

From the Education Director



Our registration and placement process for the 2011/2012 school year begins this month. While we are sad that time is flying way too fast, we are excited about planning for another wonderful school year. We are introducing some changes this year which are intended to simplify and clarify the process so please read carefully. I would like reassure families that, as always, great care is taken to find the appropriate match of classroom, teacher and schedule for each child. Please know that we all care about what is best for each child at Childsworld.

On February 7th you will receive a Class Choice Form and Tuition Schedule in your family file. ***Families must select three class options and return the form and registration fee (plus curriculum fee for kindergarten), by Feb 17th in order to save a spot for the coming year.*** Any additional information that would be helpful for us to know should be noted on the form (siblings schedule, carpools coordination issues, etc.).

Teachers will be communicating throughout the process with both families and me. Teachers also provide me with notes regarding any information that may be helpful in placing a child (teacher style that may be a fit, groupings of peers, etc...). Teachers are strong advocates for “their children”.

Siblings (new students) of currently enrolled students will follow the same registration process as returning students. Families need to pick up registration forms for siblings (new students) in the main office the week of February 7th. Please indicate on the Form if the child is a sibling/new student or a returning student. These forms are also due on February 17th.

During the month of February, I will work on placement keeping in mind your three choices, individual placement needs, teacher recommendations, group dynamics, age and gender balancing. I will continue conversations with teachers and families and do additional classroom observations. I will contact families in late February if for some reason none of their three choices are available and other options need to be considered. By mid-March all lead teachers will review the proposed placements, problem-solve issues if needed and we will finalize our placement decisions.

Sue then takes on the BIG job of making individual packets for each child/family. *Notification of assigned class/schedule/teacher and the tuition contract will be available for pickup in the school office by April 1st. Families must return their signed contract and tuition deposit (to be applied against tuition for June, 2012) by April 7th to guarantee your spot.* If your family needs to make special financial arrangements please contact Kim.

In order to best accommodate your family’s and your child’s needs and guarantee placement, it is very important that we receive your contract and deposit on time. We already have a long waitlist of new families for next year and we will begin placing these new children immediately after the April 7th deadline.

The week of June 6th registration packets (emergency and administrative forms, etc.) will be available for pick up in the school office.

Please be patient during this process knowing that we take this time to make the best possible placement for every child. If I can help, please contact me at 503-234-3611 Ext.22 or michele@childsworld.org. The staff and I look forward to planning for a wonderful 2011/2012 school year.

Michele

Explorers Field Journal



This past month in Explorers we have been letting our interest lead the way. We have explored new food with cooking projects (roasted potatoes with rosemary from the garden), new books during daily rest time (2:30-3:00) and new sensory experiences (silly putty). We will be looking forward towards the coming spring and growing gardens.



Hopes and Wishes

To support our teachers in documenting in the classroom we are looking for the following:

- ✓ video cameras and digital cameras
- ✓ computers
- ✓ printers and printer ink
- ✓ digital frames.



Classroom Reflections

What does play look like in our classroom?

Sometimes it looks like pure joy full of smiles and laughter. When we throw leaves in the air, dance around the room, make believe, run as fast as we can, climb high, slide down, feel the rice in our hands, are silly, make music and sing.

Sometimes it looks like a struggle. When we are making sense of our world. When we try and fail and try again. When we revise our theories, when we negotiate our problems. When we are at 'almost'.

Sometimes it looks like pride. We are capable. We did it. We helped others to do it also.

Sometimes it looks like cooperation. We can be friends, a family, neighbors, and community. We can make up our own story, build together, read together, draw together, and hold hands. We can clean up together.

Sometimes it looks alone. We are independent, following our own course, needing our own space.

Sometimes it looks like chaos. It is active, loud, messy, and quick.

Sometimes it looks content. We are quiet and peaceful. We are drawing, playing with puzzles, play dough, and painting. We are happy and engaged.

Our play may be free, full of choices and negotiated with other children, family, and teachers.

Our play may be a reflection of who we are, our personalities, our desires, and our comfort zones when we are at school. Our play is constantly evolving.

By Crystal L. Cairns



Reminders

- It is the cold and flu season please remember to have children wash their hands upon arrival and departure.
- Don't forget to sign up for a conference time and keep record of when your conference is.
- February 8th is conference day. There is no school or BAC (Explorers). Camp will be available, sign up in the office. We will be offering care for your child during your conference time. The price is \$3.00 for 30 minutes, sign up in the office.

Childswork Treasure Cove Auction

The *Childswork Treasure Cove Auction* is Saturday, February 26th 1:30-4:30!!

Here are some things you need to know:

- ❖ **Deadline for getting donations in is Friday, February 11th** to make sure they make it into the catalog (donations will be accepted after that, but will likely not make it into the catalog).
- ❖ **Admissions:** Buy your auction admissions and bring a non-Childswork family for free!
- ❖ Volunteers are needed for the day of the auction. Watch for the sign-up sheets, they will be posted on bulletin boards and in the office.

Helpful guidelines: Additional guests need to be non-Childswork families. If there are more than 2 adults, additional admissions need to be purchased; children are included with the adults.

Admissions go on sale **Feb 1st** in the Main Office. Let Sue know if you are planning on bringing guests so they can be assigned a bid number.

Price:

- ❖ In advance - \$10 per person or \$30 per family.
- ❖ At the door - \$15 per person or \$40 per family.

Sponsorships are still available. Please contact Kim if you or someone you know is interested in sponsoring the auction.

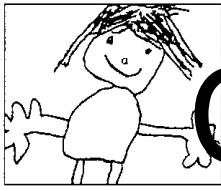
Quilt Raffle!

Generously donated by Vermont artist Mary Kohler this Quilt is being raffled as part of the Auction. Purchase your Tickets Today!!!

**Tickets are 1 for \$1.00,
6 for \$5.00, 25 for \$20.00
and can be purchased in
the school office.**

The drawing will be held Feb. 26, 2011
at the Childswork Annual Silent Auction





CHILDWORK *News*

February 2011 Edition

Calendar

February 8th

Conferences
No School/No BAC~
Camp Available

February 18th

Kids Night Out 5:30-9:30

February 21st

Presidents Day
No School/No BAC

February 26th

Auction 1:30-4:30 pm

From the Executive Director



What do you think of our new look? We decided to include a few more items of interest in our newsletter with the hopes of continuing to engage our families and strengthen our community. Thanks to Sue for making it all fit together!

As part of this effort, we would like to include a monthly column called the "Parent's Perspective." We invite you to write something up to share with our community related to children and/or families. It can be short or long, fiction or non-fiction, anything you like. The idea is to inspire, generate discussion, create greater understanding, provide insight, or simply to give us a few laughs. Articles will need to be sent to me (kim@childswork.org) by the middle of each month. Each month we will select the article that best fits the theme of that particular issue.

There is a bit of a buzz in the hallways and anxiety in the air as families begin to contemplate their enrollment decisions for next year. This can be stressful for some families and a piece of cake for others. Most people, however, fit somewhere in between. Please rest assured that our terrific staff works very hard to accommodate your recommendations while at the same time trying to find the best possible class fit for your child. Trust the process, trust our team.

At Childswork, we are committed to providing a quality early childhood education with excellent staff and enriching programs. We are also committed to ensuring that our school is affordable compared to similar programs in our area. In order to maintain our quality, given the rising costs of operations, the Childswork Board approved a small tuition increase for the 2011/2012 school year, similar to years past. This year, however, rather than applying a fixed increase across the board, we are trying to create greater consistency and equity in costs (hourly rates) across classes, particularly the pre-school classes for three year olds and up. We did some calculations and realized that the cost of some classes was not in line with our target hourly rates. Therefore, when you receive your tuition schedule, you will see that some class costs have gone up, some have gone down and others remain the same.

Speaking of the Board, we are quickly approaching the time of year when we will be looking for new Board members. Besides looking for Board members with commitment, enthusiasm and time, this year we would like to also try to find some new Board members with specific skill sets to support our school. Some of the areas we need help with are marketing, fundraising, parent/volunteer coordination, and legal support. We will be sending out more information about the number of positions available and the Board selection process soon.

On to other topics...

I am proud to announce the adoption of "EXPLORERS" as our new name for the BAC. Our staff has been working very hard to strengthen the identity and content of our before and aftercare program. We appreciate the needs of children and families to have a trusted, nurturing and enriching place for their children before and after class. We have terrific leadership in the Explorers with Birgit at the helm and Laurie guiding the course. They will provide us monthly updates from the Explorers in our newsletters. Check out the "Explorers Field Journal"!

It's Auction Time! Make sure February 26th is on your schedule. We are counting on every family to participate in some way in our biggest fundraising event of the year. Come one, come all, bring your friends, volunteer, donate, honor our children and staff, HAVE FUN!

Finally, I would like to send a huge shout out of thanks to our tireless "Mud Bugs" who have been working hard over many days and in all kinds of weather to improve our muddy median in front of our school. **Please join me in thanking our team leader Jim Kohler and his excellent helpers Ben Burtle, Alister Campbell, Heidi Failing, Winter Harvey, Krista Hofmeister, John Peterson and Jeff Skoke.** Also a big thanks for all our students and teachers who helped us decorate the wet cement with beautiful handprints and gems and provide us with lots of treasures to hunt for...can you find the turtle, a sea shell and a frog? If you didn't have a chance to help, stay tuned...the next project will be a playground/garden spring cleanup!

"I always wondered why somebody didn't do something about that. Then I realized that I was somebody." ~Lily Tomlin.

Kim