



**Friday Memo
March 5, 2010**

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.
Cary's Schedule	7:30-3:30 check for Updates on Closings/delays	8:00-4:00	10:30-6:30	9:00-5:00	vacation

Director Updates:

Wow! What a week! Hopefully you had a chance to attend and enjoy some of our events we had at our center this week.

- 1) Dr. Seuss Day on March 2nd was a big hit! The teachers and the kids had a blast. **The Cat in the Hat** (Ken Kemp and he will be performing in Seussical, the Musical at the Gaithersburg Arts Barn from May 8 – 23) **was our special guest. He sang songs with us and helped us wish Dr. Seuss a very happy birthday. Thanks to Heather Latiri for arranging for our special guest.**
- 2) The parent education workshop had a big turnout on March 3rd. *The Truth About Consequences: Effective Discipline Without Punishment.* We had lots of families from our center, other MCCA centers and members of the local neighborhood. We are excited for our next one too. Thanks to all our volunteers that helped spread the word by hanging up flyers and posting on list serves.
- 3) **If you have contacted your mentor family or been contacted, please let me know how that went so we can keep tabs on the program.**
- 4) Be sure to read the minutes that Anna Gillis sent out to be aware of the different topics discussed by the Parent Council. One additional item that was added to the minutes was the fact that the MCCA Board voted to continue the pilot matching credentialing program for staff to encourage professional development. Due to the fact that the economy isn't doing that well, the match will be now be at 50%.
- 5) I will be leaving for vacation next Friday 3/12 through 3/18. Jayne Stoner will be answering/returning phone calls from 1-3 PM daily while I am away. Both Jayne and Ruthie are back ups for me if you need anything while I am away.
- 6) Lauren and I are working on organizing a parent night out for over at the Ashburton/Wyngate center location. We are looking into a Saturday night in April from 5-9 where the kids can come and eat pizza, play games and watch a movie. Parents would be able to drop off their kids any time during that period and enjoy a night for themselves. A small fee would be requested for pizza and snacks. **Please let me know if this would be something that you would be interested in doing.**

- 7) The MSDE Accreditation Team has a busy month ahead of us. We are striving to observe and reflect on the classrooms throughout the month of March. Thanks to Lisa Cohen for volunteering to join the Kittens' team. If you'd like to help, please email me.
- 8) The Manna Food Drive has been extended through March 24th. Help us beat 613 pounds!
- 9) Please remember that it is MCCA's company wide policy that all children should go outside daily unless it is raining or a 15 degree below wind chill factor. While we will strive to do everything in our power to keep everyone warm and dry, it is each family's responsibility to send in extra clothes, socks, shoes, warm outdoor gear and snow boots when it is snowy out. Rain boots are great for the rain, but don't really keep feet warm or the snow out of the wide openings. Our teacher to student ratios need to be kept so it really isn't possible for a teacher to stay inside with 1 or 2 students that don't have the appropriate gear. Please help us follow all policies and allow the children to make the most out of their outdoor time. Teachers have also asked that all items that come to school be labeled as well.
- 10) Check your family boxes for JumpBunch documents. Be sure to check out their website to see what they are all about. If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact Stacy Nozick, Director of JumpBunch Sports and Fitness at 301-908-1574.
- 11) Dee Dee Weaver is the winner for March. Get your votes in for April's star staff of the month by email or paper. Your votes are important and count! The staff member earns a free lunch at a restaurant of their choice.

General Information:

- Please remember to sign the in/out sheets when you drop off and pick up your children. We need those forms for licensing.
- Thanks also for letting us know *in writing* that there will be a change to your child's dismissal plan for the day. If it is someone new that is not on your emergency form, please remind them to bring their photo id. You are helping us keep every one safe and be sure they end up where they need to be.
- Don't forget that helmets are mandatory for the children if they are on bikes, scooters, sleds, etc. We want to keep those kids safe. We have helmets on site, but you are welcome to send your own in from home.
- This is just a reminder that our outdoor policy states we will go outside unless it is raining or less than 15 degrees with wind chill. On no school days for breaks or snow, we will play outside extra long, weather permitting. Please make sure your child has hats, gloves, scarves, etc. When it snows, they should also bring a change of clothes because they will get wet. You may also feel free to send them with sleds or other snow toys, but keep in mind that children riding sleds will need to wear a helmet.

- Helmets are mandatory while riding bikes, trikes and/or scooters. Parents should send in their own from home or the children will wear one of ours here at the center.
- All three class directories are up and running on our website. The passwords have been emailed to you. If you would like to be added or update your information, please let me know too.

Important Dates:

- **3/12-3/18** I will be out of town. Jayne Stoner and Ruthie Jones will be filling in for me.
- **3/25/10** Parent Council Meeting 5:30-6:30 (**Please r.s.v.p. so I know how much pizza to order**).
- **3/29/10- 4/6/10** Spring break for the public schools. Our school age program will be open daily from 7:30-6:30.
- **4/1/10** Recipes due
- **4/29/10** Bake sale/cookbook sale
- **4/29/10** Parent Council Meeting 5:30-6:30 (**Please r.s.v.p. so I know how much pizza to order**).

Upcoming Field Trips:

March 9th- Buffalos are going to the National Geographic Museum in D.C.- **We still need more chaperones if you can join us.**

Summer Adventures

Our registrations are off to a great start. Field trips will be announced soon. The cost of our summer program is \$210/week for each of the following theme weeks:

1. June 21-25 Potions and Concoctions Week
2. June 28-July 2 Lights, Camera, Action Week
3. July 6-9 (Closed July 5) Great Authors Week
4. July 12-16 Crazy Games Week
5. July 19-23 Iron Chef Week
6. July 26-30 Water World Week
7. August 2-6 Space and Aviation Week
8. August 9-13 Go Green Week
9. August 16-20 Building and Construction Week
10. August 23-26 (Closed August 27) Wacky Olympics Week

Each theme week includes one field trip and three swimming days, activities, breakfast, and two snacks.

Kittens:

New Information:

Dr. Seuss:

- We enjoyed the Dr. Seuss celebration activities on March 2nd. A big thank you to all who made it possible and Helena's mom for inviting The Cat in the Hat to join us.

Creative Curriculum:

- Our focus for this week will be geometric shapes, colors as well as language and social skills.

Field trips:

- Our next field trip will be to the Bethesda Library on March 5th where we'll have a story session with the Librarians.

Welcome:

- We would like to welcome our newest Kitten Sayako who is visiting our class this month from Japan. We are very glad to have her with us.

Vacations:

- Sam and Ethan will be taking a family vacation to Florida from 3/12 to 3/19. We wish them a safe and fun vacation.

Pets:

- If any one would like to bring home our guinea pigs, Snowball or Homer any weekend, let us know. Otherwise they sit in the building all alone for the whole weekend.

Please donate:

- We need more old newspapers and paper bags for art projects.
- We also need plastic bags for used diapers and wet clothes.

General Information:

Friendly Reminder:

- Please check with a class teacher to find out if your child needs more diapers and wipes and at least 3 changes of weather appropriate clothes.
- Please label your children's clothes and toys to avoid any confusion.

Buffalos:

New Information:

- Thanks to all of you that helped out with Dr. Seuss Day.
- We welcome Rochelle to our class. She has been wonderful to have in the afternoons these past couple of weeks.
- Wednesday will be "Wear Wacky Clothes or Hair" for Wacky Wednesday.
- On 3/8 the Buffalos team will be having a planning meeting. Ilene Solomon, Jayne Stoner and Shyamali Ray will be covering the class in the morning.
- Our field trip will be 3/9 and we could really use some more chaperones. Please let us know if you can join us. Please send a cold lunch in a brown bag that can be thrown away- no lunchboxes.

- Thanks for your patience while we work out a system to help children keep up with their belongings.
- Please bring in old **boys clothes** for the dramatic play area.
- Please be sure you send in "snow boots" for outdoor play time and 2 changes of clothing (including socks). We go out 2 x's a day and the rain boots just aren't keeping the children warm and dry. Children that don't have weather appropriate clothing on will not be allowed to go outdoors for recess so please help us keep the kids warm and dry.
- Please continue to contribute to our "money for Haiti" jug. We would like to fill that jug up by March if possible. Thanks to those of you that contributed already. Everything helps.
- For the next week our theme will be celebrating Dr. Seuss and engaging in lots of activities related to his books. Great for reading and counting!

General Information:

- Please send in an old t-shirt to be used as a smock, old magazines and dramatic play clothes for boys.
- We will be serving breakfast only between 8:00 and 8:30 AM daily. If you would like your child to eat when they get to school, please be sure to bring them to school between these times.
- In an effort to give the children more free exploration time in Centers, we will be moving our morning circle time to 8:40-9:00, This will give them a full hour to take things to a deeper level of learning. We hope to have all of our Buffalo friends with us for breakfast and our morning circle to start the day off right. :)
- **Please label all items that come to school. I.e.; food containers, sweaters, jackets, rain/snow boots, x-tra clothes, bedding for the cot, etc. This will make it easier to keep track of personal items.**
- We appreciate all families that follow the "no toys from home" policy.
- Be sure to let a teacher know when you are signing out a child from the class. We will begin to take the sign-out sheets outside with us on the playground to help alleviate any confusion.

Terps:

New Information:

- Spring is in the air and we are getting ready for a 6 full day session. Please sign up at the Parent Sign in area for this special fun filled week.
- We are excited to welcome Roxana Varasteh to the classroom. She has been a wonderful addition these past couple of weeks.
- The coming week will be based on Science/Discovery. We'll be going on nature hikes to collect items to look at under the microscope.
- We still need ink to process photos taken in our classroom. You can sign up to donate this at the parent sign in area.

- Keep those recipes coming! The Terps are falling behind in the race to get the most recipes in.....
- We are having your children sign up for project ideas from our Davis Library books, and we'll begin collecting and buying materials for these fun projects. Donations toward needed supplies would be appreciated. See Jayne for details.
- We have a theater day every Friday for those who are interested in stage performances. If your child is interested, have them bring in any dress ups they'd like to add to the form. We will learn as we play about all aspects of the theater and maybe even have a live performance at the end of the year/picnic/potluck.
- Thanks again to the Pangaros for supplying our room with much needed whiteboard and magnetic paint as well as paint supplies. Also a thank you goes out to the Mathers for 2 beautiful Ikea chairs.
- It is still cold outside at the end of the day when we go out. Please send your children in with all winter clothing that they can carry in a bag and leave it, if necessary, to dress for outdoor play. Please support this required outdoor programming.
- Lastly, we all need extra clothes (winter) to change into that is kept in a bag in our cubbies. Accidents of all kinds still happen at this age level.

General Information:

- **We allow limited time on the D.S.'s.** We do not allow children to visit chat rooms or play games through their internet connections with this device. Please talk to your children about this rule. We will ban them from the program if children continue to break these policies.
- **We are open for school closings if the federal government and Administrative offices are open.** Be sure to email or call if you aren't sure. Please reiterate with your children that we don't allow snowball fights where people are targets. We will always have outdoor time, especially when it snows. Do send in all items for our fun snow days:
 - **Helmets (bike)**
 - **boots**
 - **snow pants (or extra set of clothes to change into)**
 - **gloves and hats**
 - **extra socks and shoes**
- Licensing requires that the parents sign in/out when you drop off or pick up your child in the room. You need to write the time that you arrive and your initials. Ex. 5:30/JS. Please make an effort to follow this requirement for our center. Those records are also used by the food program to check against our attendance and meal tally records.
- Terps will always need in their cubbies for emergencies a full change of clothes with names (including socks and underwear).

- Please remember to check in and out with Jayne or Merle when you drop-off or pick up your children. If a sub is there, be sure to let them know who you are picking up so they can keep track of the comings and goings of the children.

Thanks.

Jayne and Roxana

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