



FCCC NEWSLETTER

Play to Learn, Learn to Love

OCTOBER 2013

Director News

Dear Families,

Did you know that October is National Fire Prevention Month? Therefore, it is an ideal time to get out your step ladders to check or change the batteries in your home smoke detectors to ensure proper functioning in the event there is a fire? In a Philadelphia newspaper interview, Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers reported fire deaths are down significantly due to increased prevention and education programs, but there is still work to be done until there is a 0 fatality rate. Do you have a home evacuation plan? What is your Plan B if you are unable to get downstairs to the front door? Have you talked with your toddler through preschooler about fire safety and burn prevention at home? It's never too early or too late to put basic fire and burn prevention practices into place. We have reached out to our local firehouse to hopefully set up a date for them to visit with truck and equipment. Most often, children are frightened when they see firefighters in full gear and so they hide from them. Having the firefighters come in a social setting to speak with and be introduced to their work gear informally can be less threatening and very helpful. The Chinatown Dragons of Engine 20 have never let us down and love visiting us each year so we look forward to their visit! Halloween will be celebrated in a new way at FCCC this year. Quiver Farms will be visiting us on October 31st bringing farm animals for feeding and petting and those



who choose to dress up will be wearing animal or animal caregiver costumes (either real life or from children's storybooks). A team of organizing teachers has planned great outdoor games and activities for all age groups. There will be crafts, Fall/Halloween games, movement activities and decorative healthy snack choices. (No candy will be provided.) We ask that families resist bringing in treats to share as we want to limit the amount of sugar and exposure to offensive foods for children with food allergies. Parents are certainly welcomed to join us for the festivities which will run from 9:30-12noon out in our courtyard. A contribution of \$5 per family and a signed permission form giving consent for your child to participate in the feeding and petting is required. Please look for the permission slip for this event in emails and on our website in the secured parent section. Mes de la herencia hispana comenzó el 15 de septiembre y se extenderá hasta el 15 de octubre. Jeanette profesoras y Jackie son clases de Español equipo docente será estar exponiendo a los niños a las tradiciones españolas, música, comidas y cultura cada semana. ¿Quién dice que eres demasiado joven para aprender salsa 2 años! Mes de la herencia hispana feliz!!!! Just kidding!! Here's what I wrote:
Hispanic Heritage Month began on September 15th and will run through October

Inside this issue:

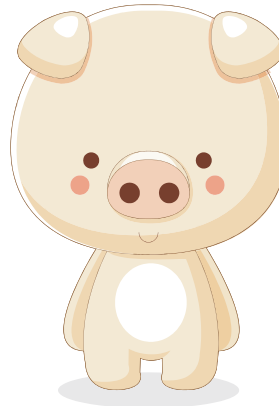
Care Bear News	2
Bear Cub News	2
Cuddle Cub News	3
Puddle Jumper News	3
Director's News (Cont'd)	4
Triangle News	4
Quad News	4
Upcoming Events	5
Announcements & Reminders	5
Allergy & Health Alerts	6
Website Infor-	6
School Closings	6
Meet our Staff	6
Fundraising at FCCC	7
PNO	7
Bake Sale	7
Letter from a Parent to FCCC	8
Baby News	8
Contact Info	9

Care Bear News

Let's fall into autumn!!! The weather is perfect. Well, we hope so! Care Bears are ready for the cool chilly weather. It will not stop us from the outside fun, so please provide appropriate clothing for the fall weather. This month, we will be "All About Me," so we would like to know all about our Care Bears. If it is possible, we would like for you to bring in family photos so we can hang them around our room. What favorite stories do you read? What songs do you sing? What do you do for free play? We would like to know.

We would like to do some of the things you do at home with your children in our classroom with all of our friends. This month, we will introduce the climber and tunnel for our mobile infants. This should be lots of fun. For our non-mobile infants, we will provide and introduce new tummy time activities.

Important Dates:



Annual Board Meeting & Back to School Night: 10/9 at 5:00pm—please sign up in our classroom.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be on Wednesday, 10/23. Please sign up for a conference.

Photo Day will be on Tuesday, October 15th.

Please do not forget our Harvest Festival at the end of this month on October 31st beginning at 9:30am. We would like all the families who can attend to do so!!!!

Bear Cub News

The Bear Cubs are adjusting well to their new class and have been busy playing with their friends, working on projects, playing in the play yard etc. Our theme for October will be Au-



tumn Boogie. We will be focusing on Autumn, Halloween and the color orange. We will spend time outdoors observing the change in the weather, flowers, trees, leaves, plants, clothes, etc. Aside from this, we will be working on Halloween projects and the color orange. We will try to create Jack-o-Lanterns, ghosts, spiders, pumpkins, Halloween wreaths, etc. The Bear Cubs will also be making orange Jell-O.

Reminders:

Yoga class begins October 7, 2013.

Board Annual meeting/Back to School Night October 9, 2013.

Picture Day October 15, 2013.

Parent/Teacher conference October 25, 2013.

First Annual Harvest Festival on October 31, 2013 from 9:30 to Noon featuring Quiver Farm's visit. Please dress your child as their favorite animal.

Happy Birthday Elija, who celebrated his first Birthday on September 26, 2013.

Cuddle Cub News

It's officially fall and the Cuddle Cubs are ready to embark on a new season.

Our themes for the month of October are The Fall Season and Harvest.

We'll be collecting leaves, gourds, pumpkins and pinecones and studying their textures and colors. As a representation of the changing season, we'll be decorating our classroom with original artwork by our Cuddle Cubs using paints in fall colors.

October is also national drum, cookie and book month. We encourage you to bring in your favorite books from home so that we can read them during circle time to celebrate book month. In honor of national drum month, we will be listening to various types of music and sharpening those fine motor skills and auditory senses by tapping out beats on the various drums in our classroom. We may even make our own little drums. If you have any spare Tupperware you

would like to donate for this project, it would be greatly appreciated. For now, we'll stick to making cookies out of construction paper and other art materials to maintain our healthy food practices, but feel free to celebrate national cookie month at home!

Everyone's favorite holiday, Halloween, is upon us, and we will not only be working on all sorts of spooky, fun art projects but we will be exploring the sights, sounds and textures surrounding this exciting time of year. We will be working all of these themes into our lesson plans through discovery walks, sensory play, song and story-telling.

FCCC is all fired up for our Fall Harvest Festival on October 31. We can't wait to see all the fun costumes you've come up with!

Be sure to bring in the following items. (We will distribute reminder slips when-

ever these things are running low and need to be replenished.)

Spare clothes (size and season appropriate)
Diapers
Wipes
Diaper Rash Cream Powder

We will be celebrating a few birthdays throughout the Month of October. Happy birthday to:

Margot 10/3
Cooper 10/8
Cecelia 10/11
Alaina 10/18

Happy October from all of the Cuddle Cub teachers!



Puddle Jumper News

This month's theme is fall/harvest. Throughout the month, the PJs will learn where some of the foods we eat come from and how the food is gathered. They will also learn about the job of leaves on trees. They will begin to recognize the colors yellow, red, brown and orange. In addition, the PJs will continue to look at the benefits of eating healthy foods vs. junk food. Activities for the month will include art, cooking, math and story-telling and large and small motor activities and dramatic play

Art activities will include painting with leaves, creating a nature collage,

Cooking activities will include baking

an apple pie, pumpkin seeds and pumpkin muffins, making uncooked play dough, mixing pancake batter, shucking corn, making chicken noodle soup, and making fruit and vegetable smoothies.

Math activities will include counting parts of the body, sorting by shape and size and measuring ingredients in recipes.

Story time will include listening to books being read and using the flannel board and drums to tell stories.

Large and small motor activities will include walks to various parts of town, running or walking several laps around

the court yard, lacing shapes and stringing beads and filling and dumping containers, and raking leaves.

Dramatic play will include a pretend trip to the farm to milk a cow (rubber gloves filled with water and corn starch), picking pretend apples (colored paper hung from a tree), going on a pretend hay (shredded paper) ride and going to the grocery store to buy items on a picture on a shopping list.

Happy Birthday Elise K. on 10/29!

Director's News (continued)

15th. Teachers Jeanette and Jackie are team teaching Spanish classes and will be exposing children to Spanish traditions, music, foods and culture each week. Who says 2 year olds are too young to learn to salsa! Happy Hispanic Heritage Month!!

Fall has officially begun, and we are reminded of a few safety checkpoints here at FCCC. If your child needs to have an epi pen, Tylenol for the prevention of fever spikes that lead to seizures or nebulizer or rescue inhaler for asthma; please check the expiration dates for these important medications kept at school, and please also have

your pediatrician provide us with an updated treatment plan for our records. Your child's health history will be kept confidentially and only shared with the persons responsible for their care. I thank you in advance for providing us with these important updates. Back to School Night and the Annual Meeting will take place on October 9, 2013 from 5-6:30pm. This annual event provides families with an opportunity to be introduced to our Board of Directors, review the budget for the 2013/2014 school year and go into classrooms to get information about curriculum and special events from teachers. Please plan to attend.

Have a great October!

Raechel O'Neal Coats

Raechel O'Neal Coats
Director



Triangle News

The Triangles theme for the month is "Celebrating Harvest/Fall with all the excitement that accompanies this time of year. As we begin to review the alphabet, we will make healthy edible choices to represent each letter. Choices such as applesauce/apple wedges for the letter "Aa", making banana bread/broccoli for the letter "Bb", carrots, craisins, and cucumber salad for the letter "C", and etc. We will also take a walk to the Reading Terminal to purchase our healthy harvested edibles while both explor-

ing the differences in the fruits and vegetables to support our locally grown farms. We will get creative with apple painting, apple lacing, and even learn a new apple tree game using a tree painted by the children, apples cut from construction paper, and flash cards numbered one through five. Additional activities and games will be added that teaches the concepts and recognition of letters, numbers, colors, patterns, and matching as well.

With lots of fall related books to read and some songs to sing (including

"There was an old lady who swallowed some leaves," "Five little pumpkins," and "There's a spider on the floor" we will be kept very busy. Also to add to the festivities your child can dress in their favorite animal costume and parade around the courtyard as we welcome real live animals to our school. This event will be very festive with a lot of entertainment for all.

Happy Birthday Hunter on 10/21!

Quad News

Autumn is definitely in the air, as we begin to see the leaves falling and the weather getting cooler! The Quads are ready for this month's theme: All About Fall! We will focus counting fall items, such as pumpkins, apples, and leaves. The Quads will discuss the color changes in leaves, and even make leaf works of art! In addition, we begin to focus on the letter of the week. For the month of October, we will start working on letters A-E. The children will begin to write the letters, as well as recognize them in stories read in class. Also, we will make a list of words starting with each letter. We will enjoy making apple prints, abstract works of art, and shaving cream swirled pumpkins. In addition, we will be taking walks through the neighborhood, searching for



leaves and other fall items. We will begin to create a chart of how many items we collect.

Goals for the month include:

- Letter Recognition
- Practice writing letters A-E
- Sorting and counting fall items
- Begin to graph color of leaves and fall foliage we find

Reminders: -Yoga will occur on Mondays, beginning on October 7.

-Please have your child bring in objects that focus on the letter of the week for Show and Tell.

(Oct. 2 and 3-Letter A, Oct. 9 and 10-Letter B, Oct. 16 and 17-Letter C, Oct. 23 and 24-

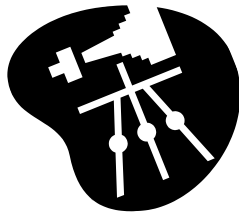
Letter D, Oct. 30 and 31-Letter E)

- Back to School Night is Wednesday, October 9 at 5:00. Hope to see you there!
- Picture Day is Wednesday, October 16.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences are Thursday, October 24. (Please make sure to sign up!)
- Harvest Festival will take place on October 31 from 9:30-12:00!
- Please make sure to bring in weather appropriate clothing for your child's cubby box!
- Happy Birthday to Luke 10/5 and Zion 10/17!
- Wish List - AA Batteries
- Happy Birthday Cole on 10/27; Neely 10/28; and Alma on 10/31.

Upcoming Events

The *FCCC Board Annual Meeting & Back to School Night* will be held on Wednesday, October 9th at 5:00p.m. in the Cherry Street Room. All parents are asked to attend. Free child care is available. Light snacks will be provided.

Photo Days: Care Bears, Bear Cubs and Cuddle Cubs will have photos taken on Tuesday, October 15. Puddle Jumpers, Triangles and Quads will have photos taken

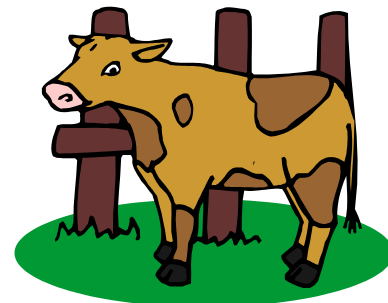


on Wednesday, October 16. *Parent/Teacher Conferences* will run from October 21-October 28.

- 10/21—Triangles
- 10/22—Puddle Jumpers
- 10/23—Care Bears
- 10/24—Quads
- 10/25—Bear Cubs
- 10/28—Cuddle

Cubs
FCCC First Annual Harvest Festival
Thursday, October 31st in

the Courtyard. Visiting Farm at 9:30am, followed by feast. All families are invited to join the fun.



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 availa-

ble in the FCCC Office.

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

Just a reminder: There is no parking on Cherry



Street. Please do not use it for drop-off and pick up.

Allergy & Health Alerts

Classroom Allergy Alerts:

NUT FREE CLASSROOMS:

CUDDLE CUBS, PUDDLE JUMPERS, TRIANGLES, AND QUADS .

»Please be sure to check the expiration dates on your child's epi-pens (and all other medications). All medications should move with a child into their new classroom when they transition.

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

Illness Policy:

It is in the best interest of the chil-

dren 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.

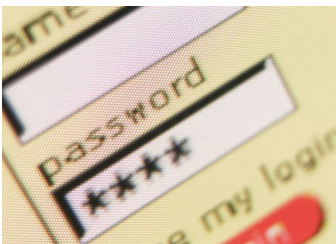
Please be alert for pre-illness symptoms

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 classroom. 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.



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 Password is 'letmein.'

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

School Closings:



Monday, November 11, 2013 for In-service Day.

Thursday & Friday, November 28 & 29, 2013 for Thanksgiving.

Meet Our Staff

Care Bears Teachers:

Markita, Toni, Erica, Kyra, Nathalie, Robin

Bear Cub Teachers:

Michelle, Linda, Carla

Cuddle Cub Teachers:

Shannon, Barbara, Lea, Vickie

Puddle Jumper Teachers:

Cordella, Grace, Jeanette, Zakiyah



Preschool Teachers:

Teresa, Susan, Missy, Jacqueline, Kiyana

Floater:

Laura Kirby

Subs:

Gail Centola

Administration:

Raechel, Susan, Eileen

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.

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.

Fundraising Events:

PNO; Bake Sales; Annual Fund Appeal, 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!



T-shirts are now available in the FCCC Office for \$12.00/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:

October 18—'Once Upon a Time'

December 20—'Frosty the Snowman'

February 21—'Pajama Jam'

April 18—'Spring has Sprung'

June 20—'Planes, Trains & Automobiles'



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 2013-2014 Bakes Sale Schedule: weeks of

November 18-22

February 10-14

April 7-11

June 23-27

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.



Letter from a Parent to FCCC

Dear Raechel,

I am writing this letter to you as a parent to give some insight about communication methods used at FCCC. I used to think all the communication emails, and reminders were wasteful. Who needed to be reminded all those times about closing, and bake sales, the various different forms to be sent in, etc.? The teacher emails were good, but it seemed repetitive. I would read the email and then come to get my boys to be told the same thing.

I no longer feel that way. Now that Aidan has gone to kindergarten, it is a whole new world for me. I knew it was going to be different, of course; reminding myself it is kindergarten, not child care. But the rude awakening it has given me leaves me almost speechless. I have received one calendar with dates to remember, but it is only for September. What about the rest of the year? How can I plan my work schedule around days that school is closed? Fortunately for me, I have a job which is fairly flexible if need be, along with grandparents who are nearby.

Getting to know what Aidan does on a daily basis is like pulling teeth. I would welcome the exchange between his teachers and an email just to get some kind of clarification about what is going on. The only information I receive is when I ask (if I don't ask, then I don't get told), which usually consists of "he was fine". Okay, I'm glad to hear he was fine, but what is he learning? Did he practice writing his name? Did he draw me another countless picture? What is going on in his day to day? I didn't know what I was missing until I no longer received the information I took for granted.

Thank you for all that you, the office staff, and the teachers and FCCC do daily for us as parents.

Erica Mason

Letter from a Parent to FCCC

The Stork has Stopped By...

And delivered Makaio Robert Kennedy-Wright

On September 23, 2013

A precious little bundle at 8 lbs. 3 oz.

Maceo (in the Puddle Jumper Classroom) is very proud
of his new baby brother.

Kerri and Paul are doing just fine.

And delivered Autumn Hui

On September 28, 2013

A precious little bundle at 6 lbs. 14 oz.

Chase (in the Triangle Classroom) is very proud
of his new baby sister.

Mary and Jeremy are doing just fine.



1501 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
(215)241-7011 (tel)
(215)864-6973 (fax)
www.friendschildcare.org

FRIENDS CHILD CARE CENTER

Office	(215) 241-7011	fcccoffice@friendschildcare.org
Director	(215) 241-7108	fcccdirector@friendschildcare.org
Finance	(215) 241-7011	fcccfinance@friendschildcare.org
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