and Brendan are doing a great job listening when it's time to line up and come back inside. Great job guys!
Mrs. Janet



Mrs. Mary's Marvels



February is gone... now onto March. In the young preschool class we spend lots of time talking about books and how a story goes, predicting what comes next, this month we started putting stories together with 'Story sequence cards.' Each story has six cards, 1st I tell the story with

one of our friends as the main character, When I am done telling the stories I turn the cards over to each child. This is a very difficult concept at this age but I am amazed at how they choose to line up the cards. So far our little Skylar has been the only student to place them in proper story sequencing.

Great job Skylar! I was amazed and so very proud of her. All the students love to hear stories about themselves and their friends. We have been enjoying outside recess but we are all ready for warmer weather. I would like to say a special hello to 2 new friends that are joining our class, Michael and Caden. We are so glad to have you here.



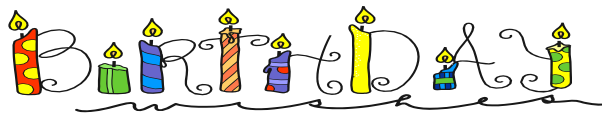
February was a fun and fast month with many exciting happenings at the center. The students really enjoyed their visit from Ms. Laurie, a dental hygienist from Dr. Carol Wilkop's office in Milford. They were able to learn the importance of healthy eating and good dental hygiene. Ms. Laurie also shared a special friend 'Mr. Purple Bug'; he had very large teeth and a very big tooth brush. We listened to stories and music and also received a special gift from the dentist office. Valentine's Day was a great day of fun. We enjoyed many "special" healthy heart snacks to eat. The children made out like bandits. Thank you to all

Ms. Wendy's Newsbits



of the parents who brought in Valentines and extra special treats. A very sweet conversation I overheard that day during snack time, Jordan G. called Garrett "honey" Garrett simply replied with "only girls are honeys" It was just so cute. The behavior charts are working really well with the students and they really seem to be enjoying them. The students are really striving for a "WOW" day and they are encouraged each day to try their best to get one. I really enjoy sharing their charts with you and I am hoping the students see this as a positive experience and they seem to enjoy their time each morning we spend discussing their day. If you have

any questions regarding their charts, please let me know. This month we will be encouraging all of our students to help us reach our Building Blocks reading goal for March reading month. This is a great time to share with your child and reading is so important. We will be working on great themes this month. We will be turning the students into princess's and kings. We will also be focusing on the authors Dr. Seuss, Audrey Wood, and The Clifford the Big Red Dog series. I would like to give a special welcome to a new friend Olivia that is joining our class. I am so glad to have you apart of our preschool class. Hope you have a great month of March. Ms. Wendy



Happy Birthday to you!!

March Birthdays

Buraq- March 2

Karrisa - March 3



Check your cubbies and folders- Your children create some of the most wonderful art projects and work on wonderful literacy projects each and every day. Please check your child's cubbies each day and take their projects home. They work very hard on them and want to share them with you. Your child's free art or what appears as scribbles is a unique work of art. Also, please make sure you check your file folders each day for weekly tuition receipts, newsletter, and other important information. If you have any questions, please know we are here for you!!

Staff Birthdays

Mrs. Mary- March 1

Mrs. Nicole- March 25

Enrollment-Tell you friend's 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 are very excited about all the great things the children are doing here and looking for friends to share it with. "

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.

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 Tracy.



Don't forget to READ to ME!!
 March is
 National Reading Month!

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**

Enroll Now, Call 248.889.2727.

Easter Egg Hunt



Our 2nd Annual, Easter Egg Hunt is on Saturday, April 15, 2006 at 10:00 a.m., come and have some

Don't Forget to Wear Green on St. Patrick's Day
 Friday, March 17!

