

Otter Creek Child Center September-October 2006 Newsletter

Welcome to all our new families, and welcome back to all of our returning families. It's so nice to have new faces become familiar as the program gets underway.

Everyone is so excited about the possibilities for a new program year. The teachers have been participating in some very inspiring workshops, and have begun lots of wonderful activities based on their inspiration and the children's interests. We have accomplished some projects over the course of the summer with many more to go. The teachers are looking forward to attending the VAEYC (Vermont Association For the Education of Young Children) conference this October. There are some great workshops being offered that are very relevant to the work we are doing here.

Bottles: Please donate your returnable bottles to the Center. They can be left in the barn near the recycling barrels.

Clothing: Used clothing in good condition can be brought to Neat Repeats and consigned to Otter Creek. We will then receive proceeds from the sale of those items. These are little ways that we can all pitch in to support the program.

Calendar of events:

Friday, October 6th All profits from gas sales at Macintyre's will go to United Way. As United Way is one of our funders, let's get out and support them by buying gas at Macintyre's on Friday Oct. 6.

Saturday, Oct 14th, Parent Workday. 9:00- work is done

Monday, Oct 16th, Open House. Join us for pizza and a chance to tour the center and chat with teachers and parents.

Friday, Oct. 20th, Otter Creek will be closed for teacher inservice.

Tuesday, October 24th, 6:30 Workshop for parents on emergent curriculum in the outdoors.

Nut ban: It has been discovered that a child at the center has a peanut allergy. This will affect the Otter room only. Children in that room should not bring peanuts, tree nuts, nut butters or foods containing nut oils. The other rooms can continue to bring nuts or peanuts until further notice.

Lunches: A note about lunches, Teachers have brought it to my attention that when children bring frozen meals for lunch, it takes a long time to heat them in the microwave. This results in children having to wait for a long time to get their lunches. Foods that are precooked and can be heated up in a minute or so would make the lunch time go much more smoothly. Thankyou for your cooperation and efforts to send healthy food choices with your child.

Playground: We have begun the process of transforming our playgrounds into outdoor learning environments. A workshop will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 24th at 6:30 for parents who would like to know more about emergent curriculum and the outdoors. We are looking for parents who are interested in planning for our outdoor spaces, so that we are ready to begin work in the spring. There are some ideas for outdoor learning spaces

in the office for those who are interested. The Eagle teachers have developed a wish list of open –ended materials for the back yard; hammock, ropes and tire for a tree swing, plastic rain gutters. If you can donate one or some of these items it would be greatly appreciated.

Computer: The computer I am using in the office is a little bit out of date, as in it uses Windows 98. I am looking to update and would appreciate help in this area, as in another computer.

Days of Caring: During the recent United Way Days of Caring we were able to accomplish a great deal of work. Many thanks to the volunteers; Art Berenbaum, Kathy Hubbard, Jane Beck, the Urban Forestry class at Northlands Job Corps and the Human Services class at MUHS. They did some much needed work to our porch, parking area and around the barn. Many thanks as well to Iain Hoelfe and his group from the high school who cleared a path out to the back of our property and built us a little bridge over the gully.

Yard Sale: The yard sale was a success. We were able to get quite a bit of old stuff no one was using any more out of our barn. We also made enough money to purchase another digital camera for the center. Our goal is to have one camera in each classroom, so that teachers are able to document more of children’s interests. With two cameras instead of one we are halfway there.

More Thank Yous:

To Garth Pecor and Kim Lizotte for the loan of a lap top and LCD projector. We were able to view some photos that inspired us as we work to develop our curriculum.

To Laurel Kelliher and Lori Nicklaw and family for helping out with the yard sale as well as all those who donated items.

To departing board members Trish Dougherty, Drey Ward, Laurel Kelliher, Betsy Mackey and Ray Dora.

To Paige Pierson and Puanani Perdue for joining the board.

“I know of nothing more inspiring than making discoveries for oneself.”

George Washington Carver