



Fruit & Flower Happenings

June 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 5 - Pony Pictures

For children in Rooms 2, 3, 4, and 5

June 18- Girls' Night Out at Girlfriends

Enjoy wine and cheese, makeovers, and a 10% discount. Plus 10% of purchases will be donated to Fruit & Flower. *Reserve your spot by Friday, June 12.*

June 19- Pre-School Field Trip to Lewisville State Park

Take a ride on a big yellow school bus. Watch for sign-up sheets to join your child on the trip.

June 20- Fashion Show at Ziva Salon

Call Ziva at 503-221-6990 to buy a ticket.

Other Pre-School Summer Field Trips

July 24 – Rooster Rock

August 21 – Destination to be determined

- Check the lobby table for other sign-up activities, including a Christmas party on a floating house, wines and cheeses of the world, and more—the last day to sign up is June 12

The Center

GROOVE

The Annual Auction was held May 16 at Wieden+Kennedy. More than 200 people came, generously raising more than \$32,000 for the Center and an additional \$12,500 for the Scholarship Appeal.

Only 83% of the Center's operating expenses are covered by tuition fees, so fundraisers are critical to our continued growth and success as one of Portland's great childcare centers.

Thank you to everyone that helped in the planning of this event - from invite stuffing and classroom projects to sponsorships and procurement. Every helping hand is very much appreciated for this important event.

We will be seeking a new auction chair (or co-chairs) for 2010. Planning for the 2010 Auction usually starts in the fall, with venue selection. If you are interested and want to learn more about the role/commitment time, please contact Kim Kopetz at kim@kopetzweb.com.

Kim Kopetz
Auction Chair

And there's more...

Buy your copy of the documentary DVD of Fruit & Flower made by Lincoln HS students and their advisor Lilly Windle this spring. The DVD is yours for \$15; sign up at the front desk.

Families

New Babies

- Congratulations to Angie and Dave Cuthill on the birth of Johanna Marie, who was born on May 14. Big sister Evelina is in Room 1.
- Walter Gabriel Hodes was born on May 20. His big brother, Eddie, is in Room 2. Best wishes to Marisa and Spencer!

Families Continued >>>

Program Happenings

- ✓ Blanca Vazquez, our Spanish Teacher will return this month to her same schedule with our preschool groups. Her daughter, Gabriela, is almost two months old now!
- ✓ Summertime at Fruit and Flower means lots of time outdoors. Our playgrounds are well-equipped with sand, water, trikes and bikes, sidewalk chalk, balls, hoops, more sand and more water! Often, our typical indoor activities find their way outdoors too, when the weather is friendly: painting, music & dance, dramatic play props, and snacks. What can You do to make our summer even more fun? Provide your child with plenty of good sunscreen, extra clothes, a sunhat, and the right shoes for water play – then leave the rest to us.

Reminders

- **Parking – Yikes! Please be careful not to block the intersection at 24th and Irving, while waiting to enter the parking circle! Some very close calls have occurred recently at that corner – too close for comfort!**

Fruit & Flower Staff

- Jessie Miles, who has been our Early Day Receptionist for almost five years, will leave us at the beginning of June to complete her bachelor's degree. The Front Desk just won't be the same, Jessie – Thanks so much for keeping us organized and well-supplied!
- Lisa Kemp has been hired as the new Assistant Teacher in Room Six. She is replacing Adriana Jaime Aguirre who decided to leave us in April. Lisa has been caring for babies and toddlers in groups for ten years. She has a 6 year old daughter, Emilie and a 13 year old son, Anthony.

Continued>>>

WISH LIST

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

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

Fruit & Flower Happenings cont...

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June 2009

PROGRAM

Play Is Serious!

A recent article in the Scientific American MIND magazine (February 2009) reinforces what we, as early childhood educators, have believed for years: opportunity for free, imaginative play is a critical factor for becoming socially adept, learning to cope with stress, and building cognitive skills such as problem solving.

Psychologists are expressing concerns that, as parents attempt to prepare their children for their academic futures, they are considering music lessons, sports, and other structured activities to be more important than "ample frolicking time". Scientists worry that limiting free play in children's lives may result in a "generation of anxious, unhappy and socially maladjusted adults."

Free play is defined in this way: it must be repetitive, voluntary, and without a clear goal. Free play does not have predetermined rules. It serves as a kind of training for coping with the unexpected, and allows for creative responses to problems that arise.

Another interesting assertion was made in this article: It is never too late to start playing – and play also promotes the continued mental and physical well-being of adults!

Some direct quotes from "The Serious Need for Play," written by Melinda Wenner :

"A child who has had a rich exposure to social play experiences is more likely to become an adult who can manage unpredictable social situations."

"Play has to be reframed and seen not as an opposite to work but rather as a complement. Curiosity, imagination and creativity are like muscles; if you don't use them, you lose them" David Elkind

"Researchers . . . gave a box of toy blocks to children aged 18 months to two and a half years. Parents of these kids, as well as parents of a similar group of kids who had no blocks, kept track of how often the children played. After six months, the kids who had played with blocks scored significantly higher on language tests than the others did."

See Judi if you would like to read the entire article. It is fascinating!

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Newsletter Ideas:** Forward your Happenings newsletter ideas to Judi Gilles judi.gilles@fruitandflower.org.
- **Continuing Education:** The F&F staff received over 560 hours of training during this past year.
- Keep collecting Campbell's labels for education. We have over 1000 points so far, which we can use to purchase supplies for the classrooms.
- Keep your eyes open around the Center for green messaging, news of Ocean Day on June 8, and tips on waste management from the Sustainability Committee.

Program Reminders cont...

- Summer Shoes – Please select your child's footwear with care. The playground can be a risky place for little feet if they are not well protected. Please do not send your child in the flip-flop type of sandal that does not have a strap at the heel. We love the sandals and shoes that cover tender toes, and make climbing and running safe and fun, even when surfaces are slippery with water and sand.

Families cont...

New Children and Families to the Center

We have several new families joining the Infant Center this month. Welcome to:

- Gryphon Cipriano (10/14/08) and his parents, Meredith Hamm and David Cipriano.
- Kai Harris (10/26/08) and his parents, Janine and Matthew Harris.
- Quinn Nolan (3/24/09) and his parents, Dana Rierson and John Nolan.
- Eva Keenan (3/3/09) and her parents, Mieke and Drew Keenan.

Farewell...

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

- Owen Kilber: Owen will stay at home with his mom for a while.
- Lucy Brazie, Rosa Geigel, Ansel Balmer, Jay Watson, Akira Cusmai, Salvador Sigstad, and Brady Kopetz, who will all start in a new school this coming fall after a special summer with their families.

Fruit & Flower Staff cont...

Did you know how many staff have worked here at the Center for:

- More than 25 years: Sherry Hobbs, Kathy Duncan, Karen Stockert, Judi Gilles
- More than 20 years: Karen Jarne
- More than 10 years: Rebecca Colhoff, Jean McCauley
- More than 15 years: Kathy Raifsnnyder, Joy Nantharath, Jenni Sprague, Holly Roberts
- More than 5 years: Chris Pitton, LaFonsa Clay, Naomi Seeger, Chrissy Verpoorten, Megan Enyart
- One to five years: Nozomi Morita, Shawna Cooper, Lindsay Booth, Catherine Peron Bevins, Shawn Sanford, Kandis Bracken, Joe Baxley, Kathy Bosnjak, Gregg Zelsdorf, Jackie Shanky, Amy Morris, Gloria Gutierrez, Stewart Sackett, Aneasa Byers, MaryFelice Crowe, Jessica Miles, Lacy Mitchell

Did you know that Holly took photos of each and every staff person so that you can know us all by name? Thanks, Holly!