

Whistle Stop's

Parent Connection

September-October 2007

New Web Page

Whistle Stop's new web page is up and running. You can access it at:

whistlestopchildcare.net

There are many special features on our new web page. You can view information about Whistle Stop, review the center's policies, and see the staff directory. The newsletter is posted on line and you can access various forms. We also post special announcements on the website. Please visit our new website soon.

Transition Update

We have had many transitions at Whistle Stop lately. New families have joined, summer staffs have transitioned, and children have moved up to new rooms.

The transitions have been great and we are thrilled with the progress the children are making.

As we go through these changes, we value your feedback. If you have any comments or information you'd like to share with us, don't hesitate to speak with our staff.

We encourage and value your input.

Enrollment Update

The **Sweet Peas** and **Jelly Bean** rooms are now at full capacity.

We have openings in the **Young Explorer** room (ages 4-5) and some part-time openings in the **Jumping Jacks** room (ages 3-4). Please contact Toni if you would like more information.

Fun Lunch Options

Tired of making lunches? **Pizza Mondays** and **Foodsmith's catered lunches** are here to help!

We are continuing to offer pizza lunches on Mondays from the week of September 3 through Christmas. The cost for these lunches is \$30. Checks should be made out to Whistle Stop.

And due to the great response, we're going to continue the Wednesday catered lunches from Foodsmith Catering. If you would like your child to participate, the cost is \$59.50. Please make checks out to Foodsmith Catering.

Reminder

Whistle Stop will be closed on Friday, October 12 for their annual staff retreat.

This is a day set aside each year for staff to gain additional training and have a day of fun and fellowship together. Please make alternate arrangements for child care.

Staff Birthdays and Anniversaries

October Birthdays

Speranta Dumitrescu – Oct. 7
Ruth Francis – Oct. 8

There are no staff birthdays in September.

September Anniversaries

Speranta Dumitrescu – Sept. 1994
Ed Horter – Sept. 2003
Kotoe Laackman – Sept. 2006
Amy McNabb – Sept. 2006
Kathleen Reeves – Sept. 1998
Karin Smith – Sept. 2006
Gloria Tipton – Sept. 2005
Sue Zimmerman – Sept. 2000

October Anniversaries

Ruth Francis – Oct. 1994
Nancy & Mark Schaefer – new Whistle Stop owners - Oct. 1992

Staff Training Update

Amy McNabb is taking a night class at Grand Rapids Community College on Human Growth and Development.

Sue Zimmerman is also taking a class at Grand Rapids Community College on Infant and Toddler Development with a lab.

Kathleen Reeves will attend a workshop on Autism in Young Children on September 22.

Staff Changes

Karin Smith is now working full-time in the Jumping Jack room.

Reminders

Please **label all belongings** that your child brings to Whistle Stop (i.e. lunch boxes, personal items, extra clothing, etc.)

Please be sure to **sign your child in and out** each day.

Please **drive slowly** in our parking lots. **The posted speed limit is 5 MPH.** We need to make sure that our children and families stay safe.

Whistle Stop will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day after, **November 22 and 23, 2007.**

Scholastic Book Orders

Scholastic book orders are back! These offer great deals on popular titles and they make great gift ideas for holidays and birthdays. Be sure to take advantage of these great offers.

Welcome New Families

We would like to welcome the following new families to Whistle Stop:

Sweet Peas

Lindsey Michell* (Peter and Katie)

Kiley Brillowsky (Andrew and Lori)

Jelly Beans

Wyatt Nausadis (Matthew and Emily)

Jumping Jacks

Hallea Michell* (Peter and Katie)

*siblings

Welcome Younger Siblings

We would also like to welcome some siblings who have joined their big brothers or big sisters at Whistle Stop recently:

Sweet Peas

Lindsey Ballema (sister Megan is a Young Explorer)

David Foster (brother Aaron is a Young Explorer)

Charlie Seufert (brother Jack is a Young Explorer)

Chase DeKorte (brother Clay is a Young Explorer)

Jelly Beans

Tommy McGovern (brother Michael is a Young Explorer)

Fall Recipe

Hearty Chili – crock pot style

1 lb. ground beef
15 oz. Can diced tomatoes (with juice)
15 oz. Can dark red kidney beans, drained
15 oz. Can tomato sauce
1 large stalk celery, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
1 tsp. Chili powder
1 Tbsp. Sugar
? tsp. Pepper
salt to taste

Brown ground beef. Drain off fat. Place meat in crock pot and add remaining ingredients. Stir. Cover and cook 8-10 hours on low. Try it with homemade bread and a salad for an easy meal after work. Serves 4.

Fall Fun

As the weather begins to get cooler, be sure and spend some time outdoors with your children to observe the changes that fall brings. Take a walk and notice the colors of the leaves and what the animals do to prepare for winter.