



community connection

August 2009

Special point of interest: Kathy Cochran, the program's Business Operations Manager, is retiring at the end of the month. See page 2.

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The Child Care Program will be closed on:

AUGUST 21:
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT DAY

SEPTEMBER 7:
LABOR DAY

The Ohio State University

A Friendship Wedding

When Allie told Paula she wanted to marry Ben, Paula, the Teacher in Buckeye Village Room 135, asked the children if the class was going to have a wedding. Soon, the idea of holding a June wedding was top on the list of things to do this summer.

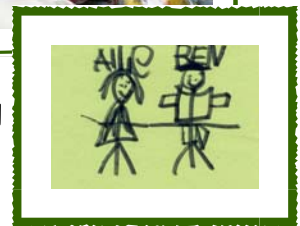
For several days before THE BIG DAY, the children and staff discussed plans for Allie and Ben's upcoming nuptials and decided:

- the wedding date would be June 19th;
- they needed food, preferably hotdogs, pancakes, tomatoes, apples and orange juice;
- someone needed to make invitations and decorations;
- flowers were in order;
- there had to be music so everyone would have to play instruments and sing the *ABC* song and *Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star*.

Allie said the wedding needed to be in the Fireplace Room, a fancy place near the building's piazza that was *far* more suitable for a grand ceremony than a *classroom*. Kate, Ben, Allie, and Julia made invitations and most everyone helped create art for decorations including a large sign, mats for the tables, and coffee filter flowers in

tissue paper & glue glass "vases".

The teachers secured the wedding party's formal ware (from a Goodwill store!).



Just in case they needed additional ideas or inspiration, pictures of creative and diverse weddings, including one held underwater, and weddings from a variety of different cultures were printed and made into a book for the children to explore during their "down time" from their own wedding planning.

Once the invitations were complete, the children and staff personally delivered them to friends in the other classrooms so everyone could share in the experience.

The day of the wedding was fraught with activity. Many of the girls spent the morning busily getting everything ready (while many of the boys played cards at the table!) and after nap the ceremony was held along with the re-

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Director's Corner By Maggie Summers



**Maggie Summers
Program Director**

In keeping with the spirit of the Child Care Program logo, teachers are recognized for their good work with "TREE Awards." These awards are used to recognize any employee who demonstrates excellent work with children, families or colleagues. TREE is an acronym for "Teachers Reaching Excellence Everyday".

One very important element in continuing to reach for excellence is receiving feedback from our families. Many of you are, or will be soon, transitioning from one classroom to the next and have the opportunity to complete the "Classroom Feedback" form. I encourage you to take a few minutes to provide this classroom-specific feedback for teachers and administrators.

In order to gather feedback from all families, we also offer an annual online Family Survey. This survey is not classroom-specific, focusing on broader program issues. Available August 3-14, the survey can be accessed by following the link: <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB229G9MG7KEV>

We had a great response to the survey last year and as a result of requests and suggestions made by families we:

- Provided more information in our newsletters about the Child Care Program budget and regulatory issues;
- Made changes to our menu;
- Improved the transition process for families, staff and children, also increasing the communication with families before and during transition times;
- Made every effort to keep tuition increases as low as possible;
- Provided additional information about classroom teaching aides, including photographs posted outside classroom doors;
- Made changes to the administrative structure to better serve the needs of our families.

Please help us continue to reach for excellence this year by taking a few minutes to complete our Family Survey.

Thank you!

IMPORTANT DATES

Family Survey - August 3-14

Professional Development Day (Child Care Program closed) - August 21

Farewell Reception for Kathy Cochran - August 26 4:00pm-6:00pm



FAREWELL RECEPTION for KATHY COCHRAN

*After 37 years of service to the Child Care Program, Kathy Cochran, our Business Operations Manager, will be retiring on August 31st. Please join us at the Ackerman Road facility on **Wednesday, August 26 from 4-6pm** as we honor Kathy and celebrate her contributions to the program.*



Q and A

When will I receive information about my child's move to the next age group?

Families with children transitioning to the next age group were notified of their child's fall classroom assignment in May and will receive a Transition Packet at least two weeks prior to their child's enrollment in the new classroom. All Transition Packets will be distributed by mid-August and will include the:

- Family Information form - an opportunity to provide information about your child to the new teacher;
- Classroom Profile - information about the classroom your child is entering;
- Classroom Feedback Form - an opportunity to evaluate your experience with the classroom you are leaving;
- Transition Plan - information about the responsibilities of teachers and families, the date your child will be enrolled in the new classroom, and the date the transition week begins.

How will my child be introduced to the new classroom?

During each child's transition week, the teachers and family gradually introduce the child to his new classroom by carrying out specific responsibilities designed to slowly and comfortably ease him into his new environment. The family is responsible for visiting in the classroom with their child each day; the child's current teachers also visit in the classroom daily, gradually increasing the amount of time spent in the new room. As things become more familiar, the current teachers decrease their presence, allowing for the new teachers to be the primary focus of attention and support.

Through the partnership of families and teachers, children are helped to take an exciting and important step in their growing independence.

Lifting the Family

The 8th Annual **Lifting the Family Back to School Giveaway** takes place Sunday, August 16 from 12noon - 6pm at The King Arts Complex.

The goal of the event is to provide everything children need for preschool and school, at no cost to the families. Shots, school supplies, sports physicals, hearing and vision screenings, food and clothing are available to anyone in need; verification of need is not required.

Coordinated by Christian Women United and sponsored in part by The Ohio State University, the event drew over 2500 people last year!

Attending families are encouraged to bring their children's shot records to receive a free Kroger's gift card.

For more information pick up a flier in one of our facility offices.

LIFTING THE FAMILY 8th Annual Back to School Giveaway

Sunday, August 16
12:00pm-6:00pm
The King Arts Complex
867 Mt. Vernon Avenue

FREE

- Physicals
- Immunizations
- Food
- Clothing
- School goods

For more information call
614-937-8540

Did You Know?

Foster Your Child's Creativity

While children are naturally creative, there is plenty that caring adults can do to help nurture and grow their innate ability.

Creativity improves self-esteem, motivation and achievement. When parents and caregivers encourage children to think creatively and independently, children are more likely to be:

- interested in discovering new things.
- open to new ideas.
- eager to work with others.

As a result, the pace of their learning, levels of achievement and feelings of self-worth increase.

When parents and caregivers encourage children's creativity they are also helping them to become more imaginative and resourceful and to:

- have the ability to meet challenges in a variety of ways.
- learn to trust their instincts and unique abilities.
- acquire a positive attitude toward problem solving.
- tap into all the joys life has to offer.

What To Do to Encourage Creativity:

- Encourage curiosity by seeking answers. Respond to questions by saying, "I don't know. How could we find the answer?"
- Don't stifle creativity with too many manufactured toys. Resist buying every accessory marketed with

the latest television show or movie. Instead, try "inventing" dress-up and play props from things already in the home.

- Value differing ideas and opinions. Encourage brainstorming by saying: "Well, that is certainly one way of looking at it," or "What a *GOOD* idea, I've never thought of that before."
- Encourage exploration. Make specific, motivating comments such as: "How interesting that you created a secret passage-way with the blocks."
- Stimulate imaginative, independent thought by posing questions rather than supplying all the answers: "I wonder what we can use to build a barn for the animals?" or "What can we take to play outside?"
- Facilitate play; do not dictate it. *Get* on the floor and follow rather than lead.
- Play make-believe games. Pretend to be a monkey or an elephant or a machine, like a lawn mower or a popcorn popper—the noisier the better!
- Change the endings of well-known stories. "What is another way *The Three Little Pigs* could end?"
- Best of all—laugh together often! Jokes and humor help build creative intelligence!

WHY PLAY?

Play is not just for children! For adults and children alike, play releases stress and inspires creativity. Play can...

- increase longevity;
- bring greater joy to life;
- reduce worry;
- enhance energy levels;
- provide an opportunity to safely take risks.

Adapted from Parent Central Express, the monthly e-newsletter of Parent Central, a program of the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA).

2010 Tuition Changes

As you listened to the state budget battle over the last several weeks and months, you may not have been fully aware that a small part of that battle was being waged over early childhood education funding. While there were some "wins" for early childhood in the budget, there were also some severe cuts.

The Early Learning Initiative, serving 30 lower income families here in the Child care Program and 12,000 families state-wide, was completely eliminated from the budget. These families have the opportunity to use subsidized child care as an alternative, but many important

programming elements will no longer be provided to them. In addition, the reimbursement rate to the program is significantly decreased.

While we do not yet know the final results of changes to the subsidized child care system, it appears that program reimbursement will realize a 15% cut. The elimination of ELI and the cut to subsidized child care will likely result in a \$200,000 decrease to the Child Care Program budget.

We have also been aware as we attempt to balance our budget for FY10 that

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...Wedding

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ception that included music, dancing and yummy treats. And as can unfortunately be the case when an event is highly anticipated, one of the "brides" ended up quite upset that things didn't go the way she thought they would, leading to a discussion about how some real brides feel that way too as they spend so much time preparing and it all goes by way so fast!

The goal for the wedding was for everyone to learn about and experience what it means to be a "fantastic friend" - keeping listening ears turned on and respecting the rights of others even when they don't want to play; using gentle hands and taking care of each other when we see someone in need. In a separate ceremony of a different sort, each

friend poured a scoopful of different colored "sand" (salt that was painted with



water colors) into a friendship jar that now serves double duty in Room 135 as a decorative piece and reminder that everyone is an important part of the classroom community and plays and works together as a team.

"This whole process was great because we were able to incorporate sciences, math, creative art, literacy and multicultural experiences with one topic...a friendship wedding," says Paula, summing up Room 135's friendship wedding project.

TUITION CHANGES

The 2010 tuition chart, will be available soon.

If you have specific questions or concerns regarding the Child Care Program's budget or tuition, please contact Maggie Summers, Program Director.

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

Karen Hughes and Tricia Melville: C7 parent Sarah Grace-Heller nominated Karen and Tricia for helping make her daughter's toddler years a wonderful experience. "I am very grateful for all I have learned from them--it has assisted immeasurably in this fascinating but often perplexing process of learning how to parent," writes Sarah. "They have prepared wonderful picture reports to take home each day of what happened in the class. My daughter goes to sleep every night saying *I love school!*"

Amanda Freechak and Mallorie Brasdovich: Lea Ann Hall and Becca Levitt, administrators at the Buckeye Village building, nominated Teaching Aides Amanda and Mallorie, referring to them as "two energetic employees". "Currently, Amanda and Mallorie have taken on the task of creating prop boxes - activity kits for all ages that include materials and games to encourage children's skill growth across all the developmental domains," write Lea Ann and Becca.

Congratulations Amanda and Mallorie!

Congratulations Karen and Tricia!

...Tuition

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families are experiencing difficult financial times. We have made it a priority again this year to try to keep any tuition increase to a minimum.

In January 2010, the Child Care Program tuition will increase by 2 ½%. This will mean that, like many others, we will have to tighten our belts just a

bit, but we are hoping that this increase will not feel like an undue burden on our families.

More information, including the 2010 tuition chart, will be available soon. If you have specific questions or concerns, please contact Maggie Summers at your convenience. msummers@hr.osu.edu.

PROGRAM DIRECTORY

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

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