

BUILDING BLOCKS CHRONICLE



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Emily's Corner Message From The Director



The Holiday Season is approaching! October came and went as quickly as the winter coats, hats, and gloves seem to have suddenly appeared. Our Fall Festival was a huge success with trunk-or-treating outside this year! It was great to see so many of our families celebrating together. Picture Day went very smoothly and our favorite Lifetouch photographer, Emily, got wonderful photos of everyone. Picture packets should be arriving in the next few weeks!

Many wonderful things are happening each and

every day here at Building Blocks. The infants and young toddlers are using and learning sign language as a way to communicate their wants and needs along with their spoken vocabulary. Our older toddlers are working so hard at potty training and enjoying every minute of it. Our preschoolers amaze me with their kind words, helping nature, and supportive guidance with their peers. What a joy it is everyday to interact with each and every one of our Building Blocks children!

With the upcoming traditional Holiday's of Thanksgiving and Christmas upon us I want our families feel free to share

November 2007

with us any other Holiday's or special celebrations their families celebrate at this time of year as well as through out the year.

On Wednesday, November 21, the day before Thanksgiving, Building Blocks will cook a turkey and we are asking our families bring in side dishes, rolls, or desserts. Parents are welcome to join us for lunch as we always have plenty of food to go around.

Look for a sheet posted for email address at the Parent Communication Center. I'm hoping this will enable us to communicate and share information! Happy Thanksgiving!

Volume 4, Issue 4

Dates To Remember

November 15 ~ Parent Night & Magic Show 6:00 p.m.

November 22 & 23 ~ Building Blocks Closed — Thanksgiving

December 24 & 25 ~ Building Blocks Closed — Christmas

Dates To Remember



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Parent Night & Magic Show

Thursday, November 15 6:00 — 7:30



Join us on Thursday, November 15 from 6:00 p.m. — 7:30 p.m. for a Parent Night and a magic show for children at 6:30 p.m.

Parents will have the opportunity to have individual informal parent-teacher conferences with their child's primary teacher. Fifteen-minute blocks of time will be scheduled for the conferences throughout the

night. This a great opportunity to see what's happening in the classrooms and speak one-on-one with your child's teacher.

Kevin Brennan a Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial is sponsoring the magicians for the Magic Show. TaDaah Illusions will present, Motivation Through Magic, with magicians, Darrin and Janice Stone. Kevin Brennan will also be available to help provide awareness to our families about the ever growing

need for education planning.

Snacks and refreshments will be available and activities for children.

If you have any questions please see Ms. Emily.

If your unable to attend please remember that conferences between teachers and parents are available upon request at anytime! I hope to see all of our families in attendance!



General House Keeping Items

Tuition

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

Checking In and Checking Out

Please remember to use your four digit code to check-in and check-out your child each and everyday. If you have someone else who routinely picks-up or drops-off we can assign them a code as well.

Health Physicals

Children under the age of 30 months are required to update health physicals yearly. Children over the age of 30 months are required to update health physicals every two years. Immunization records are also required

to be updated yearly. If your child is in need of a current physical or shot record please submit them as soon as possible.

Label Children's Outdoor Wear

Parents, please label coats, snow pants, mitten, gloves, hats, and boots with your child's name. We have a permanent fabric pen available.

Infant/Toddler Room Entrance

Please keep in mind that the infant/toddler room entrance should not be used by our families as an entrance or exit to the playground. This is for safety reasons only. Wood chips, snow, salt, and other hazards are being tracked through the room and present a choking or safety concern for our infants and toddlers. We often have sleeping infants at drop off and pick up times as well. Thank you in advance for complying with this issue.

Holiday Closings

Please make a note on your upcoming calendars. Building Blocks will close on Thursday November 22 and Friday, No-

vember 23 for the Thanksgiving holiday. We will be closed December 24, 25 and 26 for the Christmas holiday. We will close at noon on Monday, December 31 and be closed on January 1, 2008 for the New Year. If you have any questions please see Ms. Emily.

Illnesses

As is states in our parent handbook if your child exhibits certain symptoms of illness you will be contacted. Together we can determine the best course of action. Doctor's notes will be required if medical treatment is necessary stating when the child can return to child care. Building Blocks will post contagious illness info sheets at the parent communication board along with the date the child was diagnosed. We cannot guarantee that we will be able to fully contain or prevent the spread of illness. Staff members are continually sanitizing but please remember that hand-washing is the best defense.



I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Halloween. All the kids looked adorable dresses up in their pajamas at the center on Halloween Day.

Since it has gotten colder it has been a bit confusing for the teachers when getting the children ready to go outside because there are so many new jackets, hats, mittens, and other accessories. Please write your child's name or initials on the tag of your child's clothing to make a little easier for both of us. There is a perma-

nent fabric marker on top of the cubby's for you to use!

Lucas has been changing so much. He is not only walking but running around the room. He is starting to "mumble" more and now says, "Laura." I was very excited to hear him say my name! Ms. Jill has been teaching Lucas some basic sign language like more, milk, please, and thank you. More is a very popular sign during snacks and meals. Lucas also loves to climb on our tables and chairs. He climbs onto the table and sits with his legs crossed just waiting for me to get him down.

Amelia has been doing great! If I ask her something, she tells me "no" and then smiles. She has recently

shown an interest in the potty! No luck at the center for us but it's good to start early. She has been saying so many words and he repeats everything she hears.

Madelyn is also talking a lot and understands so much of what we're communicating to her. She likes to play with Amelia and Lucas. Both Amelia and Madelyn have been doing great sleeping on cots! They're cots are right next to each other and when Amelia wakes up first, she says "hi" to Madelyn and tries to wake her up.

It was great seeing all the children dressed up in their costumes at the Fall Festival with their families!

Ms. Laura

Ms. Laura's Infants



Ms. Janet's Young Toddlers

Last month the children had a lot of fun collecting leaves outside, raking them and running into the piles of their leaves. We've been showing them all the different colors of the leaves and painting with all the different colors. They enjoyed the miniature pumpkins with all the different shapes and textures. They loved listening to all the pumpkin and Halloween

books.

This month the theme starts with fire safety and community helpers. We will talk about the firefighters important job and other interesting and important jobs in the community. We will have fun doing a lot of pretending. Then we will work on the theme of "My Healthy Body". We will show them how playing and being active is

good for you. Also we will talk about healthy foods there are to eat, just in time for thanksgiving!

A special welcome to our newest friend, Conner and his family!

Ms. Janet

Amelia

Evangeline

Madelyn

Conner

Ms. Wendy's Older Toddlers

October ended with a bang with all of our great programs and activities!

The Halloween party was a blast. I enjoyed seeing my young friends dressed up as a pink puppy (Madison), a beautiful fairy princess (Katherine), and a beautiful princess in a blue dress (Megan) and seeing you with your families.

We hope our families love the convenience of Picture Day as much as we do. It is a lot of fun to see the children dressed up in some of their best and a way to truly take a minute and see their growth in between pictures.

The girls are all doing fabulous with their potty training and can see many stages of growth in

their awareness about their bodies and what it is telling them. We have a new potty chair thanks to Danielle Borst and her family. The girls really enjoy this new potty and it is the new favorite. Everyone will continue to make vast improvements over the next few weeks! If have any suggestions or questions about your child's potty training please feel free to ask.

Though it is now November, I want to add that the children enjoyed our annual visit from the Highland Fire Dept. The children always enjoy their visit. We were fortunate to have Firefighter Doug again, he has been here several times now. The children always enjoy their visit. I loved watching their faces of interest and amaze-

ment as Megan, Kitty, Madison, and Kennedy all sat still with quiet attention as firefighter Doug talked about fire safety and then put on his gear to show the children that their was nothing to be afraid of. Then we put on our coats and shoes and walked outside to see the fire truck. We all got a picture with firefighter Doug and the fire truck! Lots of FUN!!! October was a great month! Ms. Wendy



Ms. Lesley and Ms. Kelly's Preschoolers

As we just completed our second month of preschool we want to take this opportunity to share with you some of the other components of our curriculum.

The two-week theme units have been a part of our daily exploration with the hope that the children would develop their own questions and desires of learning which we then would be able to expand upon and explore together. This type of curriculum is called emergent curriculum. Mutual interests of both the children and teachers will be used to select the content of the curriculum. However, the development of each child's intellectual, emotional, and physical abilities are nurtured by the teacher.

For the weeks of November 12-23 the two-week theme has be alerter from "My Healthy Body" to "Dogs and Pets" due to the interests of the children and observations made by the teachers.

Another component of our curriculum is the idea of "project" work, which allows children the time and opportunity to examine and think about what they know and what they what to achieve and learn. Projects can involve as many as the whole group or as few as an individual child. Various planned experiences and projects follow the children's interests. Time provides the opportunity for an active processing of thoughts and meanings. Time is important in building and sustaining collaborative relationships. Children need time to dialogue, disagree, to solve problems, share perspectives and accept the ideas of others.

We will continue to expand and develop a system of documentation that will help parents "see" what is going on in the classroom while still allowing children to talk about, revisit, and even explore further areas of interest. Documentation should tell a story. It should be a represen-



Danielle, Kailee, and Skylar create structures using the unit blocks.

tative report of the journey and experience. Documentation is a work in progress, it represents the history of the project.

We will portfolios for each and every child in our class. We hope to use a variety of techniques to document your child's development. These portfolios will be passed on to parents upon completion of enrollment at Building Blocks.

Assessments have also been created and will be complete in December and again in May.

We look forward to speaking with each of you on Parent Night! We would also like you to know that you can request a conference with is anytime throughout the year!

Ms. Kelly and Ms. Lesley



Lindsey and Karissa create patterns with sorting bears.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dillon ~ November 15

Jacob ~ November 23

Ms. Linda ~ November 8

Ms. Kelly ~ November 28

Song of the Month

Hello Mr. Turkey

(sung to the tune of, "If Your Happy and you Know It")

Hello Mr. Turkey how are you
Hello Mr. Turkey how are you
With a gobble, gobble, gobble
And a wobble, wobble, wobble
Hello Mr. Turkey how are you



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 very excited about all the great things the children are doing here and we are 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 signs up for a minimum of 3 part time days. This is a special offer for November.

Please tell your friends about us!!!!



Community Sharing and Building Blocks Partnership



This holiday season Building Blocks will partner with Community Sharing a nonprofit organization striving to provide food, clothing, coats of shelter, services, referrals and advocacy for needy citizens living in the Milford and Highland areas. We will be collecting food, clothing, and paper products as well as adopting a local family for Christmas.

Clothing ~ Food ~ Paper Products

All the darkness in the world cannot put out the light from a one small candle. Community Sharing is striving to be that candle. With our donations this Holiday Season, the light of Community Sharing will burn bright and provide help to those in need right here in our community.

November Curriculum Corner

10/29 - 11/9	Fire Safety and Community Helpers
11/12/ - 11/23	My Healthy Body/Dogs and Pets
11/26 - 12/7	Families and Homes

The Coat "Flip"

It's that time of year again for winter coats. The Coat "Flip" is a great way to encourage your child to put their coat on themselves. Children as young as 18 months can often master this and certainly a two and up is ready to start trying this for themselves. Remember, a child who has opportunities to channel their drive for independence in a positive direction - like dressing themselves early on - will be a happier child!

1. Stand at collar, looking down at coat. Bend down and place both hands into arm holes.

2. When arms are about half way in stand up.

3. Flip coat over head.

