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Park Street Children's Center Post

July - August, 2010

DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS

The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) re-accreditation process is moving right along. All four of the self-appraisal teams have met with Valerie Rajotte, MCCA's Education Director, or Sue Keiser, MCCA's School Age Coordinator, and we now have improvement plans for each of our four age groups: infants/toddlers, two year olds, preschoolers, and school age. Thanks go to parent Nevedita Hancock and teacher Yelena Glezer for their work on the infant/toddler team, to parent Jamie Becker and teacher Ann Goslee for their work on the two year old team, to parent Shari Leventhal and teacher Doris Rodriguez for their work on the preschool team, and to parent Miriam Organic and teacher Mary Buckeridge for their work on the school age team. The next step is to implement the changes suggested by the teams. We then will schedule a mock validation visit, which will give us an idea of how the improvements are going. The self-appraisal teams will then meet again to assess if the changes have been successful. We will then apply for the final validation visit. It's a long process, but will be worth it when it is done.

Do you ever wonder what happens to the parent surveys you fill in annually? They are tabulated at the main office, and the results of surveys from both the whole asso-

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**CHRISTINA GIOVINAZZO,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Chris' column is off for this newsletter !

Watch this space in September.

Please Designate Montgomery Child Care



#13880



#8447



DIRECTOR'S THOUGHTS CONT'D.

ciation and from each center are shared with Directors at one of our meetings. We then bring them back to the staff and discuss the results, deciding what we are proud of and what we can change. This information becomes the basis for the center goals for the next year, along with any other goals which are discussed at the annual Columbus Day training. So, to cut a long story short, your surveys are taken seriously and are acted upon.

Thanks go to Cindi Bridgford, mother of Wells Twining, who organized two fundraisers on June 10th: one at California Tortilla and one next door at Ben and Jerry's. This had been discussed for several months at Parent Council meetings as a way to raise money to help defray field trip expenses. A total of \$224.63 was raised in the most painless way—by enjoying ourselves! Thanks go to the many families who attended.

The Summer Adventures Program is in its third week, and the children are having a great time. We are almost completely full, and the swimming and field trips as well as just the daily fun are proving to be irresistible to judge both from our observations and from the weekly surveys which children and families fill in. When our program at St. Mary's closed for good on June 11th, we were able to add their newer equipment to the school age classrooms and it has given many more opportunities for play.

As most of you know by now, I have decided that the arrival of my sixtieth birthday in September means that it is time to do something new. I will be returning to the classroom at another MCCA center nearer my home, MCC Kensington/Forest Glen, teaching three and four year olds, and Friday, July 30th will be my last day here. It has been a memorable 5 ¾ years, and I have truly enjoyed knowing you and your lovely children, and watching them grow. My efforts to make Park Street the best it can be wouldn't have been possible without the terrific teachers and office staff, who are like family. I so appreciate all the positive comments and good wishes from the many of you who have stopped by since I made my announcement. A search is underway for a new Director, headed by MCCA's Executive Director, Chris Giovinazzo, and by MCCA's Education Director, Valerie Rajotte. I know a good candidate will be found who will enjoy Park Street as much as I have.

My last newsletter!

Fondly,

Helen

NEWSFLASH !!!! THIS JUST IN !!!!

I am pleased to announce that we have a new director identified for our Park Street center! Her name is Susan Jaller and she comes with over eight years of director experience in a similar-sized center. Details have yet to be worked out regarding her official first day but she is willing and able to schedule some overlap time in these next two weeks with Helen, Park Street's current director, to help facilitate a smooth transition.

Chris Giovinazzo
Executive Director, MCCA
July 15, 2010

An Interview with Marie Black

Q. When did you start working at Park Street?

A. In June 2005.

Q. What keeps you working for MCCA?

A. The flexibility of the organization.

Q. What is it about Park Street that keeps you working here?

A. The children and their families.

Calendar Reminders:

***** Please watch for field trip information to be posted in your child's classroom. Mark your calendar for date and time. *****

About MCCA:

Montgomery Child Care Association (MCCA) is an association of 9 centers at 15 locations, and Park Street Children's Center is part of this network!

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 affordable quality child care for families of all income levels, and better training, pay, and benefits for child care professionals. MCCA is a United Way agency (#8447), Combined Federal Campaign agency (#13880), and a 501 (c) (3) non-profit charity.

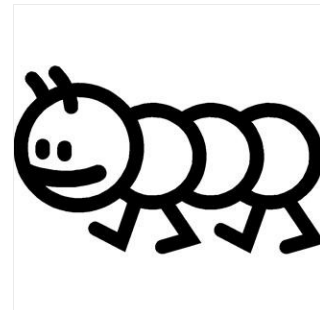
Infants and Toddlers Program

Caterpillars:

Summer is now upon us. Our Caterpillars enjoy taking stroller rides in the summer air, when it's nice outside. Summer has come on with a vengeance this year so we are careful not to over heat or stay out too long. **Jaedyn** continues to make great progress crawling around the room. He knows where all the toys are and goes directly for them. He particularly likes the sensory bottles. He's starting to stand up by holding onto the furniture for balance. **Madelyn** loves to explore her surroundings by moving from

shelf to shelf. She's progressing nicely and loves to smile. One of her favorite activities is playing with the small basket of toys. We will see her crawling soon. **James** is doing very well. He loves to roll on his stomach to explore his surroundings. He is able to grasp small toys and is very proud of himself when he achieves this feat. He is now able to sit up without support. We are welcoming two new Caterpillars to our classroom: **Angela Dobi**, who loves to roll over in circles and **Shana Mirman**, who enjoys playing with the hanging toys. We're looking forward to a summer

filled with fun with all our Caterpillars.



Busy Bees:

Our Busy Bees love to go outside when the weather is nice. However, there are those times when it doesn't cooperate so well; either with rain, or with temperatures at an unhealthy level. In these cases we like to incorporate the outdoors inside the classroom. One example of this is creating an indoor sandbox by placing sand in a large container in the middle of the floor; bring in some shovels and buckets and a few plastic 'creatures' and then start dig-

ging, burying, and exploring. Our Busy Bees love filling up the buckets with sand and then dumping it back out. Then there's the ever-popular water play! We fill our water table with water and our Busy Bees 'go-to-town' splashing, filling up cups and pouring them out again and again. They also enjoy discovering what toys will float and which ones will sink to the bottom. Our plastic sea animals get a lot of use during this time. It's fun to see how imaginative our Busy Bees are.

We've had to say farewell to **Sarah, Samantha, and Rita** who have all graduated up to the Puppies room. We wish them well and look forward to seeing them on the playground. We are welcoming 3 new Busy Bees to our classroom: **Nicholas Morris, Shanthanu Rao** and **Sindhu Rao**. We're looking forward to all the fun activities to come. Happy Summer to all!



Puppies:

Summertime is here. Our Puppies really enjoy the water play that comes with the heat of the summer. Our water play happens every Tuesday. If we aren't able to go outside, we still have plenty of indoor activities to keep our Puppies happy. Water play can take place inside using a large container or our water table. Our Puppies love to give the toys and the baby dolls a bath with

colored water. Sponge painting and finger painting are among the other activities we do with water and paint. Using paint brushes and water, our Puppies will pretend to paint the chairs and table, or we can use bottles of watercolor to spray on paper to make different and colorful designs. Summertime is a fun time both indoors and outdoors. Have a fun summer with your little 'Puppy' as we do.



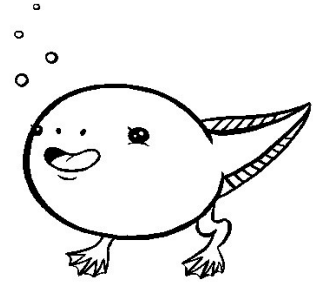
Two's Program

Tadpoles:

Our Tadpoles really like the summertime outdoor play. Our water days are on Tuesdays. We ask that parents check their child's cubbies daily to make sure they have the appropriate clothes, shoes and extra clothing. Our Park Street classrooms go outside every day and really enjoy this time; however there are times when the weather doesn't cooperate. This allows us to bring outside activities inside to enjoy. Water play is always fun whether it

be inside or outside. Our Tadpoles love to color the water in our water table with water-color paint, and then wash the baby dolls and other toys. Melting ice cubes in the water is always a fascinating activity. How long will the ice-cubes last? And, where did they go? Shaving cream tunnels and finger painting are some other activities that our Tadpoles enjoy during the hot days of summer indoor fun. We'd like to welcome **Jose Gomes** and **Madeline Quirion**

as our new Tadpole classmates. We look forward to an exciting summer with all!



Little Feet:

Our Little Feet always enjoy the months of summer. We make sure there is plenty of water and water play going on during these hot days. When the weather is too hot to stay outside very long, we keep busy inside doing many sensory activities. Some of these activities include washing the baby dolls, and seeing what floats and sinks in the water tub. Play dough and Gak are always fun activities for our Little Feet during indoor play.

Our sandbox is opened daily and the children love to bury items and then find them in the sand. Also, filling up containers and watching it pour out is fascinating to them. We love to play our instruments and dance or march to the music. There are many art projects going on as well. We paint with q-tips, balls and even cars. Sometimes we have a yummy treat like popsicles or ice cream when it's warm outside. Our Little Feet like to invent new dramatic play themes like making a map,

packing a snack and waiting for the 'pretend' train to take us on a journey. Imagination can be the best fun of all. Try it at home with your little one and create a new world of your own. Happy summer months to all!



Staff Recognitions

Happy Birthday To:

Jessie Kelley
Alexa Leffler
Robert Kelley
Mar Thet

July 11
July 14
July 19
August 26



Happy Anniversary To:

Mary Buckeridge
Rani Khan
Debbie Watkins
Joellen Farrell

August 1 - thirteen years (!)
August 1 - four years
August 1 - nineteen years (!!)
August 16 - *thirty years* (!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)

Preschool Program

Dinosaurs:

The summer heat presents a good time for science experiments. As we watch our wet handprints disappear from the brick walls outside we talk about evaporation. We discuss how the cool water from the hose changes the temperature of the sliding board. There have been some great summer items that have been brought in. We loved smelling **Lisbeth's** lavender and lemon basil and tasting **Ethan's** homegrown carrots, cucumbers and beans.

After examining a 'sleeping' cicada, we went outside to listen for their sounds. **Charlie** noticed how the cicada's sounds would start and then slow to a stop. He said "I think they're scared of us". Our Dinosaurs have a great time during water play. We're asking that parents save their laundry soap lids to use during this time. They're perfect for small hands to pour with. We hope your summer is filled with fun at home with your little Dinosaur.



Fireflies:

This summer is turning out to be a scorcher. We enjoy going outside every day and use plenty of water to keep us cooled down. There are those times when the air quality doesn't cooperate, which means we need to stay inside. During these times we explain to the children about the weather and the heat, and what it means to have a code red day. We provide sand and water for indoor play and pretend we are at the beach. Our

Fireflies really enjoy the sensory activities that are provided. They love to play with the shaving cream and color it with watercolor paints. We place contact paper on the floor and our Fireflies walk on it barefoot feeling it stick to their feet and toes. Dancing to different music and songs, and listening to story CD's always makes for a happy and enjoyable time indoors. We also incorporate science and math projects into our indoor fun such as measuring con-

cepts and change when different ingredients are mixed together. There are many indoor games that our Fireflies love to play including musical chairs, duck - duck - goose and 'I spy'. Enjoy the summer fun at home with your little Firefly and have a great summer time!



Thank You!

- To the **Elodie and Matthew Youngman** family for their donation of aprons and books.
- To the **James Cheron** family for their donations of new carpet tiles for our Caterpillar room and helping to install them. They look great and the Caterpillars love them.
- To the **Jessica and Justin Gillcrist** family for the donation of car seats.
- And, once again, thanks so much to **Ingrid Ivins** for her help with our newsletter production.

THANKS SO MUCH TO ALL !!

Donation requests

Please check the wish list next to the office for new items needed in the classrooms.

School-Age Program

Rainbow Summer Program:

Our Rainbows really enjoy the summer months. It gives them the opportunity for lots of water activities and outdoor play. Since this summer has turned out to be one of our hottest, there have been times when the air quality has not cooperated. We go outside every day, however when it is too unhealthy to go out we explore other activities to do inside. Group games are some of our Rainbows favorites. They play '4-corners, ghost-in-

the-graveyard, and people-to-people'. Ask your 'Rainbow' about these games and you can play along. Art activities are always a fun way to spend time indoors. There's lots of drawings and gluing going on, as well as making the all popular 'gak'. Our Rainbows are always having fun with music and dancing. Imagining they're a rock star or a famous singer encourages a lot of dramatic play and confidence. We have a summer reading goal to earn a party and our Rainbows are very excited about

that. They're all doing their part to earn that goal. Adapting games and activities to fit the weather is always an exciting challenge, with new ideas every day. Plenty of water and plenty of activities means a summer filled with fun! Have a great summer at home with your Rainbow, and plan plenty of water activities to keep cool!



Big Kids Summer Program:

Summer is upon us and "she" has been letting her presence be known with hotter than usual temperatures. Our Big Kids love the outdoors, however, if the air quality is bad we need to fill our time with indoor fun. Our Big Kids are very "big" on playing cards. Some of the games they play are "James Bond", "Trash", "Palace", "Fish", "War", and "Pig". Ask your Big Kid about these games and learn to play along. It's a great way to spend time together as well as coordinate learning skills. The next favorite choice, at their age, is board games. The game of "Sorry",

"Mythical Beasts", and "Mythical Creatures" are some of the favorites as well as "Chess" which is a great game of skill and thought. Building forts, playing with Legos and the marble maze are just a few of the indoor activities that are always available. Our doll houses also get a lot of use during this time. We are able to allow our Big Kids movement in the room by playing "4-Corners", "ghost in the graveyard", and "heads-up - seven up". Ask your Big Kid how these games are played and join in the fun. With these hot days happening right now, we try to go outside in the early

mornings and late afternoons to avoid the hottest parts of the day. There is plenty of water and water play brought outside to keep us cool and comfortable. Along with that, some of our Big Kids enjoy sitting on a blanket under the large shade tree reading stories and playing quiet games. We're looking forward to a fun and adventurous summer with all our Big Kids. Stay Cool!



Please!

Special Note to Parents!

Don't Forget!

- **Please empty your child's mailbox on a daily basis. Ask your teacher if you're not sure where to find it.**
- **Walking in the hallway is a good thing. We're asking that parents reinforce this with their children as they enter and leave the building. This way they realize that both parents and teachers are working together for their safety and that of others.**
- As our teachers are still readying for the next day, and may still have some of their children in the room, please **do not to allow your children into other classrooms, or the playroom while picking them up to go home.** We ask that you please **escort** your child/children directly to the front doors and to your car. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation in this matter. It alleviates any disruption and/or the cleaning-up of additional articles for the teachers.
- It's nice when your child wants to say good-bye to us in the office; just please remind them it is not a place to **stay and play**. There are sensitive items in the office that are not to be handled or played with. Please have your child respect this as you would at your own place of business.
- **Parking in the circle out front is a convenience. Remember to please park so that others may enjoy the same convenience when possible.**