

News from Johanna

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all of you for the warm welcome that I have received.

The welcoming environment of the center has helped smooth the transition for me.

Nut Ban. One of the first things I have done as director is to make the determination that it is not necessary to maintain a peanut ban for our center at this time. We have no known cases of peanut or tree nut allergies in the center, and nuts or nut butters can be a good source of protein for children. I felt it was important to free teachers up from having to check lunches and provide substitute food and to free parents up to have more choices about what can be included in foods sent from home. In the event that a child who has food or other allergies is enrolled, the necessary precautions will be taken to ensure that child's safety.

Summer Staff. I would also like to acknowledge and thank our wonderful summer staff. They do a wonderful job for us and they are very much appreciated.

Technology Needs. I have access to some power point presentations that have been created by myself and some of my colleagues. I would like to share these with staff and parents because they are good examples of emergent curriculum informed by the process of observation and documentation. However I do not have access to an LCD projector or a lap top to run it from. If any one has these resources available, please see me.

Information. The Calendar for next year will be included in this newsletter. The parent hand book is in the process of being updated. Upon completion families will receive a copy. I would like input from parents about what sort of parent information is important to folks, so that parent workshop offerings made can reach the greatest number of people. Some suggestions that have been made are issues of parenting workshops and emergent curriculum workshops. I eagerly look forward to your responses.

Ribbons. Thank you to those of you who have completed a ribbon and left it in the hallway. The thoughts expressed have been very moving and I can't wait to read those which are yet to come. I'm hoping this little reminder will encourage everyone to complete this small task. If we get most entries by this Friday, I could start the weaving over the weekend. You have helped me in understanding the identity of Otter Creek Child Center, so that I can more successfully share that identity with the greater community.

United Way. The United Way visited on Friday to take videos for their fundraising campaign. They were able to get lots of good shots of the teachers and children interacting as well as interviewing me, which I'm sure will be much less entertaining. I thought we made a great impression, and that the special character of this place clearly shone through. Once again kudos to the wonderful teachers we are fortunate enough to have.

Parent Workday. We have scheduled a parent workday for Saturday, July 29. The purpose of this day is to remove the wooden structures from our yard and to consolidate the sand so that it can be covered. These parts of our playground are considered health and safety issues and need to be addressed as soon as possible. The more people we have helping the more quickly we can get the job done. I had originally scheduled the workday for 10:00, but the consensus seems to be start early and get the job done, so we will get started at 8:00 instead.