



Takoma Park Child Development Center Monthly Newsletter

October 2011

Director's Report

Takoma Park Child Development Center
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Oct. 13
Board Meeting
8-9pm, Shining Stars

Oct. 15
Yard Sale 9am - 12

Oct. 21
Public Schools
CLOSED
TPCDC OPEN

Oct. 29
Fall Cleanup 9am - 12

Oct. 31
Public Schools
CLOSED
TPCDC OPEN

NOV. 18
Thanksgiving Luncheon

NOV. 23
TPCDC Closes at 3
TPCDC CLOSED
11/24 & 11/25

Dear TPCDC parents,
Welcome once again to all the new parents and to the families who are continuing in the program. We are so excited to see many new faces and many new parents. We also thank all the families who participated in the Parent Orientation night, socializing with other parents and getting to know the staff and more about the classrooms. Please contact the office should you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks to those volunteering for the Board. It is very vital in making the Center a quality learning environment for your children.

We are excited about the great events coming this year. At TPCDC, families are encouraged to participate as much as possible. Notices about various events will be posted throughout the year. Assisting in any events, doing activities with children (pre-arranged with teachers), attending the board meetings, helping out in the fall and spring cleanup, helping out in the yard sale, and participating in fundraising events are all good ways to help our Center.

We will hold our annual Yard Sale at TPCDC on October 15th, 9am to noon. Clean out your garage, attic or closet and bring items to the office during the week of October 10th - 14th. Your trash could become our treasure.

The Fall Cleanup is scheduled for October 29th, 9am to noon. We need volunteers to help clean up the yard, rake leaves, and trim bushes. And if you are handy with a brush, we also need to paint our little bathrooms.

We have resumed our enrichment activities, including Dance class, Music with Mr. Bill and Mr. Gabe, Yoga, Spanish and Jump Bunch classes. We will also be doing Art classes.

Staff will soon be participating in many training workshops to sharpen their skills and to get acquainted with new ideas for teaching the young children.

There will be a costume parade on October 28th. NO CANDY INVOLVED. Look for information soon.

Happy Fall!
- Nalini



Our Staff	Our Parent Board of Directors
<p>Director: Nalini Jeevaraj</p> <p>Office Administrator: Joan Byrd</p> <p>Teddy Bears: Ana Rodriguez, Martha Talento, Reina Vasquez, Dorys Ferman</p> <p>Munchkins: Cecilia Gallagher, Indhira Hill, Yanira Salgado, Dora Moraco</p> <p>Rainbows: Selvi Vijaykumar, Teresa Abanto, Ada Cruz, Christine Bui</p> <p>Explorers: Sherri Smith, Pat Frazier, Arley Reyes, Beatriz Perez, Brenda Roberts</p> <p>Shining Stars (K and 1st): Brenda Roberts, Dorothy Battle, Mikea Hall, Arly Reyes (as needed)</p> <p>School Agers (2nd and Up): Phi Thi Thach, Jonathan Berros, Lindsey Hicks</p>	<p>Co-Chairs: Terri Pendleton, TBD</p> <p>Board Members: Cary Burnell, John Cox, Chris Daw, Sam Garman, Matt Hobbs, James Kocornik, Adriana Kokornik-Mina, Ann McCarthy, Steve Moody, Libby Richman, Brian Slocum, Noam Unger, Caroline Wadhams, Malawi Welles</p> <p>Classroom Coordinators: Teddy Bears: Patty First Munchkins: TBD Rainbows: TBD Explorers: TBD Shining Stars: TBD School Agers: TBD</p> <p>The Board meets on the second Thursday of each month. Board leadership will be determined at the October 13th Board meeting, which will be held from 7-8pm in the Shining Stars classroom.</p>

Join the TPCDC Parents Email List!

The TPCDC Parents list is used for Center announcements, information and updates. To join, please send a request to parentslist@tpcdc.org. Please include your preferred email address, your child's name and their classroom. You will be added to the Center wide list and your child's classroom list.



Classroom Updates



Teddy Bears

We have had a great beginning! The children seem to be enjoying the Teddy Bear classroom, playing and participating in all the activities.



For the month of October, we will focus on fall colors. We will do art activities with hands-on colors, including orange, brown, red and yellow.



We will read the following stories: Brown Bear, Five Little Ducks, and Little Red Hen. We will also introduce all the colors in Spanish. Enjoy the fall season!

Munchkins



Autumn is here again! Our theme for the month of October is Fall. We will be learning about the fall and what happens during this season,

from the changing of the leaves to animals preparing for hibernation. We have an exciting field trip planned to Clark's Farm. Art projects include fall finger painting and a pumpkin seed collage. Cooking projects include pumpkin pie and an apple banana frosty. October is going to be a fun month!



Rainbows

The month of September went well! All the Rainbows are getting to know each other and learning to follow the routine and rules.

Rainbows (cont.)

Our October theme will be divided in two. The first two weeks will be "My 5 Senses" and we will explore sound, taste, smell, sight and touch. The remaining weeks we will learn about fall and the fall colors. We will do fun activities related to fall, and go on a field trip to a pumpkin patch.



Our show and share begins October 1st. We have a calendar that shows when your child may bring in their own creative art project or books related to the theme. Happy fall!

Explorers

Our theme for October is Autumn. We have many fun activities planned. We will observe the changes occurring, such as weather, plants, clothing and daylight. Our field trip to Cox Farm is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 11 & Thursday, Oct. 13. We divided the class into 2 groups so the bus can accommodate everyone. Info is posted on the hallway board.

The Explorers help support St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital by hosting a Trike-A-Thon this month. During the week of Oct. 10-14, we learn bike safety rules. On Friday, Oct. 14, children bring their bikes or scooters and we ride up and down the street, following our safety rules. More info will be posted soon.

We will bake pumpkin bread on Weds., Oct. 19th. Each child should bring a 12 -16 oz. empty, clean can to school before Friday, Oct. 14th. We will bake the pumpkin bread inside the cans.



Our costume parade will be Friday, Oct. 28th. If your child participates, their costume must be labeled with their name and please no weapons.

On most occasions, the Center does not have extra clothes in case of accidents. Please make sure your child has a complete set of extra clothes in their cubby at all times.

Please remember to bring a family photo and a single photo of your child. Thanks, and have a great fall!

Shining Stars

This month the Shining Stars will be laughing out loud! The kids are up and coming junior comedians. They always say and do the darndest things! So we will be having a joke fest in the classroom. Each child can bring in several jokes, riddles or rhymes to share. We will have our joke fest on Friday, Oct. 28th.



We need donations of juice boxes, cookies, cupcakes, fruit, veggies, yogurt, or anything else you'd like to share.

The Shining Stars have been very interested in creating a puppet show, so as a class we will put on shows during the month.

Parents, please remember to call the office when your child is going to be out or someone else will pick them up. Please remember to check your child's mailbox and read the info on the bulletin board. We are looking forward to a fun-filled October!



School Agers

This month, we will work on a big art project. This project will be used for our Harvest Parade that we will have on Friday, October 28th.



Reminder: There will be no school Friday, October 21st and Monday, October 31st, but TPCDC is open. We will have a field trip on those days, so please remember to have a TPCDC yellow tshirt, comfortable shoes and a backpack for lunches. Tshirts are available in the office for \$10.

Important Reminders

Remember

Please update your emergency contact information. Make sure there is a full set of season appropriate extra clothes in your child's cubby. Please remember to bring a sheet and a blanket for nap time and take them home at the end of each week for cleaning.

Reminder to Part-Timers

A special reminder to parents of children who are enrolled part-time at TPCDC. Please remember that your contract is for specific days of the week and not for a number of days per week. If TPCDC is closed on a day that your child normally attends, you may not bring your child on another day that week to make it up. If you wish to bring your child on a day that she or he is not contracted for, please check with the Director in advance to ensure there is space available in the classroom. We regret any inconvenience this may cause.

Late Pick-Up Policy

Please come to pick-up your child early enough so that you have enough time to gather your child's belongings and exit by 6:00 pm (1 pm for morning attendees). We appreciate your help in doing this so that our staff can leave at a reasonable time in the evening.

A \$15 late fee for each 15 minutes or portion thereof will be charged for children who are left at the center after 1 pm (morning program attendees) or 6 pm (afternoon attendees or full day program attendees).

Fees:

6:00 - 6:15 = \$15

6:16 - 6:30 = \$30

6:31 - 6:45 = \$45

6:46 - 7:00 = \$60

Chronic lateness will be assessed an extra surcharge of \$50 for each occurrence. (Please refer to our family handbook on page 17.)

Parental Assistance on the Playground

At dismissal time, there is a lot of activity on the playground with all the adults, conversations, and

playing occurring. There has been difficulty in defining when the teachers turn over responsibility of children when we are on the playground at dismissal time. We ask that when you come to pick up your child and he/she is already on the outdoor playground, that you officially take over responsibility of your child as soon as you enter the playground and your child becomes aware of your presence. We thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Clothing

Children should wear comfortable clothes that they can remove easily. Children should not wear "dress" clothes as they are likely to get messy.

Weather appropriate clothing should always be provided: hats, gloves, etc. in the winter months and shorts in the summer. Children must always wear shoes. Sturdy footwear is recommended. For their own safety, children may not wear shoes that expose their toes.



Toys from Home

Because toys from home are often difficult to share, easy to lose, and breakable we ask that children do not bring toys from home to the center except for show and tell. If your child has a special item he or she would like to share, please let your child's teacher know. The center does not allow toys that promote aggressive behavior such as guns, knives, or swords. Following are some appropriate and popular items: photographs, hand made toys and games, books, objects found in nature and art work.

Health Issues

It is important to keep teachers and office staff informed of children's health issues. Please bring emergent health issues to our attention, particularly head lice, strep throat, and pink eye.

Health Insurance Card

NAEYC requires that each child in the center should have his/her insurance card in their file. Please bring a copy of the card and drop it in the office.