



# Circle Time

*The mission of the Parent-Infant Center is to support parenting by enabling young children to grow and learn in a safe, stimulating, loving environment*

## ArtStart 2009: Help us celebrate!

What's more fun than finger painting? Enjoying more than 100 wonderful works of children's art with other parents and friends of PIC!

We have begun planning for PIC's annual fall fundraiser, **ArtStart**.

Held in the historic Collegiate Chapel of St. Andrew next door, this silent auction raises money to support our scholarship program and Sweet Dreams, our campaign to expand PIC and provide quality child care for more families who live and work in our community.



Adults enjoy wine and cheese and other tasty treats and the kids have their own pizza party (no need to

find a sitter!).

If you are new to the center, or haven't participated before, mark your calendars for ArtStart, Thursday, October 22, 5:30-8pm.

ArtStart is a great way to support PIC and earn valuable PPP hours. Would you like to help? Join us on Tuesday, Aug. 4, at 5 pm. We are seeking items for the silent auction, food and beverage donations, design help for our program book. If you want to help out, e-mail Chelsea [ckoziana@parentinfantcenter.org]

## Supporting families & communities @ PIC

A reminder about "Story Time" in Clark Park. The "tell us about your family" form that is part of PIC's enrollment process. Building a garden wall with volunteers from UC Green.

These are among the many ways that PIC honors and strengthens commitments to Families and Community Relationships, two of the 10 accreditation standards that we are preparing to meet for the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

High-quality child care programs seek to establish strong relationships

with families. At PIC, we believe that the special years of early childhood are formative not only for a child, but for the entire family. We seek to work closely with families to exchange information, share decision making and provide mutual support for parenting.

Strong community relationships are valued, too. We are lucky to be living in a community so rich in resources — with museums, parks and libraries within walking distance for program enrichment, and world-class medical centers and social service organizations that we can call on for consulta-

tion when families need extra support.

We regularly ask families for feedback so that we can gauge whether we are effectively communicating the goals and expectations for child care at PIC. Our next Family Survey will be available online this month. The survey also can be answered with paper copies available from Lynne Piersol, Family Life Coordinator.

Your participation is vitally important to helping us improve program quality. Watch PIC for notices when the survey goes live!

# Caterpillars

These days, the Caterpillars are enjoying anything pertaining to animals: singing songs about animals, reading books about animals, and playing with animal puppets.

After hearing the stories or seeing the pictures a few times in a row, the teachers will start making the various sounds a particular animal makes or acting out the movement an animal makes. Shortly thereafter, the children begin mimicking the teachers and making similar noises or movements.

Sometimes you will find them picking through the animal basket looking for a specific animal so they can make the sound or act it out, for example, finding a lion and saying "Rrrrahw Rrrrahw." Eleanor and Nestor really know their ani-



mals and lately they will make all the sounds and then help the teachers put a song together with specific animal, such as 'Five Little Monkeys' or the 'Alligator Song.'

On our trip this summer to the Philadelphia Zoo, the Caterpillars could see some of their favorite animals in cages, walking around or in the water. They even had the

opportunity to touch some of them! The most exciting thing for Eleanor was seeing the elephants moving around and watching them dig a hole. When we visited the petting zoo, she was able to brush the sheep and chase the ducks. Ada was excited about the monkeys moving and jumping about the cage, and the ducks walking all around. Maya enjoyed riding in the stroller and looking at the animals. Her big event was sitting on a hippo, before entering the petting zoo with her friends.

The Caterpillars would like to thank all the parents who went on our first trip to the zoo. We all enjoyed ourselves and seeing some of our animal friends in person!

— Marcella Handy

# Rainbows

Now that we've said good-bye to friends who've moved up to the pre-school classrooms, it's time to welcome new friends to the Rainbow room where there will be lots of fun, learning and new challenges ahead.

One of the challenges we face in a toddler room is helping children develop ways to interact with each other appropriately (social skills). Toddlers tend to be very impulsive and act and react on impulse without thinking about how their actions affect the people around them. For example, a child may take a toy out of the hands of another child just because he/she wants the toy. A child may react to someone taking a toy from him/her by using physical force, hitting, kicking, pushing or biting.

Although this type of behavior is inappropriate, we understand that it



is also part of a toddler's normal development. One of the main reasons for this type of behavior is a toddler's lack of language. Below are some of the things teachers do in the classroom to help toddlers learn:

*Model appropriate behavior* - Children tend to imitate adults, so this is a great opportunity for us to show children the proper way to behave. Learning to say 'please,' 'thank you' and 'excuse me' are easy ways for children to see good social skills in

action and learn to interact with peers appropriately. Be sure to use these at home to continue what Rainbows learn in the classroom.

*Show the power of using words* - Teachers can show children that the power of words can help them solve any conflicts that arise throughout the day: "I had it first." "My turn" "I don't like that" "Can I have a turn when you're done?" "Don't hit me!" The list goes on.

As toddlers' vocabulary increases, they soon learn how effective their words can be. As they see the effects words have, they tend to use words more often to solve problems.

We look forward to the many challenges, learning and fun in the Rainbow Room this year and many more years to come.

— Veronica Johnson

# Roadrunners

As adults and teachers we know how much work goes into planning and accomplishing a trip with a classroom of small children. To a child, it appears simple to go out on a fun adventure.

When children plan special events themselves, opportunities open for them to use math, organizational, and problem-solving skills in self-motivated projects. With many Roadrunners leaving our classroom in June it was the perfect time for those children to plan a farewell event.

It was easy for Roadrunners to come up with special events; the hard work came later as they formulated ideas, made decisions and executed plans. Once they had solid ideas, they created a list of things they wanted to do and put the items in order.

Having a list of what they would do for these events meant they had to

understand what ideas were possible or impossible and figure out if there were more materials needed that were not available in the classroom. Sometimes this meant rethinking plans, taking a trip to the grocery store, or bringing in supplies from home.

Roadrunners created a June calendar to record the special events and their last day. To find the right day for their event they had to take into account how many school days are in a week, if some children had extra home days, and make sure it was before their last day.

Roadrunners used the calendar to figure out when they could do tasks for an event, how many days were left until an event and what events had already happened.

Sometimes our events were incomplete because tasks were not finished,



materials forgotten or there were weather issues. However, through these set backs Roadrunners learned consequences and cause and effect. Roadrunners enjoyed events like Rocket Day, Halloween Day and River Day because they created plans, organized their ideas and followed them through!

— Nichole McGlinchy

# Camp Kids' Place

When I was asked to write an article about summer camp, I didn't know what to say. Then, I thought about all the wonderful things we have done thus far.

We have had wonderful experiences from trips to Island Beach Park to performances at the Mann Music Center. We're looking forward to plenty of great things ahead, too, like our upcoming trips to the Academy of Natural Science to learn about the life of geckos and to Dutch Wonderland.

One trip the children really seemed to enjoy was to Bartram's Garden where they learned about plant life and about how the Garden was started by John Bartram in the 1700s. We had the chance to eat edible plants such as sunflower leaves,



spearmint leaves, and we even ate green beans still in the pod, yummy!

Soon we will be heading to Upper Darby Summer Stage to see a play put on by the students and we're looking forward to seeing what they have in store for us.

During Camp we always find ways to have fun. Last week, we made

volcanoes from molding clay that looked and felt like the real thing. Wednesdays are movie days at the Bridge Theater where we've seen some great movies and cooled off. On Tuesdays and Thursdays the kids enjoy swimming and spray park trips - they love getting soaked when it's hot outside.

Summer camp has been full of excitement and laughter and there are still more things planned. We will be working to better Mother Earth and flexing our muscles at the camp Olympics.

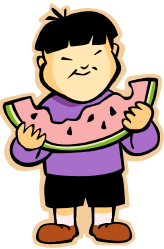
I hope you have heard good stories from your little ones about the adventures they had a camp.

— Alex Ecton

# PIC News and Events

## Calling All Watermelon Lovers!

Beat the heat! Join us for some cool and crunchy refreshment at PIC's



Watermelon Feast on **Wednesday, August 12**, from 5-6 pm.

We need a few parent volunteers to shop for watermelons, or help set up & clean up at the feast.

Great PPP! Let Lynne Piersol [lpiersol@parentinfantcenter.org] know if you will bring watermelons, or help cut and serve.

## Leaving PIC?

Heading off to kindergarten?

Remember that we must have written notice of your family's departure from the center, especially if you are leaving at the beginning of the school year. This helps us plan for fall and winter enrollments and manage the waitlist. **If your family leaves the center in August, September or October, we must have 8 weeks' written notice** prior to withdrawal.

During other months of the year, 4 weeks' written notice is required. If your child is off to kindergarten -- or leaving for any reason -- and you've failed to notify us, please put your information, with expected leave date, into a tuition mailbox ASAP.

## Avoid the ASC Waitlist



Enroll now for PIC's After School Center. Forms and brochures are available from Bonnie Hart, Director of School Age Programs, or pick them up at the parent mailboxes on the 2nd floor of the day care center. *The ASC opens on Wednesday, September 9.*

## Fall Potlucks are almost here

It's time for Fall Classroom Potlucks! Fall Potlucks are a tradition at PIC. Each classroom organizes a parent meeting and a potluck dinner so parents can meet other parents while learning about the classroom's goals for the year.

Attending a potluck is also an important step in getting to know your child's teachers.

Each potluck starts promptly at 5:30pm with a meeting for parents and the classroom lead teacher. At 6pm, the children join in and everyone has a chance to socialize.

The dates for this fall's early learning potlucks are below.

- Bumblebees - September 11
- Caterpillars - September 14
- Wild Things - September 23
- Rainbows - September 24
- Sunshines - September 25
- Fireflies - September 29
- Leapfrogs - September 25
- Peanuts - September 30
- Roadrunners - September 29
- Starfish - September 30

# Giving Thanks




Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who helped us on Thursday nights in June and July. Thank you: Hilary Bonta, Chelsea Koziara, The Marvelous Family, Cindy Roberts and Kali Strand. We are proud of our volunteers for providing read-aloud events for the community at the Clark Park turtle. See you next summer!

## Hooray University City District

## Three Cheers for our Storytellers

Despite a very rainy June and July, we were still able to hold Storytime in Clark Park a few times this summer.

Very special thanks go out to Dexter Bryant, CJ Johnson and the gentlemen of University City District's Summer Work Program. On Tuesday,



**September 7 & 8:  
PIC CLOSED  
for Labor Day Monday  
and Teacher In-Service  
on Tuesday.**

**Don't forget to make  
alternative plans for  
child care.**

July 14, they dusted, swept, mopped and shined the church — all in preparation for ArtStart on **Thursday, October 22, 2009.**