

Brought to you by Tina and Kara

Volume 2

June, 2009



Montgomery  
Child Care  
Brooke Grove

## Newsletter for Brooke Grove and Greenwood Sites

### MCCA Mission Statement:

Montgomery Child Care Association strives to provide: the highest quality child care and play-based education for children in Montgomery County; professional training for child care providers; and advocacy for affordable quality child care for families of all income levels, and better training, pay and benefits for child care professionals. MCCA is United Way agency #8447, Combined Federal Campaign agency #13880, and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charity.

### From the Directors Desk

It is finally the end of the school year! We would like to remind all of our school age families that your contracts will end at the end of the school year (**June 16th**). If you need care on **June 17th** and **June 18th**, please let Kara or Tina know.

As the school year winds down, we would also like to mention that we will not be having another Parent Council meeting this month. The next meeting will be held in

the fall. We would like to extend a very special "Thank You" to the families who have been so instrumental in our Parent Council throughout the year. We have had more involvement this year than we have in many years, and we truly appreciate all of your effort and support.

We would also like to thank all of our parents who completed our Family Survey. The results were shared with the staff during a staff meeting

and we plan to use the provided comments to make our center as wonderful as it can be!

Finally, please make sure to take the time to notice the ongoing improvements in our classrooms as we work toward our MSDE accreditation. Both of our programs (school age and preschool) are using customized improvement plans in order to focus our efforts.

Thank you and have a super summer!

-Kara and Tina

### Family Resource Corner

With summer sun finally here, it is time to look at how we can protect ourselves from its harmful effects. While we want to make sure that we take advantage of the wonderful weather that Summer can provide, skin care and sun damage prevention are very important to consider. The American Academy of Dermatology advocates the ABCS of sun protection:

**AWAY:** Stay away from the sun in the middle of the day (10am-4pm) when you can

**BLOCK:** Use SPF 15 or higher

**COVER-UP:** Wear a T-Shirt and hat when in midday sun

**SPEAK OUT:** Talk to you family and friends about sun protection

Resource: American Academy of Dermatology website-[www.aad.org](http://www.aad.org)

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#### Dates Of Interest:

- June 16th-Last Day/Half Day of school for MCPS
- June 17th and 18th-Drop In Days for MCCA
- June 19th-MCCA closed for cleanup
- June 22nd-First Day of Summer Adventures!!

## Classroom Comments!

### Bunnies:

It's hard to believe that it's the start of summer and that schools will be closed soon! The Bunnies' field trip this June will be to Brighton Dam, weather permitting. We will leave by 9:30 am and return by noon. Please pack a brown bag lunch that we can take with us. If it rains, our alternate trip will be to Croyden Creek Nature Center. As always, chaperones are welcome.

We will continue doing fun and exciting activities this June. Our focus will be on water based activities, both inside and outside. The water table outside is a wonderful, cooling activity on hot summer days. We will do ice cube painting, use spray bottles for art, as well as cooling off, have picnics outside on school grounds. The dolls, animals, and cars in our room will get frequent washes. We will have a "Beach Day", complete with towels, swimsuits, sunscreen,

and "water". For cooking, we will make boardwalk fries, ice cream sundaes, have a lemonade stand, and fresh fruit kebabs.

I hope by now that everybody has had a chance to say "hello" to Georgia Ferentinos, our new PM teacher. The Bunnies and staff are excited about Georgia's arrival and look forward to fun and activity-filled days to come!



### Paddingtons:

The Paddingtons have been very busy this month with a variety of activities. Our literacy projects have included writing stories about our field trips and our favorite foods, spring stories, Mother's Day cards, Alphabet Bingo, and learning about Eric Carle books. Math activities including graphing our favorite zoo animals, graphing stickers, addition and subtraction, number bingo, and counting. In science, we did several "cool" experi-

ments such as the "Dirty Penny Experiment", "Flower Changing Color", "Evaporation", "Drain Off", and the "Balloon Rocket".

Our learning activities have also included a field trip to Brookside Gardens for tour of the Nature Center and a hike, a fun trip to Chuck E. Cheese's to eat and play games, and a trip to the National Zoo. A big thanks goes out to all the parents that were able to chaperone on these trips.

Our next field trip will be to Black

Hill Regional Park for a picnic.

The Paddingtons are currently working on sharing cultures. We are asking for families to send in pictures of family, extended family, and cultural activities. We would like to make a photo collage of each family to hand around the class. This helps what children learn about each other and gives them family pride. Copies of photos will work!



### Adventurers:

Greetings from the Adventurers,  
This past Spring, the Adventurers discovered the life cycle of butterflies, and were thrilled to have

real live butterflies to watch grow. With Summer finally here, we welcome our new and old Adventurers. The Adventurers staff look



forward to discovering, swimming, and having loads of fun during our Summer journey. We'll see you soon!

-The Adventurers

Pink Panthers:

Its almost Summer and we want to talk about this 08-09 year. Our class mainly has become an opportunity for conversation between the kids in a controlled setting. The children can talk about their day or activities or just anything that comes to their creative minds. We can hap-

pily share with you that at this point, our class activities we have in the class engage the children (stuff that they want to do). They become a great oppportunity for them to be more able to talk, take turns, and listen (American Idol, International Show). We want to say that this year was a pleasant time, a

talking time, full of laughter and the opportunity to share thoughts and create great friendships. Thank you to all the families that make the whole process even more fun!

Sincerely,  
Maria G  
P.P. Staff



Superfriends:

Greetings from Plutonia 9, our summer vacation spot, As Summer has officially begun, the space station is vacant, as we are all on the planet Plutonia 9 for vacation, basking in the heat of its 3 suns. But as our graduates move on, we

wish them the best and hope they have a great Summer.

Farewell to: **Bryan Hayre, Ari Fischel, Emmanuela Kahe, Fikir Ejigineh, Matthew and Maynard McAlpin, Tony Niverth, Ryan Bradford, Katie**

**Fisher, Katie Peterson, & Melanie Schupler.**

And remember, you only fail if you fail to try!!!

Shantel and Kerry  
Over and Out

Greenwood Aftercare:

We are so sad to say goodbye to all of our Aftercare friends, but we quite excited for the end of school year, warm weather and vacations.

To round out the last week that we will be together, we have decided to celebrate in a special way. We will have a cake cook-off, play many water games, and have a party

on the last day of school.

For all of you who are joining us for

Summer Adventures, you will see Ms. Kara at Brooke Grove and Ms. Samantha will be our bus driver for almost every field trip! Ms. Lynne will return to Greenwood Aftercare in the Fall. For all of our



friends who we will miss over the Summer months, we will look forward to hearing about your fun times in June, July, and August.

Have an awesome Summer!

~Ms. Kara, Ms. Lynne, & Ms. Samantha

# Curriculum Corner



On each of our classrooms' lesson plans, Preschool and School-Age, activities in each of the learning areas are incorporated every week. The teachers in each of these classrooms base their lesson plans on the interests of the children. Regular observations are taken on each and every child to learn about his or her strength and struggles. The teachers then use intentional teaching techniques to connect their observations to the implementation of activities with the children.

This month, we will explore the activities that help our children learn through art.

## Art Activities

### **Process Art:**

If you notice the artwork on the walls of our centers, a little explanation goes a long way. Our teachers offer short explanations as to the process of the artwork, where we believe the heart of learning in art is found. Activities like string art, bean and scrap art, and ice cube painting are used by our teachers to enforce **fine motor skills**. Other developmental goals such as **sense of self** can be displayed in self-portraits.

### **Self-Portraits:**

By providing a wide variety of materials, self-portraits may take many different shapes. Children can use paints, crayons, and markers which match their skin tone to accurately identify themselves in a cultural context. They can also illustrate their idea of family and friends through their drawings. Collages are often used by school-agers in order to **make and interpret representation**, give a more mature and in depth look at how they see themselves and the world around them.

### **Open-Ended Projects:**

In our preschool and school age rooms, you will not find pre-cut and predetermined examples for the children to copy. This open-ended approach offers the children an opportunity to **observe with curiosity** and **approach situations flexibly**. For instance, in the spring, when caterpillars are a popular subject to explore, it will be difficult to find two caterpillars on the wall that are exactly alike. This is because our teachers give the children plenty of opportunities and allow the children to make their creations how they believe it should look. This approach gives the child direction, but fosters their creativity and ability to further "think out of the box". Creations are personalized and therefore hold a different meaning than those which are made to exactly resemble the teachers'.

**Brought to you  
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**Creating Wonderful  
Childhood Memories  
since 1968**



**Upcoming Fieldtrips:**

**June 4**-Bunnies to  
Brighton Dam Park

**June 11**-Paddingtons to

**June 22, 26, & 29**-Summer Adventures to  
Wheaton/Glenmont Pool

**June 23 & 25**-Summer Adventures to  
Mongolian BBQ

**June 30**-Summer Adventures Six Flags

## Our Super Staff!



**Staff  
Birthdays  
in June:**

- **Ms. Georgia-  
June 24th**



**Staff**

**Announcements:**

The following staff have  
received their acceptance  
letters from the MSDE  
Credentialing program:

- Maria Garcia
- Suzanna Harutyunyan-  
Stolzfus
- Mary Joseph
- Kerry Williams

**Happy**

**Anniversary!**