



Special point of interest: The Kindergarten Class of 2009 celebrated the end of their school year May 30th. See their class photo on page 4.

Inside this issue:

Director's Corner	2
Q and A	3
Did You Know?	4
Transition to the Next Age Group	4
Customer Service Awards	6
Child Check	6

The Child Care Program will be closed on:

**JULY 3:
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**AUGUST 21:
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT DAY**

**SEPTEMBER 7:
LABOR DAY**

community connection

June 2009

The Ohio State University

Donna Swaneck Receives Distinguished Staff Award

It's doubtful that Donna Swaneck, kindergarten teacher in the Child Care Program's Ackerman Road facility, had any inkling when her day began on May 22nd that she would be recognized as one of Ohio State's leading staff members by the time lunch was over.

But around noon that Friday, a group of adults descended upon Donna's classroom to present her with a 2009 Distinguished Staff Award. Award committee chair Jean Osborne along with Larry Lewellen, Vice President of Human Resources, fellow HR staff members Nancy Campbell and Michele Bondurant as well as a host of Child Care Program staff took her by surprise in this first of several recognition events. Donna will be officially presented with her award along with eleven other recipients at the 2009 Distinguished Staff Award Luncheon to be held on June 11.

The Distinguished Staff Awards were established to honor the outstanding accomplishments, leadership and service to the university community by Ohio State staff members. The many letters of recommendation written on Donna's behalf best describe the impact she has had in so many lives:

"Donna is a teacher who not only cares



From left to right: Maggie Summers, Nancy Campbell, Donna Swaneck, Larry Lewellen

about the kids now, but cares about their futures."

"Donna does not simply repeat what she has done in previous years with each new class, but continues to improve the program with innovative ideas and solutions."

"Simply speaking, her classroom is a spectacular model of what is possible with young children and mathematics."

"My children describe her as fun, demanding, friendly, great in math and smart."

"Because my children were so well-cared for, I was able to focus my en-

(Continued on page 3)

Director's Corner By Maggie Summers



Maggie Summers
Program Director

"Young children are experts at laughter. In fact, children, on average, laugh 200 times per day. Adults laugh only 15-18 times per day. Being around children can make you healthier and laughing just makes life more fun!"

*I eat my peas with honey.
I've done it all my life.
It makes the peas taste funny,
But it keeps them on my knife!*

My dad must have recited this silly rhyme every time we had peas for dinner when I was a little girl. What a lovely incongruous, hilarious image! It always made me laugh, or groan as I grew older. But, I still remember it and I, of course, recited it to my children when we had peas for dinner and they can all recite it from memory as well.

My dad has a great sense of humor. He enjoys the silly, the sly, the sarcastic, the dry. He has always read the "funny pages" of the Sunday newspaper, usually out loud at the table. As an English teacher, he loved nothing better than to make an entire class of high school seniors groan at a bad pun. Now he sends me jokes daily via e-mail. I often think that the louder the groan produced by the joke, the happier he is.

My dad is wise in many ways, and whether intentionally or not, his humor benefitted his children's development.

A good sense of humor helps children:

- See things from many perspectives other than the obvious
- Grasp unconventional ideas or ways of thinking
- See beyond the surface of things
- Be spontaneous
- Not take themselves too seriously
- Enjoy the playful aspects of life

Children with a well-developed sense of

humor are more optimistic, have higher self-esteem and can handle differences more effectively. They have lower pulse rates and blood pressure, better digestion and have an increased resistance to illness.

And sharing laughter with your child will benefit you, too! In these high stress times, laughter is just the strong medicine we need. Nothing works faster or more dependably to lighten our burdens, enhance our relationships, inspire our hopes and keep us focused and grounded.

Try these ideas to have fun together and improve your well-being:

- Blow belly "raspberries" and nibble the toes of your baby, toddler and preschooler (as long as they allow it). Young children love silly sensory experiences.
- Move in goofy ways with your toddler. Two-year-olds really love physical humor.
- Read funny stories and sing silly songs with a preschool child. Incongruity gets the biggest laugh with them, so the sillier, the better.
- Tell simple jokes and "formula" jokes (like knock-knock jokes) with older preschool and kindergarten children. Playing with words is funny at this age. Retelling the same joke over and over is also funny, so be prepared to laugh with them - a lot!

So, laugh and play together, view the world from a more relaxed, positive, creative and joyful perspective!

Q and A

Will the Child Care Program conduct an annual paperwork update again this summer? For the past several years, the Child Care Program has conducted its annual Paperwork Update during the summer. With several state and federal forms requiring yearly updates, we have found the most efficient way to manage this process is to have families complete them during the same time period.

In mid July, families enrolled at the Ackerman Road facility will need to complete the following forms:

- Child Enrollment and Health
- Authorized Release
- Child and Adult Care Food Program
 - Enrollment Form
 - Income Eligibility Application (if applicable)

Children's Medical Exam forms are not included in this update but continue to be due annually based on the exam date.

Families enrolled at Buckeye Village will

only need to complete forms related to the Child and Adult Care Food Program. The Child Enrollment and Health and Authorized Release forms along with Medical Exam forms will continue to be updated annually according to the last date.

Families who enrolled in May or after of this year will not be required to complete new forms.

As we continually strive to make the paperwork process as painless as possible for families, parents will be welcome to take forms home to complete again this year and will not have to meet with an administrator to return the forms.

We will send additional information about the dates for packet distribution and time frame for returning information beginning in late June. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this necessary process.

... Distinguished Staff Award

(Continued from page 1)

ergy on solving work issues and moving our group from a reactionary focus to a proactive and planning focus."

"What better way to recognize a member of the Ohio State family who places others' needs first, strives daily to be better than the day before and models dedication to her field and the university!"

Donna has been employed with the Child Care Program since 1979, first working with preschool children and then with the kindergarten. Donna is much beloved by children, families and colleagues, constantly seeking to improve her teaching practices, to share her knowledge and skills with others and to invent creative solutions to any problem.

Please join us as we congratulate Donna!

NEW CHILD ENROLLMENT AND HEALTH FORM

The Child Enrollment and Health Information form has been recently revised by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. While much of the information requested and portions of the form layout are similar, there have been several changes/additions as well. The new form can be viewed on the ODJFS website:

<http://www.odjfs.state.oh.us/forms/file.asp?id=54621>

Did You Know?

IDENT-A-Kid RETURNS

Ident-A-Kid is the country's largest manufacturer of children's identification cards, providing over 3 million cards annually to parents, schools and communities.

On Wednesday, June 24 from 4:00-6:00pm, Ident-A-Kid will return to the Child Care Program's Ackerman Raod facility to offer the opportunity for families from both program sites to purchase photo identification cards for their children. Watch for more information later this month.

Having a Pet is Good for Children

Has your family ever had a pet? Has your toddler made friends with the neighbor's new puppy? Are you in charge of feeding the child care center's guinea pig over winter break this year?

Animals can be more than just fun friends for children. Research shows that having pets can benefit children of all ages. Pets can help children grow socially and emotionally, as well as help their intellectual and physical development.

Infants/Toddlers: Babies enjoy the sensory aspects of animals. They see the pretty bird, hear the cat's meow, and pet the soft dog. Toddlers can also learn the names and shapes of different animals, and the noises each one makes.

Toddlers can form emotional bonds with pets, and make "friends". Older toddlers can get exercise and physical activity by walking or playing with a pet, depending on the type of animal.

Preschoolers: As children get a little older, they learn more from their pets. They will learn about caring for their pets. Caring for a pet can promote feelings of empathy.

Older Children: Helping take care of pets gives older children feelings of responsibility. Pets can boost self-esteem by giving children an experience of unconditional love. No matter what's going on at school, or with their friends, pets treat children the same way. Finally, older children can learn about the life cycle from pets.



*The Ohio State University Child Care Program
Class of 2009*

Transitions to the Next Age Group

The planning process for fall classroom rosters is complete. Many factors were considered in making roster decisions, including teacher and family input regarding children's friendships. As part of the process, all program families were asked for information regarding their fall enrollment plans. This information was critical in determining the number of fall enrollments available in classrooms. Thank you for your participation!

Families of children transitioning to the next age group received written notification of their child's fall room assignment last month. This included families of toddlers who will be three years old by September 30 and Ackerman Road infants who will be sixteen months old by September 30. Infants and older infants enrolled at our Buckeye Village facility will move with their teachers to older infant and toddler rooms respectively and information regarding new room assignments will be shared with families by mid-August.

We are committed to providing you with information about your child's transition well in advance so that you and your child are prepared for moving to the new room. All families receive a transition plan from their current teacher at least two weeks before their child moves to the new room. Transition plans include the new room assignment, the transition date and start date for the new room, as well as details about the responsibilities of both staff and fami-

lies in regards to transitioning to a new classroom.

Although the majority of transitions are expected to occur in late August and early September after children have left our program for elementary school, some transitions will occur throughout the summer as enrollments become available. Families of children transitioning in June have already received transition paperwork; transitions may also occur during July and early August.

For additional information regarding children's enrollments and transitions, contact Jean Dodson, Family Services Coordinator, at 292-4248 or jdodson@hr.osu.edu.

TRANSITION TIPS

- Plan to visit your child's new room as often as possible. Spend time talking with the staff and investigating the environment.
- Stay positive! This can be a very emotional time for parents as well as children but there are many exciting opportunities in store for your growing child.
- Be prepared for a range of emotions. Even children who embrace the move to a new room at first may later experience some sadness from missing their old friends.

315 REPAIR PROJECT

Bridge and repaving work on Route 315 will close the northbound lanes from Interstate 670 through the Ackerman Road exit starting after spring commencement June 14. The 315 southbound side will be split into two, allowing travel in both directions, but the northbound exit ramps to Ackerman Road and Medical Center Drive will be closed. ODOT is working closely with OSU to provide employees with the most up-to-date information.

PROGRAM CALENDAR

2009 Closures:

January 1

New Year's Day

January 19

Martin Luther King Day

March 20

CCP Professional
Development Day

May 25

Memorial Day

July 3

Independence Day

August 21

CCP Professional
Development Day

September 7

Labor Day

November 11

Veteran's Day (observed)

November 26

Thanksgiving Day

November 27

Columbus Day (observed)

December 24

President's Day
(observed)

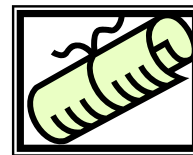
December 25

Christmas Day

Customer Service Awards

Donna Swaneck and Leann Birko: Anna Cesnjevar, parent in D9, nominated kindergarten teachers Donna and Leann for helping her son grow not only academically, but emotionally and socially as well. "They have instilled a love of learning in him," writes Anna, "and through this nomination I'd like to express my deepest gratitude for helping my child."

Congratulations Donna and Leann!



To recognize a member of our child care community for demonstrating outstanding customer service, please email Amy Brandon at abrandon@hr.osu.edu or complete a nomination form available in our program offices.

Child Check Health Screenings

Child Check is a service organized by Early Childhood Resource Network, a program of the YMCA of Central Ohio, that offers FREE screenings for children ages 1 month through 5 years. Screenings include a check of the following developmental areas and skills:

- talking
- walking
- hearing
- seeing

- playing
- Screening opportunities are available at various locations in and around Central Ohio. Upcoming dates are June 15, July 20, August 17, and September 14. Appointments are necessary and can be arranged by calling 543-9000 ext. 216.

Child Check fliers with details and directions are available in our program offices.

PROGRAM DIRECTORY

<http://hr.osu.edu/ccc/home.htm>

Phone 292-4453

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