



October 2014



The Village News Fall 2014

The University Child Care Center



Visit our website at
www.victoryvillage.org

Playground Volunteers Needed!

We have a goal this school year of upgrading our Toddler playgrounds as well as the Expansion playground. Both play areas are spacious and have a lot of potential, but they need a *lot* of work! We have a vision for improving them, and we are working hard to raise the funds needed to make some significant improvements. As we are putting the funds together, we'll also make some strides with your help to lay the groundwork for those improvements. We'll get started with some of that activity this month—and we'll start with a Volunteer Workday on Saturday October 25th from 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. On that day, we'll plant some bushes and trees. We also want to create a new blackboard/chalkboard on the Toddler playground (we could use someone handy with some carpentry skills and a few tools!) Two of our staff members, Mr. Charles and Ms. Aundria, attended a Natural Learning Initiative training and brought back some exciting ideas for creating some water walls using recycled materials (see below) - and we want to create a few of those in different play spaces as well. We have a volunteer listserv and will be sending out a call for volunteers for the Saturday, October 25th workday. If you are not currently on the volunteer list but would like to get email announcements about upcoming volunteer opportunities, please let us know by contacting Jeanne by phone or by emailing her at jeannewakefield@hotmail.com. Watch for the exciting changes taking place on the Toddler and Expansion playgrounds! And don't forget that you also contribute to our projects by making a one-time tax-deductible donation or by using our Give and Forget plan to have a monthly donation of any amount billed with your tuition (and get a charitable contribution receipt at the end of the year. Thank you for your support as we work hard to improve our facility and your child's experience with us!



Dates to Remember:

- October 27th—31st Spirit Week
- October 31st—Fall Festival
- November 10,11—Fall Portraits
- November 17-21—Scholastic Book Fair
- November 21—Thanksgiving Feast
- November 27.28—Thanksgiving Holiday



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 October (after the Teacher Workday) until mid November. 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 21st 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 on Friday, October 31st. The festivities will take place from 5:00—6:30 p.m., and will include games, face painting, a Pumpkin Patch (where your child can pick a pumpkin) 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 17th. 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 Session 1*
Tuesday: Music
Wednesday: Art
*Thursday: Yoga
Chinese Session 2*
Friday: Kids in Motion



Cookbook!



The Center is in the process of creating a cookbook, compiled with favorite recipes from the families in our program. We will then make the cookbooks available for sale as a fundraiser towards our playground improvement project. We are excited about this fun project! Our goal is to collect 150 recipes. We have extended the Cookbook Recipe deadline to **Wednesday, October 22nd.**

Our goal is to collect 150 recipes. We have challenged each classroom to collect family recipes from each family in their classroom. The classrooms who submits a recipe from all of their families by the deadline will have an ice cream party on Friday, October 24th. We would also like for families to present their recipe dishes during our annual Thanksgiving Social in November—when we hope the cookbooks will be available.

To submit your recipe(s). Simply enter this link:

<http://www.typensave.com/app/#>

To log-in ...

Username: VVDCC

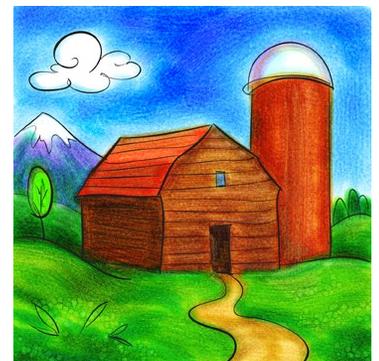
Password: tomato869

Click on the "Add Recipes" tab to begin. The steps are simple. If you have any questions, you can contact Stephanie. Thank you for helping us make this project a success!



Quarterly Themes

In conjunction with the Teaching Strategies, 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
- Jeanne—October 27
- Deanna—November 7
- Natalia—November 15
- Maryalice—November 16
- Morgan—December 6
- Stephanie—December 17
- Ginger—December 18
- Nicole—December 21
- Mina—December 26
- Evan—December 30



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Anniversaries

The following staff members have anniversaries this fall:

- Mary—Sep 1—7 years
- Meg—Sep 1—1 year
- Shirley—Sep 1—7 years
- Kim—Sept 1—6 years
- Morgan—Sept 9—1 year
- Ginger—Sept 24—2 years
- Zaborah—Oct 1—1 year
- Angie—Oct 17—9 years
- Rachel M.—Nov 10—5 years
- Laura—Nov 14—9 years
- Maryalice—Dec 10—13 years

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

Say Cheese!

Fall portraits of the children
will be taken on
November 10th & 11th
Mon-Twos & Preschool
Tues- Infants, Tods & Siblings

***Please note that because of a
preschool field trip, the age
groups are flipped from what we
usually do.

**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!

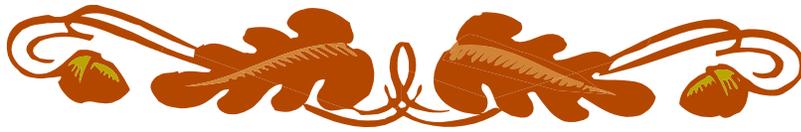
If you bring any special treats for the children in the classrooms: according to State regulations, all baked goods must be prepared in a commercial kitchen, and must be clearly labeled with a list of ingredients and potential allergens. Please do not bring products containing peanuts or tree nuts, since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

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 meeting (3rd Thursday or each month at 6:00 p.m.).



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 Officers

Please join us in congratulating our new Board officers

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS:

- Rachel Wilfert—Board Chair
- Sarah Blackmon—Vice Chair
- Joanna Cleveland—Treasurer
- Michelle Curl —Secretary

