

CHILDWORK *News*

Calendar

January 7th

Auction planning meeting 9:30 am

January 7th

Kids Night Out

January 17th

Martin Luther King Day (No School/No BAC)

January 28th

Kids Night Out

From the Executive Director

January 2011 Edition

Happy New Year and welcome back! We all hope you and your families had a happy and healthy winter break.

This is the time of year when we reflect back on the past year and think about all the possibilities for the New Year. Some of us even go so far as making New Year resolutions! As you process your own reflections and make new plans, I hope you will consider the important role of Childswork in your family's life. As I sit in my office, I have the joy of hearing magical sounds coming from the different classrooms: music and singing, happy and excited voices, constant questions, endless curiosity, negotiating the big world of social interaction, and the never ending lessons of give and take. This is such an important time of learning and discovery in your child's life that helps to lay a strong foundation for the future.



As this year begins, I challenge you to find more ways to get involved in Childswork. Our school is only as great as the community that supports it. Of course the teachers and staff are critical members of this great community, as are your children. But parents are equally important. There are endless ways for you to get involved at Childswork. Our auction is coming up on February 26th and that team is in need of your support in getting ready for the auction as well as attending the auction and bidding on our wonderful auction items. Volunteering in your child's classroom is also a wonderful way to get involved. If you have an idea of how we can make the school a better place, we would love to hear it and welcome parents taking the lead on school improvement projects. One family took the lead on cleaning the moss off of the family playground. Another family is taking the lead on expanding the stepping stones across the muddy median in front of our school. (You are welcome to join that work party on Jan 14th from 12-4). Be creative, think about how you can make a difference. Getting involved in your child's school will help you feel like an integral member of the Childswork community and will teach your children about the importance of getting involved in things that you really care about.

Kim

From the Education Director

A new year, and with it brings a renewed energy to all the classrooms. Families, children and staff are settling back into routines. In the next few months we can all look forward to conferences and the Auction. Thank you for your investment in your child's early education. We are a stronger community because of your involvement. Everyone at Childswork wishes you a wonderful 2011!



To watch the joy on children's faces as they reconnect with friends, and welcome a few new friends, after winter break is a welcome sight at Childswork. Friendships are crucial to children's growth and learning. Research clearly shows a correlation between social skills and future academic success as well as mental health.

An important part of school includes breaking down these skills so every child will feel successful and capable socially. Those skills include looking at a peer, using people's names, initiating play and self-regulation. Through friendships with peers, children learn about cooperation, expressing emotions, negotiating, problem solving, and understanding another person's view of the world.

Students have the opportunity with friends to support one another's learning by extending ideas, sharing strengths, encouraging one another, and mastering new skills together.

Families often wonder and even worry about friendships changing often during early childhood. One day a child has an arm around a friend proudly announcing that this is their "best friend". The next week or month they have a new best friend. This is typical in social development as children move from working alone or next to a friend as a toddler or a young three year-old, to working with one peer, to cooperative group play with several friends later in early childhood.

At Childswork, we recognize the importance of these friendships and the joy friendships bring as we observe and encourage these developing interpersonal skills.

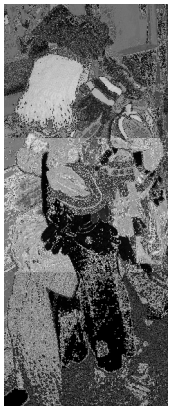
Michele

February Conferences

Teachers are busy preparing for conferences in February and looking forward to sharing observations and ideas with families. Conference times will be posted on each bulletin board by February 1st.

To make conferences a success just a few suggestions:

- ◆ Sign up early on the family bulletin board to make certain you have a time that works for your family and write down your time so you don't miss it.
- ◆ Arrive on time so your conference is not cut short or people after you are not kept waiting. Bring questions with you to refer to if you would like.
- ◆ This is a time for teachers and parents to communicate. We cannot accommodate students or younger siblings during conferences. It has been helpful in the past for families to trade child-care or schedule back to back with another family and watch one another's children on the small playground or family lounge. BAC will also have limited spaces available, please schedule in advance with Laurie, 503-234-3611 ext. 26 Thank you!



A Childswork Tradition: Our "Giving Tree"

Thank you to all the families who donated to the Giving Tree. The items were given to the St. Stephen Church before the break to be distributed. Through your generosity many children will have warm heads and hands during this cold weather.

Be a part of the solution!

"Mud getting you down? Tired of slipping and sliding into school every day? Come and be a part of the solution! Please join us for a work party on Friday, January 14th from 12-4 to help us pour and lay more cement tiles across our muddy median in front of the school. Bring your shovels, gloves, wheel barrels, hoes and of course rain boots! We will provide free BAC during these hours if you need it. Please contact Jim Kohler who will be leading this valiant team if you can help out: jimandlaurakohler@yahoo.com. If you need BAC please sign up with Laurie by Monday, Jan 11th. Thank you on behalf of all our kids, parents and staff!"

Auction

The Childswork Auction is a little more than one month away! It will be held at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, on Saturday, February 26th, from 1:30 ~ 4:30 pm.

We still need help procuring items for the auction (an auction isn't much fun without items to win!). If you're able to help, stop by the school office and pick up a neighborhood packet. Also, we welcome your own individual donations...maybe you are a great knitter...are friends with a restaurant owner...have tickets to a Blazer game you won't use...have a vacation home where you can offer a weekend getaway. The possibilities are endless!



Classes are getting busy with their projects and baskets for the auction. Our children will be creating some amazing items!

Our next meeting is Friday, January 7th at 9:30 at Childswork (downstairs Family Lounge). We still need LOTS of HELP, so please come if you can.

Any questions? Please contact Krista Brockwood, at krista@brockwood.com.