

October 2013

The Village News Fall 2013

The University Child Care Center



Visit our website at
www.victoryvillage.org

NAEYC REACCREDITATION

The center is working hard towards our NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) reaccreditation. (Re) Accreditation takes place every 5 years, and we are now in our fifth year. This optional, national accreditation involves a rigorous self-study process (happening now), followed by a validation visit from the NAEYC academy (which will occur sometime between now and March). The classroom teachers having been working very hard, updating their classroom portfolios which document how the many (up to 300) NAEYC criteria are met in each room. Those portfolios as well as a comprehensive program portfolio will be reviewed by NAEYC during the validation visit.

We are proud to be pursuing our NAEYC accreditation because we believe that it measures important program quality components that are not evaluated by the State's Star Rating system.

According to the article "Making the Case For Supporting NAEYC Accreditation", NAEYC-accredited centers have been found to be of higher quality on many dimensions, both structural and relational because they:

- Employ staffs with more formal education and specialized early childhood training
- Provide a more developmentally appropriate environment with age appropriate and child initiated activities
- Develop a physical environment that is child centered and designed to promote learning
- Have teaching staff that interact more sensitive and less harshly with children
- Establish better communication among staff
- Meet higher standards with regard to health, nutrition, and safety
- Have better relations with parents.

Source: <http://www.naeyc.org/>

Our teachers have been very committed in their efforts to carry out this goal, and are working hard to bring it to fruition. **Please let the teachers know that you support them and appreciate their efforts!**



Dates to Remember:

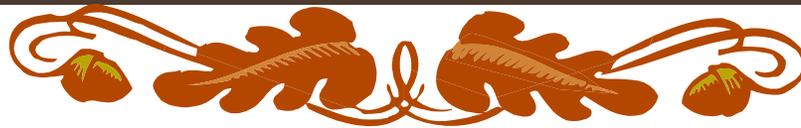
- October 18th—
Center Closed—
Teacher Workday
- November 1—Fall
Festival
- November 11,12—
Fall Portraits
- November 22—
Thanksgiving Feast
- November 28,29—
Thanksgiving Holi-
day

If you are not yet on our Listserv, please give us your email address so we can send you quarterly newsletters, weekly menus, and important announcements. This is a good way to keep in touch with what is happening at the Center!!



Parent-Teacher Conferences

We do parent-teacher conferences twice a year—once shortly after the children start in their new classrooms each fall, and a second round in the spring. The fall conferences will take place in mid to late October (after the Teacher Workday). Look for sign-up sheets at each classroom that will be posted soon. These conferences are a good time to talk to your child's teacher outside of the classroom hustle and bustle, and discuss your goals for your child's learning over the upcoming year. Your child's teacher will share information from the Teaching Strategies about developmental milestones, and you can talk together about emerging skills that can be supported at home and at school. We honor the important role of parents and families in determining what is best for their child, and we consider our work to be a partnership with you as your child develops and grows. We hope that you will participate in the parent/teacher conferences each year. We think that you will find the experience to be rewarding and informative.



Thanksgiving Feast

On Friday, November 22nd from 5—6:30 p.m., The University Child Care Center will sponsor our annual Thanksgiving Feast. This is a pot-luck event, and we ask that you bring your favorite covered dish. Our kitchen staff will prepare turkey for the meal, and some other delicious dishes. Please note that because of licensing regulations, children whose parents are not present will *not* be served food from the feast. We ask that families mark the dishes they prepare for major allergens (eggs, nuts, etc.), but each family will need to decide what is safe for their child to eat from the donated dishes.



Volunteers needed for cleanup: Please sign up at the front desk

Fall Festival and Pumpkin Patch



We will have a fall festival for the children at the center, sponsored by the Twos and Preschool classrooms, on Friday, November 1st. In the morning we will have a “Pumpkin Patch for the children”. They will be able to pick a small pumpkin from the pumpkin patch. The other festivities will take place from 5:00—6:30 p.m., and will include games, face painting, and other fun activities. The children may wear their costumes, (no weapons including swords, please as these often contribute to aggressive play). The children will go around the classrooms and collect treats and/or candy, which will not be eaten here, but will be sent home.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR



We will be sponsoring a Scholastic Book Fair during the week of November 18th. You may purchase quality children’s books directly from the fair. The center receives up to a 60% (of sales) bonus in books for the classrooms by doing the fair. Also look for classroom Wish Lists, where you may purchase and donate books that the teachers have requested for their rooms.



SPECIALS SCHEDULE

*Monday: Spanish
Chinese*
Tuesday: Music
Wednesday: Art
Thursday: Yoga
Friday: Kids in Motion



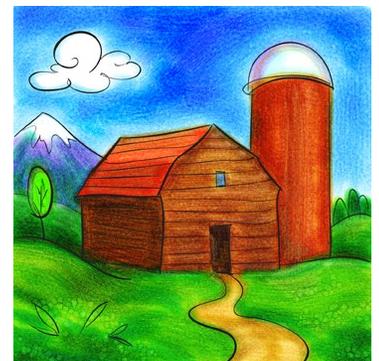
Did you know?

Our center can make referrals for professional screenings and assessments of children who may need services to help them with developmental, behavioral, or speech/language needs. You may request a referral if you have concerns about your child in any of these areas. You may ask your child's classroom teacher, or the Center Director for more information. In most instances, the screenings are done free of charge.



Quarterly Themes

In conjunction with the Creative Curriculum, we use center-wide quarterly thematic units to enhance our program of activities. These broad topics provide a framework for activity planning. The themes and timeframes are very flexible, so that teachers can branch off into areas of learning that are of special interest to the children in their groups. Books and special materials enhance the thematic units. Themes for September-October-November are:



Farm/Harvest Thanksgiving / Foods Fall
Pumpkins & Apples Transportation
Children Around the World



Birthdays

The following staff members have birthdays this fall:

- Shari—October 10
- LaNeeka—October 13
- Candice—October 26
- Jeanne—October 27
- Christiana—October 28
- Fatima—November 4
- Deanna—November 7
- Natalia—November 15
- Maryalice—November 16

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



Anniversaries

The following staff members have anniversaries this fall:

- Mary—Sep 1—6 years
- Shirley—Sep 1—6 years
- Kim—Sept 1—5 years
- Ginger—Sept 24—1 year
- Angie—Oct 17—8 years
- Rachel M.—Nov 10—4 years
- Laura—Nov 14—8 years

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SERVICE TO OUR
PROGRAM!**

Say Cheese!

Fall portraits of the children
will be taken on
November 11th & 12th

Mon- Infants, Tods & Siblings
Tues-Twos & Preschool



**REMINDER:
PLEASE HELP YOUR CHILD
TO WASH THEIR HANDS
WHEN ENTERING THE
CLASSROOM EVERY DAY**



Very Important Safety Reminders:

Please remember to sign your child in and out of their classroom when you drop off and pick up. This is an important requirement that helps us to keep your child safe!

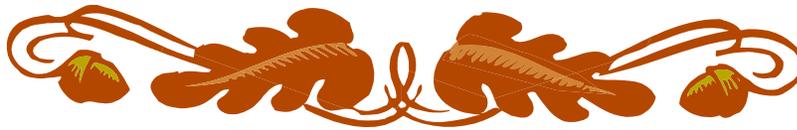
If you bring any special treats for the children in the classrooms: according to State regulations, all baked goods must be prepared in a commercial kitchen, and must be clearly labeled with a list of ingredients and potential allergens. Please do not bring products containing peanuts or tree nuts, since we have several classrooms that are nut free due

Please do not leave children unattended in your car in the parking lot, with or without the car running. If you need assistance during pick up or drop off, please ask the front desk and we will be glad to help you.

About Our Board

Victory Village has a Board of Directors that is made up of University appointees, Hospital appointees, and parent representatives. The Board sets policy for the center and provides general oversight of and advice on operations. The center's director reports to the Board. Board members are also available to parents and teachers who have questions or concerns they wish to share. You may contact the Board at vvboard@mindspring.com, or using the contact list found on our website at www.victoryvillage.org.

The Board consists of three parent representatives, five university appointees, and five hospital appointees. Any parent is eligible to serve as a parent representative and need not be employed by the university or hospital. University and hospital appointees may be parents and must be employees. Board terms are effective September 1st of each year. The Board meets at the center the 3rd Thursday of every month. You are invited to attend!



BOARD COMMITTEES

Did you know that you do not need to be a Board member to serve on one of our committees? We are currently looking for interested parents to serve on the following committees to help improve our program.

Buildings and Grounds Committee

Fundraising Committee

You can let Jeanne know if you are interested or come to a



Board Meetings

Board meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room.

All parents are invited to attend.

There is a Parent Time Slot at the beginning of the meeting agenda for parent comments and input.

We hope you will join us.



Board Members

Please join us in congratulating our new Board member and officers:

New Board Member: Matt Smith

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS:

- Mattias Jonsson—Board Chair
- Hadley Kifner—Vice Chair
- Joanna Cleveland—Treasurer
- Brian Johnston —Secretary

