



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 - A 'Sweet' success!

This year marked the 10th anniversary of ArtStart and we would like to extend a **BIG THANK YOU** to all the parents and friends who worked tirelessly on this event! We could not have thrown such a fabulous party without your help and support!

Together, along with a generous matching donation from Sacks & Weston, we raised over **\$20,000!** Proceeds from the event will support the **Sweet Dreams Campaign** to expand PIC's programs and services and the PIC Scholarship Fund.

We're very grateful to ArtStart **Chairs Jung Kang, Valeska Redon and Huong Stoddard** and the entire ArtStart 2009 Committee:

Tremendous thanks to **Auction chairs Kristen Feemster and Marc Britton** who sought out the



very best in items for the auction tables. The bids were competitive and everyone went home with something great!

Kudos to **Joanne Pearson, Room Basket Chair**, and to all of our Room Parents who helped with the many different aspects of ArtStart from recruiting volunteers to compiling those fabulous and creative classroom baskets — Bumblebees:

Huong Stoddard and Valeska Redon; Caterpillars: **Bryan Lathrop and Emily Hage**; Wild Things: **Mathilda Edmunds and Mary-Knight Young**; Rainbows: **Clara Flores and Sarah Winters**; Sunshines: **Jill Shashaty and Alisa Peet**; Fireflies: **Tara Trimarchi and Sarah Jane McCaffrey**; Peanuts: **Karen Detlefsen and Fran Balamuth**; Roadrunners: **Sonya Brintnall and Jonathan Moore**; Starfish: **Jamie Kudera and Hilary Bonta**; Leapfrogs: **Danielle Rogers Whitaker and Paz Sandoval-Fernandez**; Dragontails: **Suzanne Walker and Kat Stein**; Starlights: **Ted Koziara and Colleen McCauley**; Hawks: **Monava Jones**;

See page 4

Smile! And bring your 'Grand-Friends' to PIC!



A reminder that **PIC Picture days** are **November 2 and 3!** All daycare children will have

pictures taken both individually and with their siblings and classrooms. Days and times are posted in each classroom and infor-

mation is being sent home. All children will be photographed with a solid background this year. The company recommends that children wear solid colors or simple patterns. Remember that this is also a fundraiser for PIC and last year we made over \$400!

Don't forget to invite grandparents

or "grand" friends to visit PIC on **Nov. 23, 24 and 25 (Mon—Wed)**, and enjoy Circle Time.

If your special grownups live far away don't dismay— they can still be a part of the celebration! We encourage them to mail postcards to children at PIC and we'll make sure the kids get their Special Deliveries. Watch your classroom for notes about activities.

Caterpillars



The Caterpillars have learned that there are some important classroom rules that we must follow on a daily basis. As flu season approaches, one of the most important rules is washing our hands whenever we enter our classroom and recently we have been working on a new class rule called Clean-Up.

The Caterpillars love to go around the room taking everything off the shelves, dumping all the toys out of the baskets and even throwing a few things around the

room. But, when the time comes to clean up, all the children got into the habit of running to sit down to get their hands washed for snack, leaving the staff to clean up! Something had to be done.

We enlisted the older Caterpillars to teach the new ones a song we have called "Clean-up". The words to this song are: "Clean up, Clean up, Everybody Everywhere, Clean up Clean up, Everybody Do Your Share". Now that we have a song to sing that tells us what to do, the children will go to different spots in the room to start picking up things. Torin likes to put all the books away. Emory will often start putting things away but change his mind and begin to dump them out and walk away, but with staff redirection he will pick them up again and put them away.

Ian, Maya, Jonah and Dashed are

being taught by the most experienced cleaner –upper: Ada. She will show them where each toy goes, and help them place it on the shelf. If they take it back off the shelf, she will tell gently them 'No' and urge them to clean up. If you're moving too slowly, Ada might just step in and clean up the room by herself, and then point to let you know that all is done!

Parent can get easily get their toddlers to help clean up by singing the song or giving them a small task to complete and praise them once it's completed or clap your hands and give them reassurance that they did a GOOD JOB!!

We would like to welcome Simeon Kohler to the Caterpillar Room - he's too little to clean-up yet but he can still help us sing along!

— Marcella Handy

Rainbows

With Thanksgiving approaching, many young children will get an opportunity to visit or be visited by their grandparents and extended families. There was a time when sharing company with older adult relatives was a regular, ordinary occurrence for most young children; grandparents were still many of the caregivers we saw at Clark Park and other PIC neighborhood spots. Extended families often lived in the same neighborhood, the same block or even the same house.

Today, modern families are as likely to live in different cities from older relatives as they are to live in different states. As parents, our lives are faster paced and more hurried



than ever before. In comparison, some of *our* parents have retired or have taken less intense jobs. They're likely to have more flexible personal schedules and expanded interests. They can share thoughts and ideas from their long experiences, and they can appreciate the slowed pace common to time spent with

young children.

Having relationships with older adults is not only a wonderful way for young children to connect to different generations but it also makes them aware of our life cycle. It can show them that age-related changes in abilities won't lessen their personal worth and help them develop compassion and empathy for all ages. With that in mind, we are celebrating Grandparents' Days at PIC during the week of Thanksgiving. Even if your family can't participate in our event, be sure to make time for your own 'Grandparents Day' in the coming season. Your little ones will be all the better for it.

— Kali Strand

Roadrunners

In the Roadrunners teachers have been fueling the recent explosion of interest in mathematics. Whether it's counting as high as you can, pattern-making, or measuring, we just can't get enough. As teachers it is our responsibility to enrich children's natural play with opportunities for learning math concepts and using mathematical tools. It can be fun to get children excited about math because there are so many interesting ways to incorporate mathematical learning into daily activities.

Numbers from 1-20 are posted at children's eye level in all areas including the bathroom and the microwave encouraging rote counting and recognition of written numbers. At snack times children serve themselves fair shares by using portion cards for each food item. The cards have a pictorial



and number representation for children to use written in English and other languages.

In our democratic classroom, taking votes helps us make fair decisions and it can also satisfy math standards. We keep track of how many votes have been cast for each option and after recording the votes, the children figure out which option has the most and least votes.

Calendars are great for recognizing numbers, and introducing concepts

like time and measurement. Roadrunners use pre-existing calendars to count rows and columns as a model for their own calendars. Teachers help them measure the paper with yard sticks and make marks at number intervals to create the rows and columns and write the numbers in the boxes to complete it.

Birthday boards can also help children notice passage of time. Each Roadrunner who has turned 5 has a sticker on their picture so children can see who is 5 and helps them figure out who is next, or how many Roadrunners are 4 or 5.

Making math relevant for children can be fun, just use their interests to guide you to what concepts they grasp and what they are ready to discover next.

— Nichole McGlinchy

Leapfrogs



The school year is off to a fantastic start here in the Leapfrogs! There was a bit of concern with whether or not there would be a continuation of the Leapfrog classroom, but we're going full steam ahead! The Leapfrog classroom has been known for its special attention to diversity and with so many different cultures, languages, and practices being represented in this class, people tend to ask "how do we (the teachers) do it?"

The simplest answer is "we don't".

Before you get concerned, it's not what you think! Indeed, there are certain times during the day where the teachers take the reigns, but most teachable moments in this classroom happen when we aren't even involved! We teachers are simply facilitators in this learning environment and we attempt to make this classroom a breeding ground for authentic learning. The Leapfrogs regularly find opportunities to teach each other, finding inventive ways to use materials and thinking of creative ideas to act out in dramatic play. When younger and older children work and play alongside each other, peer teaching is common. The older children who are more settled into the environment and transitional times enjoy helping out the younger ones who, for example, want to wash their hands but can't reach the soap, want

to clean up but need help finding where things belong, or don't understand what a teacher is asking them to do. When children share their knowledge and skills with each other, it not only builds social-emotional skills, but also develops listening and comprehension skills and associates the printed word with the spoken language, which is a key skill for emergent readers.

Parents and teachers are always on the lookout for those teachable moments - moments in time (sometimes during the most mundane points of the day) where a child is possibly more receptive to learning. It could be while waiting in line at the grocery store or out on the playground. With the Leapfrogs, they happen at almost every moment...and we couldn't be more proud.

— Saffiyah Gordon

ARTSTART 2009

Eagles: **Carl Ballinger and Ameena Atif**. The classroom baskets raised over \$1,500!

Our guests were greeted with tables filled with delicious treats to feast upon thanks to **Food Chairs Tara Trimarchi and Karen Detlefsen** - they certainly made sure our guests were well fed! Thank you to the local restaurants and PIC chefs for providing the delicious food we sampled throughout the evening:

We are grateful for the generous donations of food from **Beijing Restaurant, Taglio, Milk and Honey Market, Mizu Sushi, Museum Catering, the Philadelphia Catering Company** and for discounts from **Rx Restaurant**.

We also received beverage donations from **The Green Line Café and our generous Board members** and underwriting support from **Moore Bros. Wine Company**. Thank you!

We are indebted to Publicity chairs **Mary-Knight Young and Molly Roth** who spread the word throughout the community.

St. Andrew's Chapel was transformed thanks to the magic worked by **Décor Chair Mike McGrath** and volunteers.

Thank you to the parents, staff and friends who not only helped at the Fall Workday to help spruce up PIC and mount all the gorgeous artwork



that was displayed in the chapel, but also before the event hanging art work, blowing up balloons, lighting candles and setting up auction tables. They also helped at the event checking in, serving food, bartending and making this an celebration ten years in the making!

Thank you: Naima Abdullah, Celine Allard, Linda Amsterdam, Binh Applegate, Anwar Azim, Fran Balamuth, Naomi Balamuth, Reshma Bennur, Luisa Boverini, Jamillah Bowen, Hasina Choudhury, Delphine Dahan, Karen Detlefsen, Fatoumata Doumbia, Xia Zhen Duo, Ken and Jen Farrall, Elisabetta Fassella, Raphael Freeman, Michael Froelich, Susanna Gilbertson, Hana Haile, Sridhar Han-nenhalli, Gerlinde Harb, Keltie Hawkins, Demita Hill, Beniko Iwakura, Usha Joseph, Jon and Julia Kenniston, David Koppisch, Jamie Kudera, Nellie Lazar, Carol Lerner, Bridget Lessner, Colleen McCauley, Xian Miao, Martina Morrison, Ozlem Onder, Sylvia Palms, Greg Rak, Valeska Redon, Philomena Rhoades, Michael Schaffer, Jing Shen, Jonathan Smith, Caroline Soter, Huong and Doug Stoddard,

Dan Swingley, Kok-Chor Tan, Tara Trimarchi, Fang Wang, Jing Xu, Carey Yonce, Mary-Knight Young, and Ji Yu!

Elbow grease was also donated by our After School Center volunteers: Adama Doumbia, Lee Faller, Kyle Finney, Sophia Liang, Hassan Nelson, Camryn Pearson, Zahir Randall, Tai Shanahan, Krysta Walicki and ASC teacher Marie Gravely who worked with enthusiasm to spruce up the chapel for the big event.

Special thanks once again to **Dave Stotz and Shawn Berven** providing sound equipment and beautiful music — the perfect backdrop to our 10th anniversary celebration.

Development Director **Chelsea Koziara** began meeting with the Art-Start committee members in August, and we couldn't have had such a wonderful event without help from our staff: **Safia Abdullah, Sherry Alindogan, Cynthia Brown, Ashley Capelle, Kristy Carter, Diane Christberg, Charlene Cobb, Cherie Crosby, Kim Eddington, Saffiyah Gordon, Marcella Handy, Bonnie Hart, Kharma Hicks, Demita Hill, Johnetta Hurley, Veronica Johnson, Kendra Moton, Lynne Piersol, Novella Pope, Cindy Roberts, Joann Schock, Kali Strand, Princess Torres, Anjerrica Tyler and Alison Williams**.

It's never too early to start planning for next year! If you want to share feedback or ideas for next year's event, please contact Chelsea: ckoziara@parentinfantcenter.org

Community Flu Clinic @ PIC Monday, Nov. 16



PIC will participate in the City of Philadelphia's Community Flu Campaign by hosting a free Flu Clinic on **Monday, November 16 from 1—3 pm**.

The Flu Campaign will provide free seasonal influenza vaccine to adults on a first-come, first-serve basis; the H1N1 vaccine will not be available. The clinic is limited to adults; please contact your pediatrician about flu vaccines for your child.

Nurses will administer the vaccine and educational pamphlets will also be available to provide additional information.

Visit www.phila.gov/health or call the Flu Hotline at 215-685-6458 for more information.