



# Fruit & Flower Happenings

February 2009

## The Center

- **Building Renovation:** Due to the current economic downturn and uncertainty in the coming year, the center is re-assessing its Capital Campaign goals and objectives. A strategic plan will be created to move us forward while ensuring we continue to provide the highest quality of service to our children and families in a stimulating, nurturing environment.

During the next several months, the Board of Directors, staff and Campaign Committee members will craft a plan that takes into account all the variables necessary for us to succeed.

We appreciate your patience during our analysis and will keep you apprised of any changes to the scope and timeline. We look forward to your continued interest and support.

- **Silent Auction Committee Members needed:** Join others on the "Silent Auction Committee," making item requests from friendly, local businesses. Contact Kris Moore, Director of Development if you'd like to help with the Auction 503-228-7984. ([kris.moore@fruitandflower.org](mailto:kris.moore@fruitandflower.org))

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## Fruit & Flower Staff

### New Staff

- Kathy Bosnjak joined us as a Full-Time Floating Aide this month.
- Adriana Jaime-Aguirre joined room 6 as a Teacher Assistant in room 6 in January.
- Rachel Cordero joined room 2 as our Teacher Assistant in November.
- Angel Salser joined the center in January as a Full-time floating Assistant Teacher.

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## Program Happenings & Reminders

- **Parents Welcome:** We consider your child and you as part of the Fruit & Flower family. Feel free to join your child's classroom for lunch, to read a story or sing a song. We also encourage you to share your family-culture and heritage with the children in any way, shape or form. Contact your child's teacher if you're interested.
- **Pick-up and Drop-off:** Please consider others when you park in the driveway circle as you would have them consider you. If you plan to stay for more than 5 minutes please park on the street. Thank you.
- **Treats:** We are not allowed, by County regulations, to serve any home-made treats. All food served must come from a commercial kitchen. Ideas for healthy store-bought snacks include fruit roll-ups, granola bars (nut-free), or yogurt.
- **Switch to Non-fat Milk:** We are now serving non-fat milk to our 2-5 year old children. Both the American Academy of Pediatrics ([www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org)) and the American Heart Association ([www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org)) have recommended non-fat milk as part of a healthy diet for children *over two years of age*. Children under two years old should continue to drink whole milk. For further information search these organization's web-sites.

## Families

- Kim and Chase Kopetz had a baby girl (Brooke) in December. Congratulations!
- Lilly Windle and Doug Sigstad had a baby girl (Stara) in January. Congratulations!

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## WISH LIST

Below are a few items the Center needs. If you have any connections for donations of these materials – new or used - please contact Mary Felice Crowe ([maryfelice.crowe@fruitandflower.org](mailto:maryfelice.crowe@fruitandflower.org))

- Windows Application Server
- Multimedia Projector

**Thank you for your Winter Wishes donations.** The teachers and children are grateful.

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## Child Development Insights & Tips

**Merely Play? No Way!** Our program at Fruit & Flower is committed to play-based learning at all levels of development. We know that our families here recognize the importance of play. We also know that they feel pressure to have their child 'ready' for school. Our program is also research-based. What children do here is exactly what they need to do to get ready for the higher levels of learning to come.

Academic success is dependent on some important factors which are addressed daily at the center. Among many others, they include language usage, different approaches to learning, general knowledge, motor development, social and emotional development, attention span, ability to take care of self, and ability to control one's behavior. Experts in child development and early childhood education tell us that the best way to support children's growth in those areas is to provide them with a stimulating environment, interesting materials, meaningful activities, respectful caring adults – and the opportunity to explore and discover through their play.

You may have heard us use the phrase "Developmentally Appropriate Practices" (DAP) when we talk about curriculum in our program. DAP is a set of practices based on the idea that learning is an interactive process of the child (individually and as a member of a group) exploring a planned environment. We are proud of our program, our learning environment, and of our children, who convince us time and again that we are doing it right!

## DID YOU KNOW?

- **Face Book:** Fruit and Flower has a Face Book Group for parents to share experiences and to get to know one another. Just copy this address into your browser: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=67665390270>
- **Teacher Tenure:** Teacher tenure is one of the indicators for high quality child care. The average Lead Teacher Tenure at Fruit and Flower is **16 years!**
- **Newsletter Ideas:** Forward your Happenings newsletter ideas to Judi Gilles [judi.gilles@fruitandflower.org](mailto:judi.gilles@fruitandflower.org).

## The Center cont...

- **Auction Item Donations:** We need gift certificates to restaurants, hotels, or spas; goods such as sports tickets and fine artwork; or services such as landscaping, house cleaning, or "handyman" jobs for our Auction in May.
- **Soup Labels:** Save labels from Campbell's products, bring them into the Center lobby, and support the Center. Please refer to the Kid-mail message for more information.

## Fruit & Flower Staff cont...

### New Staff cont...

- Rick Dickson joined Fruit and Flower in January as our Accountant.

### New Babies

- Catherine Peron-Bevens (room 6) had a baby boy in January named Tanguy-Batiste. She is out on family leave and hopes to return this spring.
- Shawna Cooper (infant center) is expecting her baby in February.
- Haley Chandler (room 6) is expecting her baby in April.

### Retiring

- Sally Truhn, our bookkeeper of 24+ years retired in January. We truly appreciate Sally's dedication to the center and wish her well in her retirement.

### Training

- On February 16<sup>th</sup> staff will participate in CPR, First Aid and the USDA food program training. Safety policies will also be reviewed including Earthquakes, Fire Evacuation and Intruder drills.

## Families cont...

- **New Children:** Since October we've welcomed Lucie and Matteo Boucherott to the Infant center, Mickey Christensen and Akira Cusmai to room 5, Leila Lamothe to room 6, Bennett Niedermeyer to room 5 and Ravi Weinrobe to the Infant center.
- **Expecting Families:** We have 11 current families expecting babies within the next 7 months!