



# Fruit & Flower Happenings

September 2009

## UPCOMING EVENTS

The Annual Family Picnic, and the Annual Center Open House will be two separate events after all! Here is the real deal:

**The Family Picnic**, will be on Saturday, Sept. 26 from 11am – 1pm at Hillside Community Center, 653 NW Culpepper Terrace. We will provide burgers, hot dogs, buns and drinks. Please sign up at the front desk to bring a dish to share. Games, face painting, a DJ, conversation – sounds like fun! Contact Angie at [angie.cuthill@gmail.com](mailto:angie.cuthill@gmail.com) for more information.

**The Open House** will be at Fruit and Flower, from 5:30 to 7:00 on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. The Open House is an opportunity to spend some time in your child's classroom, talking with the teachers and with the other parents and children in that group. We will provide cheese, crackers and fruit for snacking.

**Screen Turnoff Week (Sept 20-26) and Take a Child Outside Week (Sept 24-30):** You can do two great things for yourself and your family this month by participating in these two complementary events, which both happen during September. Get yourself and the children unplugged from all of the screens that occupy your time, and spend some time with nature. Both of the nonprofit organizations promoting these activities have great ideas and information on their websites.

## H1N1 influenza notes:

Several concerned parents have been asking for our policy on the H1N1 influenza virus. Here is what we can tell you now:

- We have not had a confirmed case of H1N1 yet.
- We will be monitoring illness and fever more closely this fall.
- We are consulting with physicians and public health organizations for advice. We will revise our illness policy based on the recommendations.
- We will keep you updated as things develop at the Center.

Here is what YOU can do now:

- Work with your child on proper hand washing and on covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the elbow.
- Let us know immediately if your child or anyone in your household is diagnosed with H1N1.
- Keep your child home if he or she has flu symptoms.
- Get your child and yourself vaccinated as soon as possible.

## Fruit & Flower Staff

In addition to the children who are leaving us, we have some *staff members* who have decided to move on this fall, too. They include:

- Stewart Sackett, Room Five's Assistant for the past three years, is leaving us this month to complete his degree in early childhood education.
- Juliet Buckley, our afternoon Receptionist, is also returning to school this fall to obtain a credential in mediation.
- Leigh Dodson, the full-time aide in Room Two, will be moving to North Carolina with her boyfriend, who will start a new job there.
- Abigail Sibelman, who recently resigned her position as late day aide in Room Two is returning to school full-time to study elementary education.
- Gloria Gutierrez, the Assistant in Room Four, got married this month and is moving to Montana with her new husband, Ty.

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## Development News

The Annual Fund of Fruit & Flower is kicking off later this month, and you have probably heard from a parent in your child's room asking you to give. Fruit & Flower is a non-profit organization, and fees—while a definite stretch on most of our incomes—do not cover the full cost of care. Please give what you can to make up the difference.

If you can give \$1,000 or more by June 30, your gift will be matched by the Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund. If your employer matches gifts, please let me know and we will complete the paperwork. We gratefully and joyfully accept gifts of all sizes—from \$10 and up—and hope you will help support this important community.

Consider spending part of a Wednesday evening drumming up support. Sign-up at the white board.

## SAVE THE DATE

- You and your family are invited to the Portland Children's Museum for a FREE after-hours party on Tuesday, November 10. Save the date, and plan to introduce yourselves to Clifford the Big Red Dog. Details will follow.
- Stock up on wines and meet your neighbors at Square Deal Wine Shop on Friday, Oct. 23. Square Deal approached us to make Fruit & Flower the toast of the town and beneficiary of wine sales that night. Square Deal is located at 2321 NW Thurman—let them know you're from Fruit & Flower.

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## Sweets for the Sweet?

The month of August was a very busy one for birthdays, and good-bye/graduation celebrations. Everyone enjoyed a generous share of the customary sweet treats that accompany our celebrations.

In fact, those parents who have chosen to limit their children's intake of sugary treats found themselves in a dilemma: How do we stand by our decision to keep the snacks our child eats healthy, while still allowing him/her to participate in the celebration?

We must admit that we struggle ourselves with the question of how much sugar is too much in terms of our weekly menus and the additional special occasion treats.

We have attached a survey for those of you who would like to voice an opinion. Please print and return it as soon as possible. We will let you know what the participants think in our next Happenings newsletter.

## Speaking of Celebrations:

Recent discussions at our Lead Teacher meetings have centered around Holiday Celebrations and these problems:

- It is difficult to give holidays meaning that is developmentally appropriate for very young children. Most holidays are based on abstract concepts that are beyond their comprehension.
- It is difficult to be inclusive. Are we going to celebrate holidays based in cultures represented in our program? What if there is little diversity? What if some parents object to all holidays? What important activities are being displaced?
- Many holidays are overdone anyway. Children see signs of the major commercialized holidays everywhere, so they might be asking questions and their families will be making choices. If families are celebrating, why do we need to celebrate too? Again, it is an issue of time, energy, resources, and educational objectives.

Although we are still discussing some of the finer points, we have decided to forego individual holiday celebrations (Halloween, Christmas, etc.) this year. Instead, we will have a family celebration once each *season*. Parents and siblings will be invited to share in our celebration, with a late afternoon event that will be fun for all. Coming later in the Fall, with the theme of Harvest, will be an invitation to bring a vegetable in the morning to add to our Harvest Stew. Families will then come to share the stew that evening and bring breads that they enjoy at home for all to enjoy. More details soon!

## DID YOU KNOW?

**The Donation Barrel in our Lobby** is meant for a very special kind of food donation this fall. We are asking our families to bring in non-perishable food items that can be given to school children for healthy backpack snacks. (Individual portions of snack items such as juice, crackers and cheese, energy bars etc.) Even though our Center is nut-free, we are making an exception here. If you bring snack sized servings of nuts or peanut butter, we will lock them away until the barrel goes off to feed hungry school kids in Portland. Please remember to bring in a donation! Our barrel is basically still empty after two weeks or more!

## FAMILIES

### New Children and Families to the Center

We welcome these new children:

- **Stella Bannister** is in Room Six. Stella's parents are Gareth and Kristin. Her older sister, Joran, attended Fruit and Flower for several years. Joran is now in first grade!
- **Tatum Chase** is in Room Four. Tatum attended Fruit and Flower briefly when she was an infant, along with her older sister Zoe, who is now in first grade.
- **Michael Farquharson** is in Room Three. His parents are Cathy Rothenberger and Windston Farquharson.
- **Keyan Gilley** is returning to us from a summer with her parents who are teachers, no returning to their classrooms.
- **Alina Gungor** is in Room Six. Her parents are Sandra van der Bilt and Yamac Gungor.
- **Jasmine Maimouni** is in Room Tow. Her parents are Nadia and Mohamed Maimouni.
- **Devona Olson** is in Room Six. Her parents are Midori Karasawa and Bryce Olson.
- **Emmi Riddle** is in Room Six. Her parents are Sarah and Daniel.
- **Ryan Turner** is in Room Two. His parents are Charles and Jenny. Jenny has been a Board member here for some time.
- **Olivier van der Wart** will start in Room Four later this month. His parents are Ruth Rosendaal and Frank van der Wart.

**New Babies from our Boom** who are joining the Infant Center this month are:

- **Luke Boersma** – Luke's big sister, Emma is in Room Two.
- **Landen Brundage** – Macleay is Landen's big sister, and she is in Room One.

## Farewell...

These Children will be moving on from Fruit & Flower in September:

Off to Kindergarten are: **Nico Mitchoff, Jack Ward, Eva Raupp, Niko Carnes, and Gavin Conrad.**

Also leaving us are **Tryston Bridges, Henry Light, and Rory Johnston.**

Oh, we will miss you all!

## Fruit & Flower Staff cont...

New Staff Members, who joined us last month include:

**Jessica Diaz** – Jessica will be the new Late Day Aide in Room Five. Jessica had been an occasional sub over the past few months.

**Caleb Spiegel** – Caleb is the new Late Day Aide in Room Two.