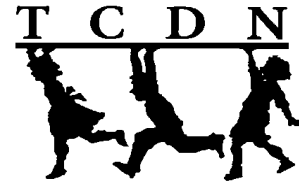


# Stepping Stones



SINCE 1972

Trinity Cooperative Day Nursery Newsletter

March, 2011

## Events Calendar

### March

22 Board Meeting-WASC-7:30 pm

26 Preschool Work Day-7:30 am to noon

### 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

## **Sing Along By The Squirrels**

The Squirrels are a song loving bunch who have recently followed their musical interests across the curriculum. The Squirrels have added melody to circle time by singing along to books of their favorite songs. Even the youngest Squirrels are able to read independently when the words are familiar lyrics. This is a great way for children to develop early literacy skills including concepts of print, purposes for reading, and book handling skills.

The Squirrels have displayed their artistic talents by making the characters from their favorite songs. We have itsy bitsy spiders climbing through the room and a huge bus featuring the wheels (go round and round), the babies (go waa, waa, waa), the horn (goes beep, beep, beep) and more! We also made alligator purses to explore dramatic play with the story of The Lady with the Alligator Purse.

The Squirrels got lots of counting practice with "Ten Little Monkeys" and There Were Ten in the Bed. We also let the clapping from Miss Mary Mack lead into patterning with claps, colors, and body motions.

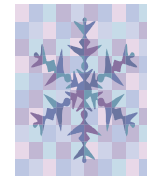
## **No Headline Here By NPASC**

This month, the highly secretive children at NPASC do not want a newsletter article written about them. They would prefer to remain completely anonymous.

Therefore, no one will discuss our Valentine's pizza party. Furthermore, no one will mention the beautiful cards that the children wrote to patients in the Veteran's hospital as a way to earn that pizza party.

To a passerby, it may appear that NPASC children have been playing a lot of football and have been playing in the snow. We are not able to confirm nor deny this information.

Recently, some fantastic colors and artwork were spotted in the snow. The children claim no responsibility.



## **Fun In The Snow!!**

### **By The Kangaroos**

We have been really enjoying this cold weather. We brought our sled out put on all our winter gear and took turns pulling each other in the snow, making snow angels and having snow ball fights (only with the soft snow!). Our kids love being outside when the temperatures allow it.

January is a big birthday month for the Kangaroos. We started out with Erin's birthday celebration, then Kimmy and ended with Paula's. We took a vote on how old each teacher was. I only mention this because 'Paula was 18', Kimmy was 64' and 'Erin was 50'.

We would like to stress that we go out whenever the weather permits. If there is a chance of snow, please send in boots, mittens, and hats as well as snow pants if possible. A change of clothing in our extra clothing box would be very helpful.

During our conversations about Friendship in February we decided to write a letter to someone close to us that we don't see very often. We made our own letterhead and got addresses from our parents of our 'special' person. We composed a letter about how we feel about them and things we wanted to share with them. We put a stamp on the envelopes and took them to the post office and mailed them. Some of them needed air mail stamps because they were going outside the United States. We sure hope our friends write back to us.

Back on the Septa 109 for the Kangaroos!! We headed down Baltimore Pike to MY GYM. What fun we had with all the great equipment and the wonderful program Miss Danielle and Mr. Guy had ready for us. We were the only ones there – it was awesome. What a great place to share movement and music with our friends when the weather outside does not allow it. There were so many age appropriate, safe choices for our kids to make....they were non stop! The Kangaroos did a great job and want to visit MY GYM again.

Maybe some of you have noticed our new substitute in the Preschool. Her name is Janet O'Conner. She is a mother of three children, lives in Swarthmore and is Paula's neighbor. The kids already look forward to Janet being in their classroom. We are lucky to have great, loving substitutes like Bobbiie Muster, to watch our children when we have to be out of the classroom. All of the children look forward to giving her hugs. Also, Ann Pye and Cathy Bartkowski who have been priceless to TCDN for many years.

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TCDN administrative staff has changed their email addresses.  
Cindy Murray-cindy.tcdn.org  
Maureen Koch-maureen.tcdn.org  
Vera D'Ercole-vera.tcdn.org

REMINDER—  
WEEK OF THE  
YOUNG CHILD—  
APRIL 10—16  
PLEASE CHECK THE  
WEBSITE FOR  
SPECIAL EVENTS AT YOUR CHILD'S  
SITE.



## What would you buy with \$1,000,000? By The Crickets

The Crickets have been busy learning the letters of the alphabet. We are on letter “O” already! Each week we learn two letters and we do a project to go with the letter. When we are finished we will have 26 project pages to go into our Alphabet Book. We also come up with long lists of “words” to go with the letters we are working on each week. Some of us are even in the beginning stages of reading! We are so proud. In addition to the alphabet we have been learning about money. Jenny asked the Crickets... If you had \$1,000,000, what would you buy?

Lou B.- I would buy the circus.

Gabby – I would buy infinity real Dalmation dogs.

Alexandra – I would buy a yellow cell phone.

Danny – I would buy an I Pad.

Sam – I would buy a Spiderman web shooter.

Gia – I would buy wood to make my own house and a walkie-talkie.

Lilly – I would buy a farm.

Charlie – I would buy more money.

Isabella – I would buy my own house.

Max – I would buy all the boy action figures in the whole world.

Louis P. – I would buy a purple Scooby Doo.



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## Eating Healthy By The Owls

We had a great month of February here in the Owl Room.

In the beginning of the month, we talked about nutrition. Charlie and Gracie’s Mom, Charlotte came in and told us about “sometimes foods” and “every day foods”. It was a fun way to learn how to eat healthy! We then began to get ready for Valentine’s Day. We made hearts and cards for our room, and we told each other about our special Valentine. Our Valentine’s party was so fun since we got to enjoy “sometimes” foods!

Finally, we finished up the month by working on our counting. We have been working very hard on our counting books, and we can’t wait to show them off.

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**SAVE THE DATE**

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



## **It's Snowing in Wallingford, Too**

### **By WASC**

What fun the children of WASC have had with the winter snow. Plowing the parking lot made mounds of snow. Squeals of excitement could be heard as the children sled down the hills, dug in the mounds or climbed through the piles of snow.

In celebration of President's Day, WASC children have their silhouettes displayed. Parents are trying to figure out which silhouette belongs to their child, not an easy task. The display of silhouette is quite impressive.

WASC staff and children are waiting for Spring which according to "Puxsutawney Phil" will be arriving soon. Our Keystone grant has arrived. We look to our new books, cabinets, tables and computers. WASC is also anxious for the Phillies season to begin!!!!

When you spring clean, WASC would greatly appreciate donations for our "Crazy Auction" to be held during the early dismissal days in April.

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## **NBC10 WAKE-Up Call**

### **By The Explorers**

The Explorers have enjoyed a variety of fun experience during the month of February. Even with the many disruptions of snow delays and furniture deliveries.

The month's group time activities focused on an engineering theme in response to the many interesting structures and vehicles we observed the Explorers constructing during free play time. Listed is a sampling of some of our activities:

- A "Yertle the Turtle" stacking game
- Marshmallow and toothpick structures
- Boat construction and floating
- Sink and float with a helium balloon

Much fun was had making observations, predictions, constructing, and testing.

The AM Explorers were part of an NBC10 Wake-Up Call that was televised very early in the morning of March 1. Our Wake-Up Call can be viewed on the NBC10 website for the next two weeks. The children did a great job of knowing what to do and when! And the NBC10 Newscasters got a kick out of the Explorer's paper airplanes.

It has been very exciting to watch the Explorer's interest in reading and writing flourish. Many of the Explorers have been writing and illustrating their own books. Several have even read to the group at story time. Recently we set out a collection of easy readers that the children can be found reading together and independently at various times of the day. The children have also discovered many books as we moved the books from our old shelves to the new shelves. Along with our new shelving – 7 sets, we also received new tables, an easel, project drying racks, a car play carpet and storage bins. Thanks to Rob, we were able to get legs on the tables, casters on shelves and many other assembly tasks completed. All of these items were purchased with grant money from the Keystone STARS program.

## Saying Goodbye to Winter By the OASC

Some adults are eagerly awaiting spring as they reflect on a winter full of shoveling snow, driving on icy roads, leaving early to arrive at work on time, and clearing their cars of snow. With all of this going on, it's easy to forget what a delight snow can be. As adults, we have many fond memories of building snowmen and igloos and sledding with friends down treacherous slopes; however, as we grow older, snow sometimes becomes more of an obstacle than anything. The children at the OASC have helped to remind us adults of what fun snow can be. They don't seem to be wanting March 20<sup>th</sup>, the first day of spring to get here any faster; in fact, they are taking every chance they can get at savoring winter. Over the past couple of months, we have seen the imaginative side of our children on display as they turned a patch of ice into a glorified skating rink and made an ordinary baking sheet into a makeshift sled. We were inspired by the fearlessness of Jonathan when it came to sliding on ice and Michaela, who showed her peers and teachers how to keep their balance on the ice. As the temperatures began climbing and our "skating rink" melted, we thought that would be the end of our snow adventures. We



guessed wrong! On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, a "surprise snow" or a snow that "came out of nowhere," as Karthik called it, appeared. This time around we went to a hill nearby our site. Henry, Francisco, and Lucy were the first to slide down the hill. Later, other children glided down the snowy hill, but struggled to get back up. With the help of Lily, and Rory linking themselves together and reaching out their hands, the other children were able to make their way back up; they displayed excellent teamwork. When going home with pants wet from snow and fingers numb the teachers at the OASC can't complain. We can only smile at the fact that the kids at the OASC help us adults to feel like kids again, which is one of the reasons we love working there. Children who spent time inside worked on creating dreamcatchers, pennants, sandart, knitting, and painting bird-houses for spring. Additionally, they played ping pong, air hockey and pool upstairs. Recently, we have acquired new laptop computers that the children can use to assist in homework or visit sites that have met our approval. Nora and Rory have been using the computers to research wolves and have changed the background on all four laptops to pictures of wolves. With winter came many great things at the OASC including snow, hot chocolate, ice skating, sledding and let's not forget...a grant from Keystone stars; we are proud to say our site has now moved from star 1 to star 2!!!

**\*We would like to remind parents to please call us @ (610) 328-0305 or email: oasc.tcdn@gmail.com if your child will be absent.**

## **Cornhole**

### **By SASC**

What a busy (and cold) month it has been! All of our hard work of measuring, cutting, drilling and painting is finished and the SASC is finally finished with their creation of a beanbag toss game called “Cornhole.” Over twenty children helped out with the many jobs to create the Cornhole with guidance and safety precautions provided by Rob. Already the game has been a hit, and has been played every day since its completion.

Lots of new additions have been showing up at SASC in order to better the program. Four new tables, five shelving units, a new paint job in the boy’s bathroom, Homosote board to display children’s artwork, two drying racks, and some fun carpet squares are just some of the new items to improve the site.

SASC has also started their Kindness Challenge, where the children try to be “caught being good” by the teachers. They can be caught being good by doing a bunch of different things to help out around after school club such as helping with cleanup, starting homework on their own, helping a friend learn a new game or cleaning up after someone that may have forgotten to name a few. The children have a goal of 100 and are already up to 34. When they reach their goal, a reward will be given to the children. They haven’t voted on their reward yet. Hopefully, the next newsletter will have an update with completion of our kindness goal.

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## **Game Time**

### **By The Ducklings**

The Ducklings enjoyed numerous games during the past two months. Some were traditional preschool games (most notably- Ring around the Rosy) and some less known games such as, “Put Your Little Foot” and “Tooty Ta”. All of these games were engaging for our group of toddlers because they all enjoyed music and movement- two key elements in all three games. Characteristics of these games included a noncompetitive format and opportunities for developing cooperative skills as the children learned to hold hands, move together and laugh together as the games appealed to everyone’s “silly side” through physical humor.

In addition to transitional games, both the ducklings and their teachers invented numerous games spontaneously during the course of free play each day. These games included:

-Blow the scarf off your head: Light silk scarves were placed on top of each child/teacher’s head and each person tried to blow it off by blowing upward.

-Sparkle shoe chase: Children dressed up in dramatic play sparkle shoes, and then chased each other around the tables. (No one was ever caught!)

-How much can you carry? Toddlers are natural hoarders, so one day one of the children walked across the room with an armful of toys, laughing. When other children saw this they imitated him and grabbed as much as they could carry too. Before long toys were being transported in mass from one end of the room to another by a group of energetic and giggling munchkins! Additionally, Ducklings enjoy endless variations of Hide-and-Seek (i.e. Hide-the Penguin), one of their favorites-Dump and Run, and a game during which they...Catch-Bubbles-on Your-Nose.

Playing games in the Duckling room, toddler style, puts a brand new spin on “Let the Games Begin!”

Dear TCDN Families:

I have resigned as Office Manager/Development Coordinator of TCDN effective March 18<sup>th</sup>. The decision was a very difficult one to make because I have grown fond of the TCDN community, and especially the children.

As many of you know, I have been attending Villanova University to receive my Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and Communications and this path has led me to this exciting opportunity. My new role will be the Director of Advancement at St. Bernadette's in Drexel Hill, where I will be able to utilize my marketing and development skills.

I will take with me many memories of TCDN. It was my pleasure to get to know all of you over the last five years. I will miss you all, but most of all I will miss the children and the love they have given me over the years.

Fondly,  
Vera D'Ercole



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## **Franklin Institute Offers Free Community Nights**

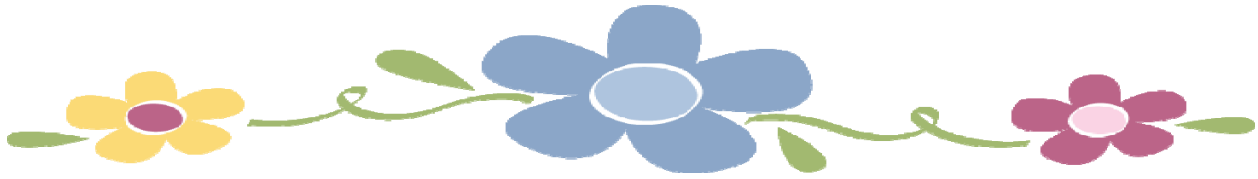
The Franklin Institute is pleased to introduce Target Community Nights at The Franklin Institute, a FREE educational and fun-filled science extravaganza sponsored by Target! Everyone is welcome to join in the fun, and experience The Franklin Institute's exhibitions, special programs, and themed activities.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



## Director's Corner

I suppose it's timely with the arrival of Spring this month, that I highlight TCDN new beginnings and administrative changes, as well. In addition to celebrating the joy this spring of hearing the voices and laughter of children playing and learning outdoors, I bring to your attention:

- **Registration is due now for enrollment next year.** To keep your space, please do not delay!
- Don't forget to get your **Summer Club** registration in, also. The feedback last year was overwhelmingly positive and teachers are busy putting together another action-packed summer filled with one-of-a-kind activities, exciting field trips, swimming and interesting visitors and community collaborations.

- **THERE ARE CHANGES TO THE UPCOMING TCDN CALENDAR!!!**
  1. The last day of the 10-month preschool program will be **Thursday, June 30th**. The preschool program will be **CLOSED Friday July 1st** for room transitions/preparation. We will also be **CLOSED Monday, July 4th** for the holiday. The start of the summer 2-month program will begin on **Tuesday, July 5th**.
  2. The out-of-school time programs will **CLOSE on Wednesday, June 15th at 12:15 noon**. This is the last half-day of school and TCDN will only operate the Before School Club and the AM/PM Explorer programs on their modified schedule **until 12:15 PM**.
  3. The Summer Club will be action-packed this year, with programming extended both earlier in the summer and later in the summer. Program dates begin **Monday, June 22, and end Wednesday, August 31st**.

- We have been planning our goodbye to Vera. The TCDN staff celebrated her contributions to TCDN with a reception on Friday, March 11th. Families were invited to stop and say goodbye. Vera's last day will be Friday, March 18th.
- I have received resumes from many qualified applicants for the Office Administrator position. Maureen and I will be conducting interviews over the next 2 weeks, and then training our new Administrative team member. I ask for your patience during this period of transition. We anticipate a smooth transition regarding the upcoming database management for summer and fall enrollment, and with plans for TCDN's 25th Stuppy Fun Run.

Enjoy the arrival of Spring!  
Cindy