

# BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



[www.BuildingBlocksSchool.com](http://www.BuildingBlocksSchool.com)

Volume 3, Issue 9

**\*\*Dates To Remember\*\***

- May 10** ~ Mother's Day Tea
- May 11** ~ Provider Appreciation Day
- May 16** Parent Advisory Council Meeting
- May 28** ~ Center Closed
- May 31** ~ Preschool Graduation



## Emily's Corner Message from the Director



Yeah...Spring has sprung!!! April was an exciting month at Building Blocks.

My first Egg Hunt was just as fun as I'd imagined. Due to the weather (snow L) we held the Egg Hunt indoors in the Infant Room. Egg's were scattered around the room and almost covered the entire floor. I enjoyed seeing the look on the children's faces when they entered the room. As the Easter Bunny walked into the room eye's and mouths opened wide. It was great to see and share a good time with the families who attend. We're hoping to hold a family picnic during the summer!!!

On Wednesday, April 18 Building Blocks hosted its first Parent Workshop about clay and the developmental benefits for children. Look for more

Parent workshops in the future. If you have any ideas about future topics please share them!

During the past few months we've received so many wonderful donations to the center from our families!!! We're really building a sense of community. A BIG Thank you for your generosity!

Many of you may be wondering why I share so much local, state, and national information concerning the early care and education of young children with you. I consider myself an advocate for young children. Anyone can be an advocate when supporting issues concerning children. I advocate for my child, the children at Building Blocks, and all children around the world on a daily basis. As parents we are the voices for our children.

Suzanne and I recently joined the Great Start Collaborative – Oakland Parent Collation and are looking for some our families to join us at the next meeting. We'll be holding our second Building Blocks Parent Advisory Council meeting on Wednesday, April 16. We hope to form committees and have volunteers to head the committees or join as a committee member. Participating in a parent group is a great first step in becoming an advocate for not only your child but others. I hope to see you at our parenting meeting!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at anytime.

Ms. Emily



### PROVIDER APPRECIATION DAY

Friday, May 11 is Provider Appreciation Day!!!

Provider Appreciation Day is a special day to recognize child care providers, teachers and educators of young children everywhere. Started in 1996 by a group of volunteers in New Jersey, Provider Appreciation Day is appropriately celebrated each year on the Friday before Mother's Day. The founding organizers saw the need to recognize the tireless efforts of providers who care for children of working parents.

Today's child care providers are the world's unsung heroes. The child care profession is one of the most underpaid occupations in the country; yet early childhood is the most critical developmental period.

It takes a dedicated person to be successful in the demanding world of today's child care professional. Provider Appreciation Day offers a unique opportunity to recognize and commend the unselfish dedication, compassion and strong family values that child care providers demonstrate everyday.

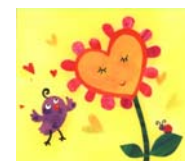
This year we're planning to hold a staff luncheon Friday, May 11 and during the month of May we would like to paint and decorate a room upstairs to create a warm and cozy staff lounge for our teachers. How can you as a parent show your apperception for our dedicated staff? Parents are welcome to join us for our luncheon, prepare a dish, or donate money towards the purchase of food or beverage. We'll also need help with the transformation of a room upstairs into a staff

lounge. We're in need of paint, paint supplies, room décor items, and volunteers to assist in this project. Any amount of help or support is appreciated.

In this newsletter we have included a form for parents to fill out titled, "Why we love Building Blocks Pre-school and Daycare..." These comments will be shared with staff members, posted on our website, and compiled in a book for prospective parents to view when visiting our program. Please take a moment this month and share your comments with us. There will be a folder attached to the parent communication board for you to place the completed forms. See Ms. Emily if you have any questions. Let's join together to show our appreciation!

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## 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 be placed in your child's folder when a late fee has been applied to your account. If some-

thing comes up and your unable to make a payment on time please notify us. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

### Sunscreen

It's that time of year again to start applying sunscreen for outside time. Please supply us with a sunscreen product of SPF 15 or higher. Write your child's name

on the bottle, and fill out a sunscreen permission form.

### Summer Shoes

Just another friendly reminder to send your child with athletic type shoes and socks for outside time.



## Great Start Collaborative-Oakland

You might be asking yourself what is Great Start Collaborative-Oakland? The Great Start Collaborative-Oakland (GSC-O) is a partnership between parents, schools, businesses, human service agencies, and other organizations, who work together to ensure that all of Oakland County's youngest citizens and their families have access to services that promote school readiness through a coordinated system of community resources and support.

The Great Start Collaborative-Oakland has organized the **First Annual ~ Great Parents, Great Start Parenting Conference**. The conference is Saturday, May 19 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the

Lake Orion Community Resource Center. This event is FREE but space is limited. FREE On-site child care is provided. FREE lunch. A variety of exhibitors and vendors will have information, materials, and books. There is a keynote speaker and over twenty break-out sessions to choose from.

This is a great opportunity for parents! The children will be visited by a magician and a mobile puppet show!!! Flyer's are next to the parent communication file folder.

Another opportunity for parents is the **Great Start Collaborative-Oakland Parent Council**. As parents, we are the voices and advocated for children. Why should you join the Parent Coalitions?

- If you are looking for ways to increase your knowledge of resources and services in Oakland county or if you want to network with other parents and parent groups.
- If you would like to build your leadership and advocacy skills to help benefit young child. The meeting are fun! Door prizes, free on-site child care, and meals. The first meeting was held April 25. We would love to have others join us for the next meeting. Look for a flyer on the Parent Communication Board. If you have any questions or would like more information visit [www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org](http://www.greatstartforkids-oakland.org) or ask Ms. Emily!



## Creative Arts Summer Camp 2007



It's time to start thinking about Summer Camp!!! Building Blocks has a fun filled Arts Summer Program. We will have full day program and Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday morning program. For current enrolled families of children that are going into the first grade or higher will be at a discounted weekly rate of \$160.00 for Full Summer Enrollment. A second child in the camp program will be \$150.00. This rate includes lunch so you don't have worry about packing a lunch each day.

Your child will...

- Build self-esteem through pride in their accomplishments and the positive reinforcement for teachers
- Express their ideas, feelings and dreams through creative movement, music, and short plays
- Explore a variety of media including clay, painting, drawing, sculpture, wire, print making, photography and more
- Learn about artists past and present from all corners of the globe
- Create the most awesome artwork in a warm and caring environment

Superhero's Return, Pattern Wizardry, Around the world in 5 Days, Back to the Future, and Reinventing the Masters just to name a few are weekly themes. We will be having our Water Fun Days and our Wacky Wednesdays, too. This summer camp program is designed for school age children ages 6-10. Small Class size ratio of 1:12. Choose a few weeks or a full summer for your budding artist who will get a creative charge out of stimulating activities every day! See Ms. Emily about registration or more info.

**Space is Limited**

**Spread the Word**

**Register your Child Today**



## Ms. Laura's Mobile Movers and Shakers



Happy Spring! I can't believe I have already been here for two months. I have been enjoying every minute of it and everyone has made me feel so welcome.

Happy Birthday to Madelyn! She had her first birthday on April 26. She has been improving so

much on her walking skills. She has become more vocal and laughs a lot too!

Amelia is starting to use more words and is practically running around the room. She has also mastered the climb up the slide and the descent down the slide in the in-

fant room.

Ethan is really starting to talk. His three favorite words are "down", "more", and "no". We all love watching him dance when the music to the music.

Ms. Laura



## Ms. Wendy's Young Toddler Busy Bee's



We want to give a big welcome to our new friend, Dillon. We're so glad you're here. The young toddlers and I have started a compost project. We added coffee grounds, banana peels, apple cores, strawberry tops, leaves, dirt, and water then took turns stirring it all up. We will be checking our compost and watching our food biode-

grade. The young toddlers have been taking advantage of our outside time. On Friday, after three days of rain we went outside and all the toys were filled with rain water we dumped most out and then we found a wagon filled with mud (oh no!) Let's just say thank goodness for a change of clothes and the washing machine and dryer. Because we got very,

very, very, muddy. Right now everyone has something they enjoy doing. Kennedy enjoys eating and dumping toys out. Alex B. enjoys washing hands and playing with the parachute. Megan enjoys play dough and singing. Dillon enjoys Lego's and swinging. And of course everyone enjoys going outside to play...even myself!!!

Ms. Wendy



## Ms. Janet's Terrific Toddlers



The toddlers learned a lot during Earth Week! They had a blast digging in the dirt, investigating worms, and making compost out of coffee grounds and fruit peelings.

We've been singing a lot of songs about rain and the sun. They really enjoy all the new toys that have been

donated by our families. They love pretending with the cars, house, and singing along to the Little Mermaid. They've been doing a lot of building with Lego's and get excited with the challenge of a new puzzle.

Next month we will be working on bubbles, rainbows, and Mother's Day Projects!

A special welcome to our new friend, Faith and a goodbye to an old friend, Genna. We will miss your happy face when you move to Minnesota.

Ms. Janet



## Ms. Lesley's Young Preschool



The young pre-schoolers have been exploring the world around them. April was filled with lots of talk about the weather, flowers, and the world around us.

Hand washing has been a big focus. Hunter makes sure to wash his hands before and after eating. Skylar has the snack and lunch routine down to a science and is a great example for others

with her manners. Karissa and Lindsey have been very interested in horses lately and enjoy playing together. Kailee continues to be interested in babies and shares her toys from home with her friends. Owen is awaiting the arrival of a new baby sister this month and will make a great big brother! Danielle is having lots of success at potty training and get very excited when she stays dry. Everyone is enjoying the outside.

Welcome to Ms. Jillian. She will be joining the preschool team this summer as an afternoon teacher for the young preschool. Jillian is a sophomore at Western and happens to be Ms. Mary's daughter.

Check out the planter at the base of the ramp...the young preschoolers planted flowers!!!

Ms. Lesley



## Ms. Mary's Pre-K Superstars



What great friends our pre-school class has become. Caden and Trevor enjoy building together. Peter and Michael love exploring their creative side at our art center. Michael has been writing some great stories to go along with his

drawings. Elizabeth and Mikayla our always busy at the computers. This month we welcomed back Alexa. Her mom had a baby boy last month so she is spending time at home with them. Congratulations on being a Big Sister, Alexa! Our earth was a very exciting topic this

past month. We talked about recycling and cleaned up after the "liter bug" on the playground. We're looking forward to our Mother's Day Tea next week. Hope to see you!

Ms. Mary



Happy Birthday To You!

May Birthday's

Ms. Wendy ~ May 29

Caden ~ May 6

Kennedy ~ May 12

Danielle ~ May 29

Elizabeth ~ May 30

Song of the Month

5 Little Butterflies

5 Little Butterflies  
Resting at the door  
1 flew away and then there were 4  
Butterfly, Butterfly  
Happy all day  
Butterfly, Butterfly  
Fly, fly, away



4 Little Butterflies  
Sitting in a tree  
1 flew away and then there were 3  
Butterfly, Butterfly  
Happy all day  
Butterfly, Butterfly  
Fly, fly, away



3 Little Butterflies  
Looking at you  
1 flew away and then there were 2  
Butterfly, Butterfly  
Happy all day  
Butterfly, Butterfly  
Fly, fly, away



2 Little Butterflies  
Sitting in the sun  
1 flew away and then there were 1  
Butterfly, Butterfly  
Happy all day  
Butterfly, Butterfly  
Fly, fly, away



1 Little Butterfly  
Left all alone  
1 flew away and then there was none  
Butterfly, Butterfly  
Happy all day  
Butterfly, Butterfly  
Fly, fly, away



Curriculum Corner



Week of 5/7 "Mother's Day"  
Week of 5/14 "Bubbles and Soap"  
Week of 5/21 "Rainbow of Colors"  
Week of 5/28 "Graduation"

**Artist of the Month:** Jackson Pollock  
**Author of the Month:** Robert Munch  
**Colors of the Month:** Rainbow  
**Shapes of the Month:** Hexagon, Sphere, Crescent  
**Numbers of the Month:** Zero, Five, Ten

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 \$150 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. This is a special offer for May and June. Please tell your friends about us. See Ms. Emily for more information.

Reggio Emilia

We're continuing our journey of embracing the Reggio Emilia philosophy and approach to early childhood education. Please understand that we are not referring to an early childhood method or set curriculum, but rather a deep knowledge in theory and community-constructed values that have been and are continuously being translated into high quality early childhood practices.



On Friday, April 20, Ms. Wendy and Ms. Janet attended a professional development training titled, *An Introduction to the Reggio Emilia Approach*. The training was presented by the Ingham Intermediate School District at the Galileo Early Childhood Center in Mason, Michigan.

Ms. Wendy and Ms. Janet were able to gain insight on the background of the philosophy, see and view examples of projects done in Reggio Emilia inspired classroom, and tour the Galileo Early Childhood Center.

Ask Ms. Wendy or Ms. Janet what they enjoyed most about their training!