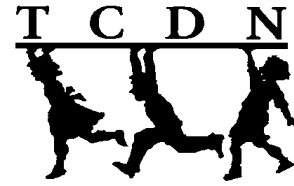


Stepping Stones

Trinity Cooperative Day Nursery Newsletter



SINCE 1972

April, 2011

Events Calendar

April

10-16 Week of the Young Child-Check website for activities

11-15 Public School Conferences-half day-TCDN open—special registration for school age due by 4/1

18-21 Public School Closed-TCDN open—special registration needed for school age by 4/1

22 Public School Closed-TCDN closed—Holiday

26 Board Meeting — OASC — 7:30 pm

May

18 ASC STAFF MEETING — SASC — 7:30 pm

14 STUPPY FUN RUN — Scholarship Fundraising Event

24 Board Meeting — SASC — 7:30 pm

30 Public School Closed — **TCDN CLOSED** — Holiday

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES AVAILABLE



The TCDN administrative staff has changed their email addresses.

Cindy Murray-
cindy@tcdn.org
Maureen Koch-
Maureen@tcdn.org
Michele Corbin-
Michele@tcdn.org



TCDN Welcomes

Michele Corbin

Michele@tcdn.org



I joined Trinity Cooperative Day Nursery as the Office Administrator in April of 2011. I received my college degree, a Bachelor of Arts in English, from Saint Joseph's University. After graduation, I started my career in radio advertising as a Sales Assistant, I was later promoted to Account Executive and then Office Manager. Unfortunately, after almost 14 years of employment, the company closed all offices across the country. I have always had an interest in the education field, and began searching for a career with an educational program which is what brought me to TCDN.

My husband Maurice and I met in 1989 while in high school and reside in the area with our 13 year old son Tyler, and our 15lb cat Zak. My interests are broad and varied. I love reading and I am an avid fan of Janet Evanovich and Dean Koontz. I also love music and have been a fan of The Dave Matthews Band for almost 14 years. I enjoy all of the local sports teams, as well as, movies, swimming, cooking and playing all types of games.

Reminder

Parents please arrive on time for the 12:45 pick-up as well as the 6pm pick-up.

Also a reminder from SRS:

“NO” vehicles are to be driven through or parked in the facility parking areas

Thank you very much.





Springing Forward by the OASC

The children at the Older After School Club are embracing spring with open arms. The beginning of spring has started off chilly and windy, but that hasn't stopped the children from racing to get outside. They are eager to explore and are looking forward to warm, sunny days. Discovering what nature has to offer has become a central activity outside as children focus on digging up worms, collecting insects, and digging up and replanting onion grass; in fact, there was even a small trial over who was going to bury an exposed root of a tree. It is comforting to know that many of the children are concerned about protecting the environment. While inside, many children have suggested that lights be turned out to save energy. Additionally, a few of the children have continued the act of educating their peers about wolves through posters and pictures on the computers. With warm weather just around the corner, we decided to take out our new net for badminton and volleyball. Furthermore, some of the children have created a space for four square using tape on the patio and have spent many days outside playing a game of kickball or watching the college baseball players practice. While inside, the children have participated in making baseball autograph books, pom creatures, sculpey creations, and making Irish potatoes for St. Patrick's day. Hide and go seek has also been a popular activity in our upstairs room after homework time is over. Individual activities have included reading books from our upstairs bookshelf, knitting, and using the laptop computers. The children have also enjoyed listening and dancing to some of our new cd's by artists such as Selena Gomez , Taylor Swift, and Justin Beiber. Soon everyone will be relaxing and enjoying the weather and time off for spring break!



Owls Room

March was a busy month starting with celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday by making green eggs. St. Patty's Day we had a party and made Irish Potatoes yummy! March also was the beginning of spring; we made kites and windmills and talk about wind power.





Ducklings

The Ducklings have learned circle games this year including, “Put Your Little Foot”, Tooty Tot”, and “Ring-Around-the-Rosie”. Teachers guided the toddlers through the games, body movements, hand-holding and rhyme recitations. Now, however, the children are leading the way in game playing. Their games arise creatively and spontaneously from playful toddler behaviors.



One of the groups favorite games involves chasing each other. There are several versions of this game. One involves participants wearing sparkle dress-up shoes. The children clip-clop around the tables chasing each other. A second version incorporates maracas in a raucous chase as they circle the tables in their chasing frenzy. A third chasing game is embellished with push toys. Jam-ups sometimes occur because the toys are large and the maneuvering space is limited, but the Ducklings find ways to perpetuate their game as they maneuver around and with each other. Plenty of laughter and cheering arise during these toddler initiated games.

Another favorite game led by the children focuses on the naming of sound-makers. Some of the early arriv-ers are particularly fond of this game. Perhaps the relative quietness of the day’s beginnings makes it easier to notice individual noises. This game is initiated by both children and teachers with the simple question, “What’s That?” Ducklings can sometimes identify large vehicles such as buses, trucks and trains. Periodi-cally, the children can identify some quieter, more subtle noise sources such as a singing bird or water run-ning through the radiators. Sometimes children listen to teachers voices outside the Duckling room and identify them without seeing them. Some of the preschool staff have quite distinctive laughs and voices- the toddlers easily recognize them as they show us grown-ups how to surprisingly attentive they are!

Games are a favorite activity in the Duckling room. The adult-initiated ones are fun, but the ones created by the children are more exciting to witness because they are an expression of the children’s creativity and their strong emotional connections to each other in their exquisite play.

SAVE THE DATE



GET READY, GET SET, GO!
STUPPY/5K RUN
MAY 14, 2011



Kangaroo Newsletter



Lots of great new recipes going on in the Kanga Room during March. With our resident, Irishwoman, we REALLY celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We tried potatoes—mashed, fried, baked and as 'breakfast for lunch'. We made Irish Potatoes and talked about Ireland. The leprechaun came and we followed his footprints and hints to the pot of gold.

March 1st, National Pig Day is a big deal with the Kangaroos. Louis got up that morning and reminding his Mom he had to get to school it was National Pig Day! We talked about all the different pigs in the world and where they are from; made pig noses, pictures and sculptures. We enjoyed bacon and ham...which we all love.

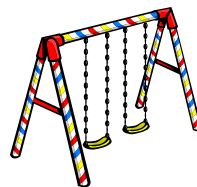
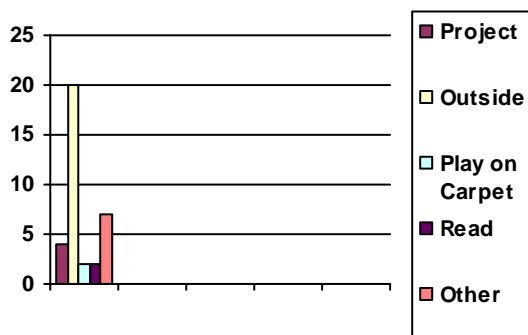


We said goodbye to some old friends. Tina left us and we are lucky to have Bobbie in the afternoons now. We had a cake and all said goodbye to Tina. The children are all very fond of Bobbie and she is doing a great job from 2 – 6 each day. Vera left this month and we had a goodbye party with all of our Preschool friends for her. The Kangas gave her a shirt with all of our handprints on it. We will miss both of them.

Thanks to our parents who came to help us on Workday and those who took toys home to wash – it is a great help to us.

WASC: Survey by Ella and Cyndi

We did a survey of 33 children to see which activities the children at WASC liked the most. Here is what we found: 20 Liked to go outside to play, 5 liked to do other activities, 4 liked projects, 2 liked to play on the carpet and 2 liked to read.



NPASC kids welcome Spring

With more moderate weather, the kids at NPASC have been spending a lot of time outside. We've been playing lots of tag, football, kickball, and baseball. It's been really wonderful to see some more experienced baseball players teaching some of the new players how to hit and field.



Indoors, we've been enjoying lots of games and activities as well. Some of our favorites have been the dice games Farkle and Left, Center, Right, scratch art, and Sorry. We've also recently started our Twister tournament. The tournament is back by popular demand and has everyone tied up in knots.

We celebrated Phillies Opening Day with a special ballpark snack of hot dogs. We sang a spirited round of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," and we colored Philly Phanatic pictures.



The month of March provided the Explorers with a travel to another country, more TV air time and wishful thinking about spring.

The Explorers started the month of March with their television debut in an NBC10 Wake Up Call which showcased their paper airplane skills. In response to the newscasters wondering how to make and fly paper airplanes an invitation was extended to have them come to Explorers for some instruction. And guess what Terry Ruggles came and spent a morning making paper airplanes with us! The kids did a great job teaching answering questions and demonstrating their skills. As a group we watched the news segment that was created and aired on NBC10. It was wonderful to see the children's excitement as they saw themselves and even more wonderful to hear them cheer and congratulate each other for their good jobs. Thank you to the Hardy Family for taping the segment. The Wake Up Call and Paper Airplane Segment can be viewed by going to nbcphiladelphia.com and entering "tcdn" into the search bar. I think the children are still giving autographs.

Another visitor to our program was story teller Vicky Town. On Monday, March 14, Vicky shared an original St. Patrick's Day themed story and the Japanese fairy tale *Little One Inch* with us. It is awesome to watch Vicky engage the children with her voice and expressive actions – no props required!

As a group we traveled to Greece for a couple of weeks. The Explorers learned how to read maps and created their own maps with the information that was presented. We were able to use what we knew of maps to find out about Greece... it is made up of many islands and is mountainous. Listed is a sampling of our activities:

Made gold medals

Participated in the Olympics

Made our own pizza and ate it too!

Played soccer

Voted on a video to watch

Learned about constellations and designed our own (they are currently hanging on the ceiling in story corner as a planetarium)



We ended the month by waking up our friends Ted and Fred to join us for a decorate your own cupcake project that was a reward for filling the marble jar. The children also enjoyed learning about the food pyramid and using the information to pack their own healthy lunches. As they ate lunch after the activity they identified the items that were grains, vegetables, fruits, meats and beans, milk, and oils - which of course we shouldn't eat too much of. The children made red barns and played game of hot potato. And we are still wondering ... is spring coming?



Squirrels and Other Animals

The Squirrels are true animal lovers- from pets to wild animals. We recently explored animals from many different perspectives from Science to Art to Books. The Squirrels found a wonderful animal author in Eric Carle who writes a lot of animal books and illustrates even more! We liked *Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See?* so much that we wrote our own book, *Squirrels, Squirrels, What Do You See?* Everyone helped to use the digital camera and type on the computer. The predictable print combined with pictures of people we know helps young readers to read confidently.

We practiced animal counting and children practiced number recognition, counting, and even addition based on their readiness.

We also learned about how to take care of pets and how wild animals live. One Squirrel has become so taken with animals that she has begun building nests for birds when we are on the playground!

Franklin Institute Offers Free Community Nights

The Franklin Institute is pleased to introduce Target Community Nights at The Franklin Institute, a FREE educational and fun-filled science extravaganza sponsored by Target! Everyone is welcome to join in the fun, and experience The Franklin Institute's exhibitions, special programs, and themed activities. (See schedule below.)

Activities Include:

- FREE access to all of The Franklin Institute's hand-on exhibits, like Sports Challenge and The Giant Heat!
- FREE tickets to the Tuttleman IMAX Theater!**
- FREE 3D shows in The Franklin Theater!
- FREE awe-inspiring LIVE Science Shows!
- FREE Fels Planetarium Shows!
- FREE access to the Joel N. Bloom Observatory!



Target Community Nights are from 5 PM to 8PM. You'll be asked to register when you arrive. The registration desk opens at 5pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

2011 Target Community Nights

**January 19, February 16, March 16, April 20, May 18, July – TBA,
August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16.**

Special Exhibit at the Please Touch Museum
January 22-April 24

“Explore the ability in disabilities”

- Explore a wheelchair obstacle course
- Try a hand-petal bike and create art using sight, touch and sound
- Test attention and memory skills
- Experience design challenges, discover multiple ways to accomplish task.
- Learn how things can be designed to work for the largest number of people

Please visit www.pleasetouchmuseum.org for more information



Summer Club is Back...



Summer Club applications are now being accepted. Don't miss out on the fun and exciting programs we are offering this year. Stop by the TCDN office to pick up an application.

- *Movin' and Groovin'* – June 20-July 1
- *Say It Your Way*- July 5-July 15
- *Out and About* –July 18- July 29
- *Under the Microscope*- August 1- August 12
- *Makin' a Mess* -August 15- August 26
- *Back By Popular Demand*-August 29- August 31





THANK YOU!!!

A huge THANK YOU to all preschool parents who helped us paint, clean, repair, rake, etc. on Work Day:

**Dan Hanifin
Beth Parker
Tomoko Sakomura
Anna Lynn Smith
Steve Kerr
Tom Rendulich
Relucca Verona
Sara Fritz
Megan Sloomaker**

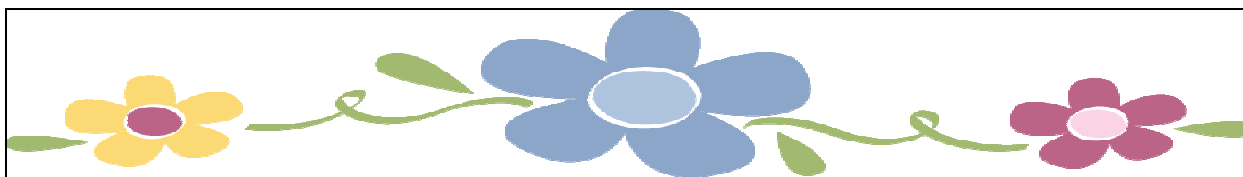
And to those who took jobs home:

**Michelle Woo
Christina Allen
Wei Ding
Jianping Wang
Inna Nekorystnova
Tonya Zwier**

COMING SOON ...

**TCDN Annual Family Survey
You don't want to miss this opportunity to give us your thoughts**





Director's Corner

"Make Time to Celebrate With Your Child"

Next week, **April 11-16**, TCDN programs celebrate

The Week of the Young Child

The theme this year is "Early Years Are Learning Years"

The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association, recognizing that early childhood years lay the foundation for children's success in school and later in life. The purpose is to focus public attention on the needs of children and their families and to recognize early childhood education program services that meet those needs.

Each TCDN program will celebrate with activities that include families and we encourage you to spend some time with your children in our programs and share the value of what they experience. Please try to leave work a little early one day or arrive a little later to take advantage of this opportunity.

Monday 4/11 – NPASC will have a "Game Day". Both indoor and outdoor games will be happening for parents to participate in

Tuesday 4/12 – OASC will have refreshments made by the kids and an Art Show/Photo Display

Wednesday 4/13 – BSC and AM Explorers will have Breakfast and a Child-created/Documented photo display of their time

PM Explorers and SASC will host a "Make Your Own
"Gorp-To-Go Activity"

Thursday 4/14 – WASC will host a Mexican Fiesta

Preschool will have an Art Show!

Tell your employer why you need to arrive a little late or leave a little early and hope to see you having fun with your child in our programs!

**Thank You,
Cindy**