



Fruit & Flower Happenings

April 2009

The Center

Fruit & Flower Auction

Come **GROOVE on Saturday, May 16 (7:00-9:30 pm)**. Tickets are \$60 each (\$75 for VIP tickets), or \$50 per ticket if you are bundling ten or more tickets together. Contact Kris at kris.moore@fruitandflower.org or 503-228-7984 for more information.

We can still use your assistance with securing Auction items including vacation homes, summer picnics, berry picking outings, and more.

If you're interested in planning or volunteering, please meet with us on **Tuesday, April 21 from 5:00 – 6:00 pm** at the Center, or contact Kim Kopetz at kim@kopetzweb.com or 503-816-3813.

Help with the Staff Appreciation Party by providing donated gift cards for door prizes (drop them off at the front desk) or volunteering on the evening of the event. Contact Kali Bader at ksb@rembold.com or 503-222-7258 for more information.

Continued >>>

Families

New Babies

- **Nicholas Wardwell (Room 2)** has a new little brother! Jacob Karl Wardwell was born on March 12. Congratulations to Joani and Mike.
- **Lucy Brazie (Room 3)** has a new little sister! Tyler Madelyn Adams was born on Feb 17th. Congratulations to Leah and Brock.

Program Happenings & Reminders

- **Holidays:** Celebrations at Fruit & Flower will focus on the seasons of the year, rather than on specific holidays that may not be celebrated by all of our families. We welcome you to share your family holiday traditions with your child's class at anytime. Please speak with the classroom teacher to coordinate sharing.
- **Family Fun Nights:** Beginning in July, Fruit & Flower will host a series of Family Fun Nights for parents and children to create, explore, learn and socialize with other families in their classrooms. Stay tuned for more information.
- **Earth Week (April 20-24th):** As part of our Earth week activities we will be distributing resources from the Oregon Environmental Council and Biokleen. Stop by the front desk for a pocket size Green Cleaning Guide, Picking Safer Plastics Guide and a free sample of Biokleen all purpose cleaner.

Continued >>>

Fruit & Flower Staff

- **Welcome back** to Catherine Bevens in Room 6 and Shawna Cooper in the Infant Center!
- **We welcome new staff members:** Noemi Semadeni - Early Morning 7:30-11:00 Aide & Leigh Dodson - Room 6 10:30-6:00 Aide
- **Staff Photo Board:** In order to assist our families in getting to know our wonderful staff we are creating a Photo Board for your viewing pleasure. Coming soon.
- **Spanish:** Blanca, our Spanish teacher, had baby girl named Gabriella on April 8th, so she'll be on leave through early June. Congratulations!

Continued >>>

WISH LIST

Below are a few items the Center needs. Please contact Mary Felice Crowe (maryfelice.crowe@fruitandflower.org) with questions.

- Giant chunky sidewalk chalk
- Big bottles of Bubbles
- White copy paper

Fruit & Flower Happenings cont...

Page 2

April 2009

Child Development Insights & Tips

Transitions

This is the time of year when children typically begin moving into new groups and rooms. Between now and the end of the summer, our program will experience well over 100 transitions! We will be sharing information about our preschool placement policy with the families whose children will likely move into the preschool classrooms. We would like everyone to have the following basic information about the process...

- We try to give families and children at least two weeks notice about upcoming transitions. Please talk with your child's current teacher if you have strong feelings on the length of the transition time.
- When possible, we move children to a new group with another child they know.
- Teachers are able to better meet children's needs if they have the opportunity to speak with parents one on one. If you're interested in meeting with your child's new teacher please contact Judi to schedule a conference. 9:30 a.m. times work best, but we will work to accommodate your schedule.
- Although this process of change is sometimes challenging, it is a natural part of children's growth and development. Please speak with your child's Teacher or Judi, if you have concerns about your child's adjustment.

We will make the transition process as smooth as possible for everyone!

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Newsletter Ideas:** Forward your Happenings newsletter ideas to Judi Gilles judi.gilles@fruitandflower.org.
- **Our family is growing!** There are (at least!) 10 families at Fruit and Flower who are expecting babies!
- **Polystyrene (PS, Styrofoam)** contains butadiene and styrene – suspected carcinogens. Avoid Styrofoam food trays, egg cartons; disposable cups and bowls, carryout containers, foam insulation and any toys that include these chemicals. For more information go to www.oeconline.org/eco-healthy.

The Center cont...

Sustainability Committee

If you are interested in the following—green tips and information sharing; nutrition and local food sourcing; waste management; events and educational opportunities—please contact Trish Gallus, Board member, at tgallus@comcast.net. The Sustainability Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 4:00 pm and invites you to join us; the next meeting is May 5.

Program Happenings cont...

Multnomah County Library is hosting a series of workshops on parenting and a "Touch a Truck" event.

Connecting the Dots: How Nurturing the Brain Makes a Happy Heart: April 8, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Northwest Library

The Trying Times: Understanding Misbehavior:
April 13, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Hollywood Library

Top Ten Tips to Build a Healthy Young Brain: April 21, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Woodstock Library

Truck Town Party: April 23rd, 2:30-4:00 @ 23rd & Savier. Bring your favorite truck and listen to Jon Scieszka's Trucktown stories.

For additional information go to www.multcolib.org/events

Families cont...

New Children

- **Joshana Irving**, Jacob's sister, has joined the Infant Center.
- **Brooke Kopetz**, Brady's sister, will join the Infant Center on April 13th.

Fruit & Flower Staff cont...

Staff Anniversaries

- **Sherry Hobbs** (Infant Center): 19 years in current position as Lead Teacher
- **Chrissy Verpoorten** (Room 3): 5 years in current position as Assistant
- **Shawn Sanford** (Room 1): 4 years on staff
- **Kandis Bracken** (Room 1): 1 year on staff
- **Joe Baxley** (Float): 1 year on staff