

Creative Learning Center

Parent Connection Winter 2009

Feb - May



Happy Mothers Day
May 10, 2009

A Note from the Director

Community Events

Meijer Gardens:

-Foremost's Butterflies
March 1- April 30

GR Children's Museum:

-Blue Man Group National Tour

Feb. 21- May 31

-Open Wide:

Keeping Teeth Clean
Jan. 27 - April 26

John Ball Zoo

-Opening of the New Spider Monkey Island

May 16th

7th Annual Family Matters

Location: GRCC

Date: Feb. 21st 11-3

Great Lake Kite Festival

May 16 and 17

Grand Haven State Park

It's a Wonderful World Art

March 14th 10-11:30

East Grand Rapids Lib.

I am so excited to see this beautiful spring like weather over the last couple of days. I know it is only a teaser as Old Man Winter is not through with us yet, but is sure feels good to see the sun again. CLC staff have been very busy throughout the winter months working through our classroom portfolios. As part of the Accreditation process each team is required to put together a portfolio that documents all the wonderful things that are learned in each classroom. Our target date to get these finished is during the month of April. We hope that we can showcase them to you when they are finished. Staff have worked very long and hard to get these things done. It is amazing that we have staff so committed to quality education! Did you know that we had 15

staff attend the annual 4C conference? The staff walked away with a renewed attitude and new tricks in their bag when it comes to working with young children. Staff development is very important to us as we all need time to refresh and learn new ideas.

Over the winter month we also had our 1st Director's coffee. It was nice meeting with a few of you and showcasing the happenings around the center. It was made mention that maybe the next one be in the evening as many of you could not be late for work. I will keep you posted when that is decided. I look forward to the beautiful spring weather and all the learning and exploring that nature has in store for all our classrooms. As always I have an open door policy and you can contact me at any time.

Lisa

CLC Dates

Toddler Spring Concert
March 19th @4:30

Carnival
April 23rd
6:30-7:30

CLC will be closed
May 25th
in observance of
Memorial Day

News you can use

The Kent County Commissioners have approved the distribution of a discount drug card program called the Kent County Rx Card to Kent County residents. The program, which is free to join, will provide savings of up to 75% on prescription drugs with average savings of around 30%. There are no restrictions for membership, no age limits, no income restrictions, and no applications to fill out. Participating pharmacies include those at Meijer, K-mart, CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens, D&W, Family Fare, Felpausch, as well as many independent pharmacies.

The Kent County Rx Card will help the uninsured and underinsured citizens of Kent County afford their prescription medications. However, the program can also be used by people who have health insurance coverage with no prescription benefits. Additionally, people who have prescription coverage can use this program for non-formulary or non-covered drugs.

In addition to Rx coverage, the card also provides access to discounts on dental, vision, and hearing services - as well as on some vitamins and pet medications.

We are thankful for the opportunity to provide this service to those who need it.

Attached you will find a flyer describing more information about the program and how to use the card. For more information call the Asian Center at 301-3987 or the programs Customer Service at 877-321-6755.

**Just a reminder:
If your child will be
absent from CLC,
please remember
to give us a call!!**

**Day Light
Savings Time
Remember to set
your clocks
"ahead" an hour
on Feb. 15th.**

Month of the Young Child

Month of the Young Child was created by NAEYC, National Association for the Education of Young Children. Did you know that all across the country, many states participate together in April, celebrating MOYC? For early childhood educators, parents and anyone else that is a child advocate or that values the importance of the first years of life, this is an exciting time. This is a time when communities and individuals recognize the needs and rights of young children and their families. Throughout the month, there are 4 focus areas. These areas include: Physical Development, Social-Emotional Development, Cognitive Development and Language & Literacy Development. What are some ways you can show support?? Purple is the color associated with MOYC. During the whole month of April, we will offer purple ribbons that you can either wear, attach to your car or decorate your computer at work with. Throughout the month, we will also offer different family activities that can be done in the classroom and then enhanced at home in each of the different focus areas. Another way that families can help is by contacting local and state representatives on how your family has been influenced by Quality Childcare and the importance it has with your family. Have your child draw a picture or write a letter that shares his/her story. This would be a great family project!! By doing this together, you are teaching your child that they can make a difference!!



Toddler Spring Concert

On Thursday, March 19th, our Toddlers will be showcasing their Spring Program. Each toddler classroom will perform a couple of music and movement songs. The program will be for family and friends beginning at 4:30 pm.



Hope you can join us!!

CLC Sick Policy

Well, the year 2009 is in full swing, and with it brings the lovely cold and flu season. Here at CLC there have been a few outbreaks including some staff. We are trying our best to keep everyone as healthy as we can. However, if your child is not feeling well we ask that you please keep them at home. Remember if your child is running a temperature of over 101.3 degrees they have to be fever free without the aid of Tylenol for 24 hours before they return to school. This is to benefit the other children and staff in the classrooms. Staff are doing their best with extra hand washing, sanitizing of toys and getting the children outside to "air out the germs." We really appreciate your cooperation as we trudge through another cold and flu season.



Save the Date!!
Carnival will be April 23rd!!

High/Scope Key Experience: Science



Here at CLC, we focus on the High/Scope approach to teaching. We follow the children's cues to expand daily lessons based off from their interest. One of our favorite key experiences is science. Science can be observed in each classroom in very different ways. The children explore the outside world everyday, weather permitting. The infants enjoy walks where they can hear the sounds of nature, see the bright golden sun or smell the aroma of the near by coffee factory. Toddlers can be found "hunting" for what is making the nature sound. Whether inside or outside, they find unique items to paint with, items to sort,

classify and explore. Touching textures of unique objects is also fun. As a young preschooler, the children have found an interest in preparing plants and taking care of the outdoor garden area. Even though the snow hasn't melted, they are already preparing plants that will then be planted outside. In our 4 yr old preschool classroom, they have witnessed first hand why big trucks dump salt on the roads. After some trial and error on how to make water freeze, they began to work on what makes ice thaw/melt. After finding out that putting salt down on ice makes it melt faster, the children wanted to try other proc-

esses of breaking down the ice. In our Kindergarten enrichment, the children are exploring how things work. They are at the developmental stage of putting Legos or K'Nex together to make them do something. The Scientific Process includes: Observations, Prediction, Hypothesizing and coming up with Conclusions. Come to think of it, every classroom observes what is going on around them, every classroom make predictions as to what the day will bring, every classroom hypothesizes (or recalls) what they have done during the day and finally every classroom makes conclusions when the children go home and wrap up all that they have learned during the day. So in a since, science happens all day long. We just add the missing "ingredients" to make each day a new experiment.

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