



FCCC NEWSLETTER

Play to Learn, Learn to Love

Director News

Dear Families,
 The month of February is chock full of fun, social and learning events throughout the child care! The Walnut Street Theater is coming to our school on February 5th to put on the performance of 'Once Upon A Wolf' for our Puddle Jumper through Pre-school children! The performance will run from 10-11am in the MLK Room. What happens when the Big, Bad, Wolf wants to be the good guy for a change?? I can't wait to find out! On February 11th we will celebrate the Chinese New Year (Year of the Snake) with our traditional Chinese food luncheon. Please pack a regular lunch but FCCC will also provide a variety of vegetable and meat dishes ordered from The Wok located at 16th & Walnut Street. We have used the Wok for several years now, and they take special care to protect patrons with allergies to nuts.

Please let your child's teachers know if you have any concerns regarding this event. Gung Hay Fat Choy to all!! On February 14th the preschool will have a Valentine's Pajama Jam in the Jones Room from 10-1pm. Classes will have decorated boxes for Valentines to be shared with friends and teachers. We ask that you refrain from bringing in candy treats and to also ask about food allergies if sharing naturally sweetened treats or foods from home. In celebration of Black History Month, Mlanjeni's Magical Theater will visit and perform an African folktale called Ananse Ame using gestures, magic, comedy, puppets and lots of audience participation and fun! School is never boring at FCCC!!



One of our Continuous Quality Improvement goals

for this year is to take an evaluative look at the foods we provide and make improvements where needed. A listing of our snacks was reviewed by a certified nutritionist from The Food Trust and feedback was given. Thanks, Caroline (Susanna & CiCi's mom) for facilitating this work! Here are some improvements for this year: All children 2-5yrs will be offered 2% milk in place of whole milk. (already in place). We will strive to only offer whole grains and minimize processed dried snacks by 100% (developing). In addition to the fresh fruit already offered daily, we will also include weekly servings of raw vegetables. (already in place). Families will be provided with daily/weekly menus for snacks (developing). Great news! Friends Child Care CTR is officially a STAR 3 facility in the

FCCC

February 2013

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Care Bear News

In the month of February, we will be making Valentine's Day crafts and celebrating Black History Month, also the children will continue to work on their fine and gross motor skills. They are moving and getting around, some are beginning to feed themselves table

Bear Cub News

The theme for February is " If you're happy and you know it". It is going to be a busy month for the Bear Cub class. We will be working on activities involving Black History month, Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year.

For Valentine celebration our activities consist of making Valentine cards, different size heart collage, making a Valentine mailbox for our special Valentine cards that we will receive from our friends and teachers. We will practice touching our friends with gentle hands and giving hugs and kisses. We also will be helping them to express their

foods, hold their bottles for most or the whole feeding, pulling up from sitting position to stand, etc. There are babies who are doing the army crawl, and some of our little ones



are walking with push toys. They are all moving and growing so fast it is amazing.

Charlotte will turn 1 on February 17, 2013.



feelings, as well as noticing their friends feelings. We will make red sugar free Jell-O and on Valentine's Day we will have a center-wide Valentine celebration. There will be games, dancing and special snacks.

For Black History celebration our activities consist of making traffic lights invented by Garret Morgan in 1923. The Bear Cubs will identify the colors green, yellow and red. Bicycle frame invented by I.R. Johnson in 1899. The Bear Cubs will learn how to say the word bike.



For Chinese New Year celebration we will make dragon masks and march around the class listening to music.

Important Dates: February 14,2013 Valentine Celebration.

February 19,2013 Storytelling with Mlanjeni.

FYI: February 18,2013 Center Closed for President's Day.

Cuddle Cub News

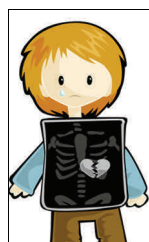
The month of February is promising to be a busy one for the Cuddle Cubs. Black History Month, Valentine's Day and President's Day are this month's themes. We will learn about African American trailblazers, such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens and Barrack O'Bama.

The Cuddle Cubs will celebrate Valentine's Day with a Pajama Party.

More details to follow soon.

This month we welcomed a new Cuddle Cub to our class. Elise Tyrell and her parents Dan & Christine joined our class on January 31st.

Birthday wishes go out to Calum, who blew out 2 candles on February 1st. Barbara also celebrates her big day this month. Barbara will be



cutting her cake on February 10th!

Thank you to Marco's Mom, Alicia for her generous donations of snacks & batteries to our class.

Wish List: Baby Strollers, Shopping Carts, Boy Dress-Ups (shoes & clothes).

Puddle Jumper News

Our theme for February is Alike and Different. Throughout the month, we will talk about some famous African-Americans (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, Garrett Morgan, Langston Hughes, Jackie Robinson, Thurgood Marshall and Madam C.J. Walker) and their contribution to society. We will name the current president, some past presidents and some people in congress.

Math activities will include counting sides on shapes, grouping shapes by their number of sides, counting the



colors on a traffic light, sorting by height, and matching the number of objects to the corresponding number.

Cooking activities will include making spaghetti and meatballs, square rice krispy treats, heart-shaped pancakes, circle cookies, making shape sandwiches, fruit salad. We will also taste different foods and discuss how they are alike or different (sweet, sour, bitter or salty).

Preschool News

Although February is the shortest month of the year, the Triangles and Quads are ready to engage in a variety of hands-on fun filled activities. The preschoolers will focus on "Black History, Valentine's Day, and likes and differences". We will create our own replica of a few inventions in honor of "Black History". Be sure to check out our upcoming display of inventions.

We will also continue to work on a letter a week until we have reviewed the alphabet from A to Z.

Hablamos Española

Spanish classes have resumed. Jeanette has been teaching the children numbers, colors, shapes, sizes and alphabets in Spanish. For the month of February, Jeanette will be focusing on "Amistad" which means "Friendship". Here is a list of words she will be incorporating during Spanish class.

Amistad/Friendship
Amor/love
Amigos/Friends
Compartir/Share
Abraso/Hugs
Jugar/Play

Upcoming Events:

'Once Upon a Wolf', presented by Walnut Street Theater, Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 10:00am in MLK Room.



Valentine's Day pajama party- Thursday February 14, 2013 at 10:00am in Rufus Jones Room.

Chinese New Year lunch on Monday, February 11th welcoming the Year of the Snake.

Language Arts will include listening to and reciting poems, singing, and a reenactment of the Montgomery Boycott. Voting: Which teacher would you want to be president?

Art activities will include making traffic lights, painting stop signs, crosswalks and a street.

Dramatic play will include learning to cross the street safely, The Montgomery Boycott, and reciting Langston Hughes' Dreams poem.

Mlanjeni Storytelling celebrating 'Black History Month,' on Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 10:30am in room 136.

Birthdays

Cyrus- 2/5
Andrew- 2/6
Dhriti- 2/24



Announcements & Reminders

Every Wednesday is **pizza day**.

Check children's mail slots every day.

Friends Child Care Center is on **Facebook**. Check us out for upcoming Fundraising Events.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-Child-Care-Center/197767671575>



Resource Library: CHECK IT OUT

Parents and teachers are welcome to borrow books from our resource library in the B space alcove. Please complete the borrower's form and drop it in the right side slot. Please return borrowed

materials in a timely fashion, so that others have an opportunity to borrow as well. Visit www.librarything.com, Username:

fccc, Password: 1501cherry for a list of books in our library.

Remember to show **ID cards** upon entering the Friends Center Lobby or stop and sign in if you don't have your card. This is an important security measure for the safety of our children. Additional ID Cards are available in the FCCC Office.

Additional **Parking Placards** are available in the FCCC Office, 2nd Floor of the C space.

Director's News Continued (from page 1)

Keystone STARS program! State assessors from PAKeys visited our center in December to conduct a quality sampling of our program by observing 2 of the 6 classrooms, (1 infant/toddler and 1 pre-school.) The assessors looked at our program structure, classroom curriculums, physical plant and interactions. The minimum passing score for STAR 3 is 4.25 and we scored 5.58 which is high enough to have passed for STAR 4. I applaud the teachers for their excellence and hard work throughout the designation process and receptiveness to change. The hands on coaching through weekly visits we received from our Success By Six mentor was invaluable as well. FCCC will take some time to absorb and appreciate this success and will strive to complete the journey to

STAR 4 by 2014.

As you are aware, parking is a challenge for us as we are truly in the heart of the city. The passenger loading spaces and free metered parking along 15th Street and at the back of our school on Race often is not enough. We have on record numerous attempts/requests for additional parking and will continue to pester the PPA and Streets Department. Just this week, representatives from State Rep. Brian Sims office and Councilman Kenny's office have heard our concerns and will look into alternatives. Until then, please continue to refrain from parking on Cherry Street. Our next bake sale is scheduled for February 11th-15th. We welcome bakers & table sitters! If you bring items to donate, please be sure to label your

container, and we will be sure to get it back to you by the end of the day. Please also tell a coworker or friend who works nearby to stop by and get their morning cup of Joe or lunch sweet treat. :))

The fundraising committee is always looking for fresh, appealing ideas and events. If you think you have a great idea and would like to pass it along, please email me or drop a note in one of the lock boxes.

Finally, I wish you all a happy, safe and healthy month of February!

Rachel O'Neal Coats

Director

Upcoming Events

February 5, 2013—'Once Upon a Wolf,' presented by the Walnut Street Theater for PJs through QUs at 10:00am in MLK, made possible by the Terri Lynne Lokoff Foundation Grant.

February 14, 2013, **Valentine's Day Pa-**

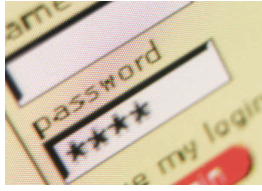
jama Jam in Rufus Jones Room for Preschoolers from 10:00am-12:00pm. Celebrating love for all ages.

February 11, 2013, **Chinese New Year** at FCCC.

February 19, 2013, **Mlanjeni Storytell-**

er will celebrate Black History Month with his animated storytelling and puppetry at 10:00am in Room 136 for the Toddlers and at 10:30am for the Preschoolers, made possible by the Terri Lynne Lokoff Foundation Grant.

FCCC Website Information



Be sure to visit our website at www.friendschildcare.org to

download forms, check out calendar events, and visit the classroom portal to see what is happening in your child's classroom. Parent Login is 'letmein.'

We would love to hear feed-

back regarding our website and on how we can improve communication with our families.

Thank you for helping to make FCCC the best it can be.

Holiday Closings

Monday, February 18, 2013 in celebration of President's Day. Please make alternative child care arrangements.

FCCC's Spring In-service Day is scheduled for Friday, March 29, 2013.



Allergy & Health Alerts

Classroom Allergy Alerts:

NUT FREE CLASSROOMS:
CUDDLE CUBS, TRIANGLES, AND QUADS .

Please be sure to wash your child's hands immediately upon arrival into your child's classroom.

Illness Policy:

It is in the best interest of the children and staff that everyone participates in reducing the spread of illness and maintaining a healthy environment. FCCC bases its health and wellness policies in accordance with DPW Regulations and the American Academy of Pediatrics Caring

for Our Children Performing Standards. Please call to inform us whenever your child will be absent due to illness. Your child may not be brought in for child care unless she/he is able to participate fully in all activities including outdoor play. You will need a back-up plan you can use when your child is sick.

Please be alert for pre-illness symptoms such as lethargy, glassy eyes, diarrhea, fever, etc., and keep your child home if she/he seems to be coming down with something.



When a child has been diagnosed with an infectious (contagious) illness, FCCC issues an Infectious Disease alert via email to the affected class-

room. If multiple cases occur throughout the Center, a center-wide notification will go out via email. The identity of the child will not be given and personal information will be kept confidential.

Fundraising at FCCC

Throughout the year, parents will be asked to support fundraising through volunteerism and participation. There are many ways in which you can be supportive.

Provide baked goods for bake sales.

Volunteer to work on planning committee for annual auction and social.

Actively seek donations and company sponsorship for annual auction event.

Volunteer to be a fundraising

cheerleader for your child's classroom.

Seek to meet minimum family participation levels for small fundraisers held throughout the year.



PNO; Bake Sales; etc.

If you have any suggestions on Fundraising ideas, please don't hesitate to let us know. Also, if you are interested in volunteering on the Fundraising Committee or Annual Auction Committee, please notify the office. We would love your help!

Fundraising Events:

T-shirts are now available in the FCCC Office for \$10.00/each.

Parents Night Out (PNO)

FCCC holds a semi-monthly PNO (Parents Night Out) for Parents to have a night for romance, fun or just a little time to get things done.

We provide the baby sitting service in a familiar and comfortable environment with staff that the children know, and you get to have worry-free fun with

your significant other or a fun time with friends.



Each bi-month has a theme and special activities planned for the children, along with a nutritional dinner.

This is a fundraiser for FCCC. All

proceeds go to support our Child Care Center and its programs.

Upcoming PNOs:

February 15—Pajama Jam S'mores Night!

April 19—Things that Hop!

June 14—Sand Castle Magic!

Bake Sales

FCCC runs semi-annual bake sale fundraisers throughout the year to help offset programming costs. We look to our families to volunteer to help with these events.

Upcoming 2012-2013 Bakes Sale Schedule: weeks of **February 11-15**

April 15-19
June 10-14
Families are asked to sign up to bake goods



to be sold in the Friends Center Lobby to building tenants and visitors.

Bakes sales run from 8:00am-

3:00pm daily. Please provide a list of ingredients in order to maintain safe options for all those with food allergies.

Parents are also needed to help table-sit during these bake sales.

We appreciate your support.

Volunteering at FCCC

FCCC has many opportunities for families to volunteer their time and/or services to help improve life here at Friends Child Care.

If you have any skills, time and/or energy to participate in a family work day, sew or repair broken or torn items,

share your skills during show and tell, read stories to the children, chaperone field trips, help with fundraisers, work on the Annual Auction Committee or work on the Social Planning Committee to organize planned family events, we would love your help and ideas.



Please contact the FCCC Office and let us know how you would like to help by emailing or calling the FCCC office.

Baby News

The Stork has Stopped By..'



And Delivered Saylor Shanley Campbell

On January 13, 2013

A precious little bundle at 8 lbs. 3.5 oz.

Deegan (in the PJs) is very proud of his new baby sister.

Shanley & Patrick are doing just fine.

And Delivered Liam Thornton

On January 2, 2013

A precious little bundle at 7 lbs. 1.6 oz.

Calum (in the CCs) is very proud of his new baby brother.

Aparna & Andrew are doing just fine.

Meet Our Staff

Care Bears Teachers:

Markita, Kyra, Erica, Nathalie, Toni, Robin

Bear Cub Teachers:

Michelle, Linda, Carla

Cuddle Cub Teachers:

Shannon, Barbara, Lea, Vickie

Puddle Jumper Teachers:

Cordella, Grace, Jeanette

Preschool Teachers:

Teresa, Susan, Missy, Bjay, Jamal, Jacqueline

Floater:

Laura Kirby



Sub:

Gail Centola

Administration:

Raechel, Susan, Eileen



Friends

CHILD CARE CENTER

Play to learn, learn to love

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Care Bears	(215) 241-7013	carebears@friendschildcare.org
Bear Cubs	(215) 241-7012	bearcubs@friendschildcare.org
Cuddle Cubs	(215) 241-7027	cuddlecubs@friendschildcare.org
Puddle Jumpers	(215) 241-7007	puddlejumper@friendschildcare.org
Triangles	(215) 241-7012	triangles@friendschildcare.org
Quads	(215) 241-7012	quads@friendschildcare.org
