

# MCCA Brooke Grove & GW Aftercare Newsletter

November/December 2011



The impressive spread provided by the GW Aftercare parents-everything was donated but the chicken!

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## From the Directors' Desks

Happy (almost) Winter! We are very happy to enter the cold and crisp holiday season full of celebrations and traditions. We encourage all parents to share their cultural traditions with the teachers at BG and GW so that we can help the children experience as many holidays as possible during this time of year. We'd like to remind everyone to take a look at the letter written by Kelly Schlutz, Parent Council President, about the holiday gifts from parents. Donation boxes can be found in the lobby of Brooke Grove and on the parent table of GW Aftercare.

We are also happy to announce that the preschool field trip t-shirts are in! The Paddingtons will have the distinct honor of breaking in the t-shirts during their field trip to the Sandy Spring Fire Station December 6<sup>th</sup>. We'd like to thank **Wendy Alcalde** for the wonderful (and lucrative) idea to sell mums at our Fall Festival this October. We were able to cover most of the cost of the t-shirts. Per our parent council suggestions, we're planning to sell more mums next year with pre-order forms since this year's sell was such a smashing success.

Also, as unpleasant as it may be, Winter is lice season, so please be sure to take the extra precautions *by washing your preschoolers linens or taking home soft items by washing them in hot water and alerting us if you notice any nits or live lice on your child.*

As always, thank you for your support! Take care and happy holidays!

-Kara and Melissa

## Classroom Comments

-Pre-School-

### *The Bunnies*

The Bunnies have been quite busy during the month of November. We said farewell to our friend Teo, and we had a new Bunny join us. He is a two-year-old named Benjamin Chacko, and he fit right into our routines from his first day. Good job, Benjamin! We had a field trip to "The Little Gym" on November 11, and the Bunnies had a wonderful time playing on the gym equipment as well as blowing bubbles, bouncing balls and singing songs. Olivia's mom & dad joined us on November 22 and told us all about babies! They are experts, since Olivia has a baby sister named Ada, and she came to see us too. The Bunnies loved hearing about what babies do, what they need, and what they like to eat. On November 27 we had our Thanksgiving feast, with side dishes and desserts provided by our parents. Delicious! Several parents joined us and we had a lovely visit while we feasted.

We are looking forward to a busy month in December as well. We will be saying goodbye to our dear Bunny friends, Thomas and Leah, as they move up to the Paddingtons' class the first week of December.

We are planning a **field trip to "Bounce -U" in Rockville on December 12**. Make sure to sign up on the sheet near the bulletin board ahead of time.

Olivia's Grandparents ~~will be~~ coming to visit with the Bunnies on December 21, and they will be telling us all about Hanukkah, a holiday celebrated at their home in December.

We also need to let you know that Ms. Lilly will be on vacation from December 9 through January 3. Ms. Cheryl Braxton will be her substitute. We will miss Ms. Lilly, and will look forward to hearing all about her new grandchild on her return!

The weather is looking more and more like winter, so we need to have our Bunnies dressed appropriately when we play outside. **Please send in hats and gloves or mittens** (as well as boots if it is snowy) with your child, since we play outside twice every day as long as the temperature is not below 15 degrees.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about your Bunny or our class program, please feel free to speak with any of the Bunny teachers. We are always happy to talk with you!

Ms. Lynne, Ms. Mary, Ms. Lilly and Ms. Maria

## Staff Birthdays for November and December

Samantha Davenport: 11/1

Shaun Saalakhan: 11/18

Kara Terry: 12/15

## Staff Anniversaries for November & December:

Be Chen:  
5 years on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>

Lynne Cook:  
4 years on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>

Maria Garcia:  
6 years on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>

Shaun Saalakhan:  
1 year on Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>

## Classroom Comments

-Pre-School-

### *The Paddingtons*

Wow! It's hard to believe that Fall is over. The Paddingtons enjoyed the beauty of the season. The class had lots of fun with activities such as exploring the beautiful colors of nature, falling leaves, and experiencing changes in the weather. The topics we have been focusing on are Pets, Five Senses, Rhymes, Giving Thanks, and Healthy Choices. Our literacy projects have included working on letter recognition and letter sounds. So far we have learned the letters A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H and the words beginning with them. We also have been practicing writing our names and words from the word-box.

In math we have been working on number recognition, counting, comparing and measuring objects, making patterns, and playing Number Bingo. Having adapted Waffles Jr. as our class pet helps the children to learn how to take care of animals and love them. Thank you for those who took Waffles Jr. home on weekends to look after him.

The Paddington teachers will be holding parent/teacher conferences in December 12-15. Please check the sign-up sheet on the Family board. This is a good opportunity to talk about your child's progress, concerns, and share ideas.

The holiday season is here and there are many fun activities to look forward to this month. We will be learning about international culture, food, music, and dance.

We will be going on field trips to Sandy Spring Fire Station (Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>) and Bounce U (Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>).

We wish all of you a very Wonderful Holiday Season!

Sincerely,  
Paddington Team.

## An interview with... Ms. Lizzy!

Q: What has been your favorite memory so far working here at MCCA BG?

A: Taking Waffles, Jr. home for the first time and dancing to my cd with the Paddingtons.

Q: What is your favorite type of activity to do with the Paddingtons class?

A: My favorites are science, art, and music. I really love painting and cutting and gluing work, especially.

Q: How did you start working with us at MCCA BG?

A: I was looking for somewhere to work and I saw that you had openings online.

Q: How do you like to spend your personal time away from MCCA BG?

A: I love to have adventures with my friends (did you know that there is a Unicorn, MD??), play video games, and walking my dog, Shadow.

## Upcoming Field Trips:

- ❖ Paddingtons to Sandy Spring Fire Department, December 6<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Bunnies to Bounce U, December 12<sup>th</sup>
- ❖ Paddingtons to Bounce U, December 21<sup>st</sup>
- ❖ School Age to field trip TBA, December 29<sup>th</sup>



Ethan and Craig work cooperatively to build a marble tower.

### *All Stars (Group A)*

The season has changed and so has our classroom! Group A has said "Farewell" to a few friends in the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (Now in group B) and our veteran lead teacher, Ms. Alexis. But don't shed a tear! The learning with fun continues with Ms. Shay, a new name "All Stars" and a new face, Mr. Shaun (formerly from group B). With that, we welcome Braedon, Noralexis, Victor and twin brothers Amari and Zamir to the All Stars constellation ☺ WE will continue all of our usual activities but with a few more twists.

In November, our group decided to "Go-Green", by raking leaves on the playground, and creating a recycling bin out of recycled cardboard. We brought out our inner athlete through football and soccer during outdoor play. And a new dance called, "The- Tooty-Ta" made everything from our legs to our thumbs wiggle! What we can look forward to this month is joining the "Get Up and Move project with our very own Fitness Club, and our hands and hearts expanding even more as we discuss and learn what it means to give and help others.

The Fitness Club will start as a 2 day a week child-friendly exercise group covering warm-up stretches, partner jogging, fun exercises, indoor yoga (ohm!) and creating healthy yet simple cooking projects. The All Stars will read and talk about why we help others, and lead a canned-food drive (open to all who like to lend a helping hand). When the collection is complete, the goods will be delivered to the MANNA Food Drive with the help of Ms. Shay's friend who is a loyal MANNA & Salvation Army Volunteer. Always feel free to stop by and ask questions and share ideas and concerns! Bundle up and get ready for a hearty, fun and healthy Winter Season!

Season's Greetings!

- Shay and Shaun

### *Party Rockers (Group C)*

Well a lot has changed in the last month. I am excited to be a part new classroom "Party Rockers"! We are all also happy to have Mr. Nate Permanently and welcome back Mr. Shaun. I will miss the kids from group A but I am excited to build new relationships with the older kids. We will definitely get to reconnect and spend time together outside. I will be taking suggestions from the kids on activities of their interests, so we can all have as much fun as possible! In addition we would be glad to hear any feedback from families so if you have any questions, feel free to ask Ms. Alexis or Ms. Kara`

### *Super Panthers (Group B)*

Seasons greetings!

We hope everyone enjoyed their Holiday break. Today is December 1st and the holiday season is just beginning. During the Fall we had a lot of fun but with Winter and the New Year approaching we can't help but be filled with excitement and cheer!

You may have noticed the changes we've made to our classrooms as we are proud to announce Mr. Nate and Mr. Shaun are now permanent members of our M.C.C.A Family! Mr. Nate and Mr. Shaun been a wonderful influence on our friends from encouraging sports play to interpersonal/social skills. They are both wonderful assets to our family and share the same excitement for the approaching New Year as we do. Please fill free to share any questions or concerns with us. Thank You!

### *Greenwood Aftercare*

Greetings Parents and Families! We are excited to Say, We had a wonderful November and look forward to an excellent December as we welcome the winter winds. In the beginnings of November we had lots of fun activities planned. We enjoyed Roller Skating on our half day on the 11<sup>th</sup> and our Thanksgiving Feast on our half day on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Our field trip to the skating rink was a blast and our thanksgiving feast was loaded with a selection of delicious dishes. Thank you to all the parents who brought in a dish or anything else to contribute. We had abundant food and were even able to share with the custodial staff and some of you.

We are anticipating an amazing December with all of the holidays approaching. We look forward to sharing the joy of the season with plenty of holiday activities. Peace and Positivity!!!!

-The Greenwood Team

Family Resource Corner

This month, please see the attached article entitled: Eight Tips for Encouraging Healthy Eating Habits (and how your MCCA Center is supporting them!!)



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