



Fruit & Flower Happenings

July 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 3 - CENTER CLOSED – Independence Day Holiday

July 16 – Ice Cream Social – 4-6PM in the Center Lobby

Join the Fruit & Flower families and staff for ice cream and all the trimmings in the lobby of the center on Thursday, July 16. Brought to you by the Board of Directors.

July 24– Pre-School Field Trip to Rooster Rock State Park

Watch for sign-up sheets to join your child on the trip.

Other Pre-School Summer Field Trips

August 21 – Destination to be determined

The Program

Taking Learning Outdoors

We are lucky to have a good amount of outdoor playground space available at Fruit and Flower. Although we sometimes lament the fact that much of it is covered with concrete, we do have great, adaptable outdoor spaces that are safe and full of play potential. Beautiful summertime in Portland gives us an even greater opportunity to make good use of those spaces as learning environments.

Nature offers many summertime lessons. There are trees, with leaves that move and rustle in the breeze. There are birds, bees, and occasional butterflies flying overhead, and ants, ladybugs, spiders, worms, and other interesting insects crawling under our feet. We can feel the air and the sun on our skin.

Water play and sand play outdoors provide children with even more sensory learning. Pouring, sifting, digging, filling and dumping, and splashing take place on a grander scale than is possible in the classroom.

Large muscles used for running, jumping, biking, throwing, and climbing get lots of strengthening in the warmer weather. Without the coats, boots, mittens that restrict movement in cooler weather, children's bodies are in full swing in the summertime. Motor skills develop from stiff and uncoordinated to more controlled, fluid and graceful.

Longer blocks of time that are unstructured allow children to carry out their fantasy play in greater depth. In child-directed dramatic play, they can practice at being leaders and followers, and at sharing ideas and cooperating to achieve their goals. Teachers can take a step back to observe the play patterns, and the development of interest in various themes, which can then be brought back indoors for further investigation.

Indoors, we walk. We use our quiet 'indoor' voices. We take care not to bump into each other or knock over each other's work. When children are learning outdoors their play can be much less inhibited. They can be louder and messier, and more free in their movements. **Let's hear it for the looser, louder, messier season! Let's hear it for summertime!**

Families

New Children

- Congratulations to Mark and Danna Boersma on the birth of their new baby, Luke, who was born on June 30. Big sister, Emma, is in Room 1.
- Best wishes to the Brundages: Todd, Megen, and Macleay (Room 6). Baby boy Lenden was born on July 9.

New Children and Families to the Center

We have several new families joining Fruit and Flower in July. Welcome to:

- Marley Jones-Moffenbeier (06/10/06). Marley's parents are Carey and Brian. She will be in Room 3.
- Eli Grimslid (04/01/06) will also start in Room 3 this month. Eli's mom is Holly.
- Linden (11/22/08) and Rosie (05/24/06) Beeman-Fortna. Linden will be in the Infant Center and Rosie will be in Room 3. Their parents are Page and Pete.
- Eden and Marley Evans (10/09/06) will join Room 2. Their parents are Kim and Cody.

Families Continued >>>

Let's Talk

If you have questions or concerns, if your child is transitioning to a new classroom, or if you would just like to schedule some time to talk with us about your special little person, please give Judi a call.

Reminders

- ✓ Please use the circle driveway very quickly during busy times. Everyone will appreciate your thoughtfulness!

Fruit & Flower Staff

- Leigh Dodson has moved to Room 2 this month as their 8-4:30 classroom aide. Leigh has been working in Room 6 since late March. She is excited about her new move
- Please welcome Jake McKinney to Room 6 as their new mid-day aide 10:30 to 6:00, replacing Leigh. Jake has a variety of experiences working with children He joined the Room Six Team at the end of June.
- Room 5's Late Day Aide Melissa McEwan has left Fruit and Flower to go to Grad. School. We wish her the best. We are currently doing interviews to fill her position.

Continued>>>

WISH LIST

- Disposable diapers
- Thomas trains for the lobby train table
- Refrigerator for Room 6

Fruit & Flower Happenings cont...

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Handling 'Fine Whines'

Does the sound of your child's whining frustrate you? Here are some suggestions from the Well-Centered Child:

- Give your child basic information about what whining is. Explain at a time when you and your child are in a happy mood. You might pretend to have a teddy bear talk in a 'whiny voice' and a 'regular voice'. Or play a game of asking questions in different kinds of voices.
- Whenever your child whines, remind him briefly that you'll answer when he uses his regular voice. Use your regular voice when you remind him, and then ignore until he changes to his regular voice.
- Once your child talks to you in a non-whiny voice, take time to answer. A loving response will encourage your child to overcome whining.
- Sometimes you can help your child understand why he felt whiny in the first place. Eliminating whining doesn't mean ignoring the feelings behind it.

Development Update

The Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust granted \$4,500 for the Scholarship Fund and The Standard made a corporate donation of \$2,000 to Fruit & Flower in June. Approximately 20% of the children are here because of generous gifts from others, giving their parents the opportunity to work hard for their families. Gifts of all sizes are greatly appreciated for this fund. Please contact Kris at kris.moore@fruitandflower.org to learn more about giving opportunities.

Many thanks to Susan Margolis, owner of Girlfriends, and Joe Snell, owner of Ziva Salon-Store, for hosting benefit events that respectively raised \$417 and \$2,089 for Fruit & Flower last month. Please patronize the businesses that identify with us, and let them know you appreciate their support.

Kris is looking for someone willing to coordinate layout for our next newsletter. Michelle Jones has "retired" from this volunteer job, and it is your chance to step forward. Contact Kris by email at kris.moore@fruitandflower.org or phone at 503-228-7984. Thanks!

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Newsletter Ideas:** Forward your Happenings newsletter ideas to Judi Gilles judi.gilles@fruitandflower.org.
- Keep collecting Campbell's labels for education! We recently received a set of 6 colorful playground balls by cashing in some of our points! (Thanks to Kim Kopetz for helping us with this mini-fundraiser!)
- We have reduced our use of plastic bags in the laundry by at least 80% by switching to reusable laundry bags. Thanks to this suggestion by our housekeeper, Aneasa Byers, we are saving money and enhancing our eco-healthy profile.

Families cont...

Here Come the Babies!

As we have been telling you for the past few months, there is a little baby-boom happening at Fruit & Flower! These babies, who have siblings already enrolled here, will be joining us in July.

Walter Hodes (05/20/09) will join his big brother, Eddie, and Orla Proctor (04/24/09) will join her big brother Oakley. Both big brothers started in our program as infants. We are looking forward to getting acquainted with the 'second wave' from both of these great F&F families.

Another 'family member' who will start in the Infant Center this month is little Tanguy Bevens (01/09/09). Tanguy's mom, Catherine, is a primary caregiver in Room Six!

Farewell...

These Children will be moving on from Fruit & Flower in July – a fond farewell to:

- Madeline and Matthew Awad will be moving to St Louis, Missouri with their parents, Michael and Jean.
- Maya Gilchrist, Keyan Gilley, and Henry Kilber will be at home with their parents. We hope that Maya and her sister Sienna, and Keyan will be back in the fall.
- Eleanor Johnson, Jeffrey Willardson, Zoe Tomlinson, Arden Singer, Chase Conger, and Liam King will be heading for Kindergarten in the fall, after some special family time.

Fruit & Flower Staff cont...

- Kathy Raifsnnyder has been caring for our Infant Center babies since July of 1990! Wow. Some of her first babies are now approaching their 20's!
- Jenni Sprague started in Room Five in February of 1991, and moved into the lead position there in July. Happy 18th Anniversary, Jenni!
- Shawna Cooper started as the Infant Center's afternoon aide in 2005. Since then, she has gotten married and given birth to her very own baby boy!
- Stewart Sackett has been making fast friends in Room Five since 2006.
- Mary Felice Crowe started at Fruit & Flower in 2007 and is still enjoying all the children and families.
- Nozomi Morita has been with us for one year. She has a mid-day shift in the Infant Center, and also helps us out in the early mornings all around the program.
- Juliet Buckley celebrated her one year anniversary on July 1. We appreciate all her help at the front desk in the afternoons.

Thank You

Many thanks to Jeanne McGinnis, our favorite former Administrative Assistant, for helping us to cover the Front Desk until we were able to hire a new morning receptionist. Thanks also to Juliet for taking on some additional responsibilities for us.