



# Stepping Stones

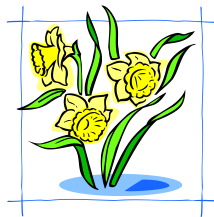


WASC: have a Safe & Fun Filled Summer ☺

Thank you to all the children and families that attended WASC this year. You helped make WASC a safe fun site filled with different experiences for children, parents and staff. Outside favorite activities were hockey, soccer, Capture the Flag and the sand box. Finger weaving, lego's, Knex's, recycled art and games were favorite inside activities.

To all the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders we hope they enjoy their future endeavors. We look forward to the families returning next year and meeting new families.

Have a safe, fun filled summer,  
Eddie, Sue, Michele and Pat



## Urgent Reminder

Please remember that in an effort to prepare for our Summer Club program , SASC, OASC, NPASC and WASC will all end on Tuesday June 14th. The last day for BSC and AM/PM Explorers is Wednesday June 15th closing at 12:30pm.

## Events Calendar

### June

- 7 Annual Public Board Meeting and Staff Recognition— OASC- 6:30p
- 14 Last Day for SASC, OASC, NPASC & WASC
- 15 Last day for public schools. Last Day for BSC & AM/PM Explorers closing at 12:30p.
- 16-17 Public Schools Closed- All TCDN after school programs are closed for Summer Club set up.
- 20-24 Summer Club starts for school aged children

### July

- 1 Preschool Closed for summer set up.
- 4 TCDN Closed- Holiday

## SASC: "Caught Doing Good"

The SASC is wrapping up its year with a celebration. The children have earned themselves an ice-cream and water ice party by completing a "caught doing good" challenge. That's over 100 times the teachers have caught our children doing a good job by doing anything from cleaning up an extra mess, helping a friend in need, using excellent manners, or simply doing homework

without being asked. As the temperature rises, some new activities have sprung up as favorites. Use of the sand and water tables have been a huge hit as well as a few new dancing games the staff have created. The children were also treated to an annual visit from the Segal Puppet Company for their show "Tooth Buddy Tales."

The staff would like to thank the parents for a wonderful year. Each and every child showed us their best though the year and we are proud to be a part of their development. We enjoyed the privilege of serving you and your families throughout the year and look forward to seeing you in the summer or next year. Thank you again. The SASC staff.

## Making Memories by the OASC

The other day Marguerita pulled out our poster boards covered with pictures and placed them on the table. They had had been hiding behind the filing cabinet for quite some time and she wanted to look at how she had changed from the beginning to the end of the school year. As we looked at the pictures, other children began to gather around. There were smiles and laughing as we reflected back on happy times at the OASC. The children pointed to the pictures saying, "remember that" or "wasn't that fun." Many of the children commented on how much taller everyone had gotten. We all agreed that in some way or another everyone had grown. The pictures contained memories of the past and were reminders for some of where they had been and how far they had come. Some of our favorite memories included: jumping into a huge pile of leaves, breaking open the piñata full of Halloween candy, our trip to Renatos and Dunkin' Donuts, playing Pokémon, skating on the patch of ice outside, baking cupcakes, outside exploration, wolf packs, and forming new friendships. Overall, the children displayed a

positive attitude, a willingness to help others, cooperation, and an understanding of teamwork. We couldn't have asked for a better group! We decided to ask the children: What was your favorite part of being at the OASC? We liked Tate's answer the best; he summed up the year by saying, "every part was good."

The Older After School Club is the last stop for kids in the TCDN program. At the end of the school year, sixth graders will move on to seventh grade after summer break, but will not return to our program. It is always difficult to say goodbye to the sixth graders at the end of the school year. Six graders arrive at the OASC an hour before the fourth and fifth graders. For this reason, they form a close bond with each other and their after school club teachers. During this hour, the teachers are able to focus solely on the sixth graders; we will treasure our discussions and time together with this group. We have watched as they have grown over the years and are proud of who they have become. This par-

ticular group served as excellent role models for their younger peers by offering help with homework, showing them how to play a game, and giving them advice on how to do well in school. They have been both kind and generous towards others and have set a precedent for the other children. Good Luck sixth graders!

We look forward to seeing most of you in the fall. Let's hope next school year is just as good as or even better than this year. We have many exciting plans in store for you! Have a wonderful summer ☺



### Before School Club warm wishes...

BSC staff would like to wish all the BSC families a safe, fun filled summer. We have enjoyed helping you grow and have new experiences. Thanks for being you.



## The Kangaroos: Busy Bodies

The Kangaroos had a great time on their field trip to the Creative Living Room. We attended a "Busy Bodies" dance class with Sashia. The theme was a day at the circus. We pretended to be lions and jumped through rings of fire. While we were elephants we sprayed water out of our trunks. On the tight rope we walked frontwards, backwards and sideways. We had to run very quickly across the hot pink coals and rest our feet on the cool blue coals. After our class we went to Renato's for pizza. Michael (the

pizza man) showed us an amazing magic trick with his coloring book. Everyone did a great job in the restaurant. As one of the customers was leaving she came over and said "these are the best behaved children".



## These are a few of our favorite things...

NPASC kids (and adults) chose these activities as highlights of our year:

Evan- playing hockey

Alex- playing baseball

Eric- sand art and pie eating contest

Abe- sand art and pie eating contest

Kayla- making Jello

Anna- making oobleck

Leena- making oobleck

David- playing baseball

Ethan- playing baseball

Connor- marble maze and pie eating contest

Samah- everything

William- pie eating contest

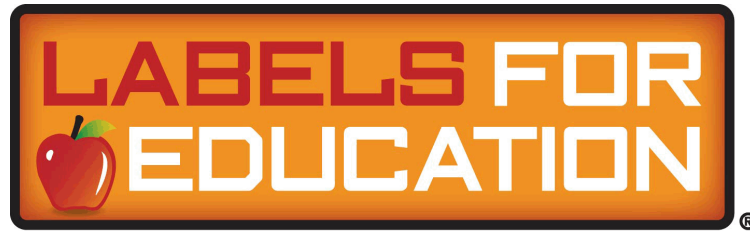
Jack- projects

Harry- "I don't really know"

Jackie- being with the kids

Diane- getting to know such a fun group of kids





ARTS • ATHLETICS • ACADEMICS

TCDN is collecting Labels for Education. Please help to support our programs by clipping the Labels for Education from many participating products. Our programs will accumulate points which will be used to purchase educational resources. This is done in 3 easy steps.

- ◇ Clip and save UPC's and beverage caps from participating Labels for Education products.
- ◇ Drop off the UPC's at the TCDN

office or your child's site.

- ◇ TCDN can redeem points for FREE educational resources.

Here is a list of many parent companies that participate in Labels for Education.

- ◇ BIC Pens
- ◇ Pop- Secret
- ◇ Spaghettios
- ◇ WOLFGANG PUCK

- ◇ Prego
- ◇ Swanson
- ◇ Franco American
- ◇ Campbell's
- ◇ V8 Splash
- ◇ Pepperidge Farm
- ◇ Goldfish Crackers

For more information on the program, please visit [www.LabelsForEducation.com](http://www.LabelsForEducation.com)

## The Owls are planning for the Summer!

This month we had a guest to the Owl room, Charlotte Markey, Charlie and Grace's mom. Charlotte came and read stories about the beach; Lady Bug Girl at the Beach and Little Dracula's at the Shore. We talked about getting ready for the summer. First, don't forget the sunscreen, and

drink plenty of fluids; so... we decorated cups with jewels and our first initial to have our own special cup from which to drink. We also made pictures of the beach out of different textured materials. The children were amazing listeners and liked having a visitor in the room.

We would like to thank Charlotte for taking the time to come and visit our classroom. If there is a parent with a special talent or would like to read a story to class we would love to have you.



## Explorers moving on...

The Explorers spent the month of May preparing for their year end performance. Many of the activities provided the different elements needed to tie together the performance.

The performance was based on the Beatles' song *I Me Mine*. Initially we introduced the children to the concept of the performance and listened to the song. Next each child wrote a statement that expressed one of their strengths (I) - "I am a good soccer player", "I am a good artist" and "I am awesome" (which they are). Then the Explorers created their self portraits (Me) and a pie chart, filled with their handprints, indicating which school they would attend in the fall (Mine). These elements then became the speaking parts and the set for the performance.

It was fun to hear the Explorers' powerful version of *I, Me, Mine*

along with the electric guitar accompaniment by Kevin Cunningham - also awesome. Both groups of Explorers had the chance to enjoy lunch with their families. We were able to provide hoagies, drinks and dessert

knowing that family members may have

been using a lunch break to see their child's performance. Once again it was wonderful to see so many of you.

The PM Explorers enjoyed an opportunity to learn to make Chinese dumplings (jiazoi). Chelsea Wen's mother, Hong, and Chelsea's grandma taught the children how to flatten, roll out, fill the dough, and form the dumplings. Hong did a wonderful job guiding the group and everyone was able to enjoy a delicious snack.



The PM Explorers also hosted the TCDN Crickets for an afternoon. Each Explorer was in charge of showing one of the Crickets around the program and did a great job! We are looking forward to hosting the Crickets again.

It's hard to believe that the end of our school year is here. It has been a pleasure working with the children and the families as all have grown through the year. Seems like it was just yesterday when families were concerned about how their child would manage all the new routines and transitions, and here you all are - ready for first grade!



## The 25th Annual Stuppy Fun Run

Despite a little rain, runners and families came out to take part in the 25<sup>th</sup> annual TCDN Stuppy Fun Run. The event featured a 5K run through the streets of Swarthmore and the Swarthmore College campus. The 5K was followed by fun "runs" for children of all ages, including a culminating relay event. A variety of raffle baskets provided extra excitement for ticket-buying "hopefuls".

Organized as a memorial to Leroy Stuppy, a Strath Haven High School science teacher and Cross

Country coach, the event raises money for the TCDN Scholarship program. Leroy Stuppy's daughter was the first recipient of the fund 25 years ago after he drowned while vacationing in Yellowstone National Park. Leroy's wife, Regina, explained to their daughter, "They're having a run as a memorial to your dad, and they're going to collect money for other children who can't afford to go to TCDN. It was important to your dad that you had that opportunity so now other children may also have it."

TCDN's scholarship program helps a few families each year with the increasing cost of quality child care and learning.



# Duckling Farewells

What a terrific year we had together in the Duckling room! As we prepare to say farewell to half of our group at the end of this month, it is fun to look back in remembrance of all our joyful and challenging times together.

Some of our challenges this year included:

- Learning to take turns
- Learning to share space
- How to put puzzles and stacking toys together
- How to roll out play dough
- Mastering the skill of climbing the large climber in the Duckling zone
- Throwing balls through our small basketball hoop.
- Learning new songs and finger plays
- How to use forks, spoons and lidless cups
- Learning when and where to use our loud voices

And our joyful times included:

- Spontaneous, child initiated

group march, running, dancing and circle games

Watching bobos (squirrels, birds, chipmunks) together outside of our window.

Dressing up independently, learning positive interactive behaviors and how to negotiate sharing ownership of dress-ups, dolls, pretend food, etc.

Testing the loudness of voices in unison with friends

Chasing and catching bubbles together

Learning how to care for babies by playing together with dolls, bottles etc.

Building large towers with blocks, then knocking them down

Driving toy cars, trucks, trains, boats and planes all over the classroom

Listening to increasingly longer and more complex stories together during circle times

and in small groups

Through both joyful times and challenges our little Ducklings learned a lot and had plenty of fun! We sadly say goodbye to five of the Ducklings and want to thank their families for all of the wonderful support they gave us this year as they shared fun stories about their children at home, helpful observations and their child's accomplishments. Thank you! Please visit us and let us know how you and your child are doing.

Duckling Teachers

GOODBYE!



## 2010-2011 Family Survey

On Friday, June 3rd, a survey was sent out to all families. Please take a moment to complete the family survey. We view our relationship with our families as a partnership, and it is through your feedback that we make improvements in the quality of our program. If you did not receive the survey via email, please either contact the Office Administrator, Michele Corbin at [michele@tcdn.org](mailto:michele@tcdn.org), or printed surveys are available at our child care sites. We are requesting that all information is received by June 10th. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the administrative office at 610-544-4555. Thank you and have a great summer.

TCDN Administrative Staff

## **TCDN's 2011 Summer Club & Cricket Camp**



There are still a few vacancies available for this year's Summer Club and Cricket Camp. Please get your child's registration in as soon as possible. If you need an additional registration form, please visit our website at [www.TCDN.org](http://www.TCDN.org) and the registration forms are listed under summer programs. You can also stop by the administration office to pick up a registration form. Please contact the office with any questions at 610-544-4555.

## Squirrels and Community Helpers

The Squirrels have been learning about community helpers. The Squirrels were able to name lots of community helpers such as firefighters, police, mail carriers, doctors, teachers, and dentists. We read books about going to the doctor, fighting fires, and a postman delivering letters.

We had a visit from Lilly's mom who is a pediatrician. We learned that pediatricians keep kids healthy. She told us lots of things that we can do to stay safe and healthy; wearing bike hel-

pets, swimming only near a life-guard, wearing sunscreen and bug spray, and wearing elbow pads were some of her good ideas. The Squirrels are so safe that they knew lots of answers to the safety questions.

We also talked about family helpers. People like parents, older siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and neighbors can be great family helpers.

We would also like to recognize some special Squirrel Helpers. Over the course of the

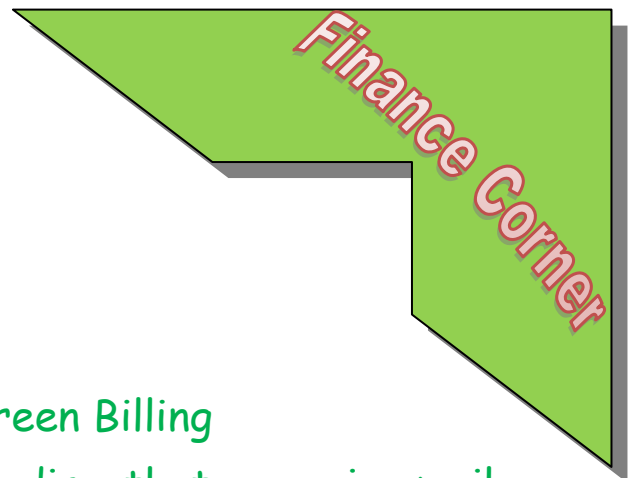
school year, we have had parents help in many different ways. We have had amazing turn outs at Preschool cleaning days and fundraisers. We have been given generous donations. We have had several parents come in to share information and expertise in different areas. We have also had parents serve on TCDN committees. It is thanks to all of your help that the Preschool and TCDN maintains a cooperative and community spirit. Thank you very much.

The TCDN administrative staff has changed their email addresses.

Cindy Murray-cindy@tcdn.org

Maureen Koch-Maureen@tcdn.org

Michele Corbin-Michele@tcdn.org



Sign Up for TCDN's Green Billing

Have tuition bills come directly to you via email.

Contact Maureen Koch for more information at

Maureen@tcdn.org or 610-544-4555 x222



# Director's Corner



.To all TCDN Families ...

As we come to the end of the school year, I want to make an appeal for all of you to complete the

## **\*2010-2011 Family Survey\***

It is through your feedback; your thoughts about what we do well, what we could improve upon, what is most important to you, that we create goals and make changes. Your comments are important as they describe what you think. PLEASE take a few minutes (it should take no more than 10) to return the survey in one of two ways:

You can print the survey from our website, complete it and return to your child's site or the TCDN office

You can pick up a paper copy at your child's site and complete it right at the site before you leave. Teachers will be happy to create a space where you can do this.

Either way, please complete the survey this week and return to us by **Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**. THANK YOU, IN ADVANCE!!!

To all TCDN Families who are leaving our programs ...

We especially want your feedback! Let us know what you have enjoyed and if we have met your family's needs.

It has been a privilege to work with your child and to get to know your family.

As a TCDN alumni, I hope you will stay in touch, and there are many ways to do so. Please bring your child back for a visit. Maintaining relationships are important to social learning. Leave us with a memory we can include as a testimonial on our website. Attend any of our events, such as Applebee's Pancake Breakfast or the Stuppy Fun Run (we have a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coming up!). Subscribe to our e-newsletter or support us through our annual Appeal or as a United Way benefactor. If your experience was a joyful one, be sure to recommend us to others! Thank you for being part of our learning community.

Cindy

