



The Village News

Spring 2012



No More Mulch Playground Improvement Project

The last phase of the playground improvement project will be the Toddler Playground. We plan to put resilient surfacing and a bike path, similar to those on the Preschool and Twos playgrounds. All of our current fundraising efforts go towards that project, with a total amount left to be raised of approximately \$11,500. The fundraising committee is planning some events to raise funds for the project. We also welcome your tax-deductible donations of any size to go towards the project. Once we have raised the funds, the improvements will be made, wrapping up this project that we've worked on for the past two years. We have been impressed with the impact that the improvements to the other playgrounds have made on the level of physical activity of the children, not to mention the improved look of the playgrounds, and of course, the fact that the children go home without having their clothes covered in mulch! We appreciate everyone's ongoing support of this project!



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Playground Improvements*
- *Spring Themes*
- *Star Rated License Renewal*
- *Scholastic Book Fair*
- *Staff Anniversaries*
- *Gardening*
- *Spring Portraits*
- *Staff Birthdays*
- *Safety Reminders*

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 March-April-May are:

Plants/Flowers/Gardening

Insects & Bugs

Birds/Pets

Dinosaurs



What in the world are ECERS and ITERS???

These days we are very focused on our work preparing for our Star Rated License Renewal and Environmental Rating Scale evaluation. This is something that happens every three years and we work hard preparing in every classroom in order to get a great score that reflects all of the wonderful work that our program is doing. We will be evaluated by a team of assessors who will use the ECERS (Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale) and the ITERS (Infant and Toddler Environmental Rating Scale), which are evaluation tools used to evaluate program quality. The assessors will come sometime during a predetermined 3-week window (which will be approximately mid-April to mid-May). They will stay all day for two days in four randomly picked classrooms and score everything from materials to teacher-child interactions, room arrangement and more. We use this opportunity to review our practices, update materials, and hone our skills, also using the ECERS and ITERS as training tools to review “best practice”. We have a Technical Assistant from Child Care Services Assn. who will also help us with training and preparation. All of the staff are working hard and thinking about all of the many, many details that will be reviewed during the visit. Everyone is very much vested in the process, which can be a little bit stressful simply because it is so comprehensive. Please show the teachers your support by letting them know what a great job they do every day!



The Scholastic Book Fair Is Coming!!

We will have our spring Book Fair beginning on Wednesday, April 16th. You will have an opportunity to purchase quality children's books at a good price, and our program receives many books (70% of total sales) for the classrooms. The classroom teachers will also post Wish Lists, and you may purchase those books specifically for your child's classroom.

Important Safety Reminders

Please observe these important safety rules at the Center:

- Children should be in eye-sight of their parents at all times during drop-off and pick-up. Recently, we've been having a lot of instances of children who get ahead of their parents, and attempt to go to the classroom or even out the front door by themselves. This is very worrisome to us and is not safe—so PLEASE make sure that your children stay with you. During drop-off, it is critical that you hand your child off to a teacher, and not just let them go to a classroom by themselves. You should make verbal or at least eye contact with the teacher and make sure that they know that you are entrusting your child to them. Please do this without exception!
- Please observe traffic signs including the stop signs and one-way arrows on the Friday Center campus and in our parking lot. Remember that children may be crossing the parking lot, so please drive slowly and carefully.

Thank you!! Jeanne



SPRING



Gardening

It will soon be time to break out the gardening tools and get started on our spring gardening activities. We have garden boxes on the preschool and two-year-old playgrounds, flower boxes on the outdoor classroom, and flower beds in our garden playground. We just love growing things!!

If you have an interest in volunteering to help in the garden, please let us know. Gardening is a fun and exciting activity to share with the children, as they learn about nature and watch their efforts blossom and grow!



Say Cheese!

Spring portraits, including graduation photos of rising kindergarteners will be taken on April 16th & 17th

Mon.- Infants, Tods & Siblings
Tues.—Twos, Preschool & Graduation Photos



SPRING SPECIALS SCHEDULE:

Monday: *Spanish*

Tuesday: *Music*

Wednesday: *Art w/ Evan*

Thursday: *Yoga*

Friday: *Tumbling*

(No Yoga in March because Ms. Kapila is out of town—your accounts will be credited)



Please join us in congratulating the following staff members who have anniversaries of employment at Victory Village:

Ms. Ana—March 1st—7 years

Ms. Claudia—March 8th—7 years

Ms. Latee—March 28—7 years

Ms. Kapila—April 1st—25 years!!!

Ms. Sara—May 1st—4 years

Ms. Zulaykha—May 18th—3 years

Ms. Carina—May 20th—7 years

Ms. Krishonda—May 28th—5 years

Ms. Tabatha—May 30th—4 years

CONGRATULATIONS!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!

Average Length of Employment

Center-wide is 6.5 years!!

Happy Birthday to the following staff:

March:

3—Shirley

14—Sara

15—Claudia

April:

13—Krishonda

May:

24—Angie

24—Houria

25—Mary

27—Tabatha

