



Fruit & Flower Happenings

August 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Last Pre-School Summer Field Trip

August 21 – Blue Lake Park is the destination of the August field trip. The next trip won't be until we visit the farm in October!

Labor Day - We will be closed on Monday, September 7.

Fruit & Flower Open House: Wednesday, September 30, from 5:30 to 7:00. Explore your child's classroom, meet up with old and new friends, and join us for an end of summer family picnic!

Development Update

Save the date: The Fruit & Flower Annual Meeting will take place at 5:00 on Wednesday, September 30, right before the Open House. We hope all members can join us!

One in five families at Fruit & Flower receives fees assistance, and the demand for scholarship support continues to grow. Most of our fundraising efforts rally around this. Every bit counts, whether it is a windfall \$20 you might find in your gym bag or \$100 you might give in honor of your child's grandparents or \$3,000 from a foundation. We received grants from the James V. Norlen Memorial Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation and Juan Young Trust to support the Scholarship Fund, and the Isam and Rose White Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation for general support this past month. We are grateful for their generous gifts to us.

Kris is still waiting to hear from someone with desktop publishing skills and approximately ten hours this month to put together our newsletter. Contact him at 503-228-7984 or kris.moore@fruitandflower.org.

Eco-Healthy Shopping!

The Center for Health, Environment & Justice (www.chej.org) has created a guide to PVC free school supplies. The CHEJ **Back-to-School Guide to PVC-Free School Supplies** can help you make healthy shopping choices that are safer for your kids, your community and the environment. Find your free guide at <http://www.chej.org/publications/PVCGuide/PVCFree.pdf> or download a wallet guide at <http://www.chej.org/publications/PVCGuide/PVCwallet.pdf>

Families

Here Come the Babies!

Johanna Cuthill, whose big sister Evelina is in Room One, will join the Infant Center in August. There are still a few more of those sibling babies waiting in the wings, believe it or not!

But wait, there are more...

- **Taylor Rae Nieto** was born on July 17. Her big sister, Ashley, is in Room 2. Congratulations Amy and Mikkel.
- Congratulations to Carey Jones and Brian Moffenbeier on the birth of their new daughter, **Hayden Mae**, who was born on July 19. Big sister, Marley, is in Room 3.
- Best wishes to Erin O'Brien and Matthew Johnson on the birth of their son. **Henry August** Johnson was born on July 20. Proud big sisters Ella and Lucy are in Room 3.

New Children and Families to the Center

We have two new families joining Fruit and Flower in August. Welcome to:

- **Miguel Oliva**, and his parents, MJ Christensen and Tomas Oliva. Miguel will start this month in Room Six.
- **Jake Birdsall**. Jake's older sister, Ella, attended Fruit and Flower a couple of years ago. Welcome back to Stephanie and Scott!

Farewell...

These Children will be moving on from Fruit & Flower in August. A fond farewell to:

- **Adiitsai and Anabaah Nelson**, who will be moving to Eugene with their mom so that she can enroll in a graduate program there. Adiitsai is off to kindergarten of course, but we hope to see Anabaah return next fall.
- **Clara Kingsbury**, who will be starting at the French American School, where her two older brothers are enrolled.
- **Zachary Clayhold, Iris Dietz, Blake Johnson, Eleanor Johnson, Elliott Shepherd, and Weston Sinai** will all leave us this month for Kindergarten. Bye-bye, BIG KIDS! We sure will miss you.

WISH LIST

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

- Refrigerator for Room 6 (our current one is experiencing a slow and certain downfall!)
- Old towels for water play, and clean up.

Thanks to two of our moms, whose offices are moving, we recently acquired old letterhead, and lots of other office supplies! Please keep us in mind when you are about to toss out or give away just about any useful thing! We might have just the need!

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Transitions and Change

"Change is inevitable - except from a vending machine."

Many of the children at Fruit and Flower are in the midst of transition. For our oldest children, that transition will take them off to kindergarten. For many of the younger children, a new classroom transition has occurred or is on the horizon. New teachers, new environments, new friends As we all know, so much newness can be a bit overwhelming!

Many times when children are anticipating a change, their behaviors will take a few steps backward. Both at home and at school, there is frequently some regression. Some children become clingier. Others will seem to 'forget' many of the long-established routines. Others may seem more aggressive, or just preoccupied. Sometimes, we all need to back up a bit in order to gather the courage to charge forward!

Some tips from the experts at The Well-Centered Child:

- Keep life predictable. Stick to the same old routines and rules.
- Give children openings to talk: "You seem a little quiet today. Is something on your mind?"
- Tell a story about when you were a child who wondered what leaving one place and going to another would be like.
- Explain that they don't need to figure out new situations all by themselves. You or their new teachers will help.
- Sympathy and understanding have never made a child more anxious. As Eda LeShan points out, "The bravest child in the doctor's office is the one who has been told, 'You will probably be scared and it is all right to cry.' Help your child make a plan for what to do if he or she feels afraid.
- Mention that even after children move on, the teachers will think about them. Promise to visit.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Our accountant, Rick Dickson, is also a renewable energy inventor in his spare time. One of his inventions, a new type of wind power generator, was recently tested by a Cornell University research lab, and the results published in the Fall proceedings of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers!
- **Newsletter Ideas:** Forward your Happenings newsletter ideas to Judi Gilles judi.gilles@fruitandflower.org.
- You can recycle all plastic containers (#1-7) at Far West Fibers. Far West Fibers has facilities in Portland, Beaverton, Hillsboro, and Lake Oswego.

Fruit & Flower Staff

- **Jenni Sprague** has decided to move on to other things after 17 years in Room Five. Although she plans to come back for a couple of last day parties for Room 5 children who are off to kindergarten, her last day was July 17th.
- **Naomi Seeger**, current Lead Teacher in Room Two, has accepted the lead position in Room Five, replacing Jenni. Her first day at the other end of the hall was August 10.
- **Chrissy Verpoorten**, who started working with us in 2001, has been chosen to move into the lead position in Room Two! Chrissy has been the Assistant in Room Three for five years.
- **Carrie Boatwright** started as our new Morning Receptionist in July. Carrie has her own young son, is the co-artistic director of the Hillsboro Repertory Theater, and will be returning to school this fall too!
- Welcome back to two former staff members who have re-joined the ranks! **Christine Pineda** has returned to her Room One Late Day Aide job, after about 16 months away. **Ian Donaldson**, who has been a substitute for us on and off over the past eleven years, has returned to give us a hand this summer.

Happy Anniversary

- **Chris Pitton** has been working at Fruit and Flower for eight years this month. She worked briefly in both Room Two and Room Six, but has found her home in the Infant Center, where she has been for the past four years.
- **Abigail Sibelman** has been working in Room Two, as the Late Day Aide, for one year

The Value of Block Play

Playing with blocks is an integral activity of early childhood. Blocks of all types, sizes, shapes, weights, textures, and materials are available for children in all of our classrooms, from the Infant Center through the Preschool. Early play with blocks includes carrying, stacking and building, and requires balance, muscle control, eye/hand coordination, and problem-solving abilities. As children continue to develop, those same blocks help them learn about patterns, geometry, measurement, number concepts, physical science, and also develop their creative, representational, and relational skills.

Creative Curriculum defines four stages of block play:

1. Carrying Blocks. "How heavy are they? How many can I carry at once?"
2. Piling Blocks and Making Roads. This is the early construction stage.
3. Connecting Blocks to Create Structures. Techniques expand to include bridging, making enclosures, and making pleasing designs (Now it's art, too!)
4. Making Elaborate Constructions. This stage needs LOTS of block sizes and shapes, and incorporates dramatic play, and beginning purposeful writing (for labels and signs, for example).

On any day, at Fruit and Flower, you will be able to observe all of the stages of Block Play. Come and check it out!