

Whistle Stop's

Parent Connection

November-December 2011

Thank You Parents

Thank you to everyone who attended our **Fall Open House** on Wednesday, October 26. It was a nice opportunity to connect with the teachers and learn more about what we're doing here at Whistle Stop.

Coming Soon

We will soon be installing **Parent Networking Boards** at Whistle Stop. These will be located in the lobby of each building. Parents are welcome to leave their business cards, notes, and information about their skills, talents, and work experience.

Reminders

Whistle Stop will be **closed on Thursday and Friday, the 24th and 25th of November** in honor of Thanksgiving.

We will also be **closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2**, in honor of Christmas and New Years Day.

Support Our Troops

We have an opportunity to show support for our troops overseas. One of our staff, **Frankie Foote**, is engaged to U.S. Marine Lance Corporal Anthony Sickman. Anthony and his unit serve with

2/4 Echo Company stationed in Afghanistan. We will be collecting items for them **now through Friday, December 2.** Collection boxes are located in the lobby of each building. Some the items needed are:

-Non-perishable food items (beef jerky, protein bars, peanuts, candy, and powdered drink mix, etc. - no pork items, please)

-Personal hygiene items (baby wipe packets, disposable razors, facial cleansers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, foot powder, etc.)

-Miscellaneous items (letters of support, AAA and AA batteries, freezer zip-lock storage bags, eye drops, socks, magazines, brain teaser books like Soduku, word searches, crosswords, or small portable games, etc.)

There are complete lists of items posted near the boxes in each building. Thank you for your support!

Looking Ahead

It is time to begin preparing for winter weather at Whistle Stop. Please bring **a hat, 2 pair of mittens, boots, a scarf, and snow pants** for your child each day. Often when the children go out in the morning, their mittens

get wet and are not dry by the afternoon. **Please make sure**

your child has an extra pair available each day.

PLEASE LABEL ALL WINTER ITEMS!!! (We usually end up with 8-10 pair of black snow pants each year!) **This will help staff save time and energy,** especially new staff and floaters. It will allow them to work quickly and focus their attention on attending to your child's needs.

A helpful tip for Whistle Stop: have fun with your kids at home practicing putting on their boots and snow pants by themselves.

Also, the children go outdoors twice a day unless it is below 20 degrees. Our outdoor policy states that **if a child is well enough to come to Whistle Stop, he or she is well enough to go outdoors.**

Staff Birthdays and Anniversaries

November Birthdays

Toni Tyson – Nov. 8

Barb Groendyk – Nov. 12

December Birthdays

Kathleen Reeves – Dec. 29

November Anniversaries

Maria Silguero – Nov. 2010

Carie Weeden – Nov. 2010

Welcome New Families

We would like to welcome the

following new children and their families to Whistle Stop: www.healthychildcare.org.

Sweet Peas

Lily Holland (Eric & Joy)
(part-time)

Felix Salter* (Thad & Heather)
(full-time)

Jacob Zak (John & Heather)
(part-time)

Jumping Jacks

Elliott Salter* (Thad & Heather)
(full-time)

*Denotes siblings

Staff Training Update

Carie Weeden is attending a 5-week course in Early Childhood Essentials through Kent District Library on Saturdays.

The next **staff meeting** will be on **Monday, November 14**. **Sue Zimmerman and Carie Weeden** will present information from the recent training sessions they have attended. Sue went to a Great Start Conference back in September.

Not Receiving Whistle Stop E-Mails?

Maybe you're not on our list!

If you have not been receiving e-mails from Whistle Stop, you may not be on our list. Please send Toni an e-mail including your e-mail address and she can add you to our list. Her address is: toni@whistlestopchildcare.net

Great On-line

Parenting Resource

Please check out this website for lots of great tips and information:

Bike Helmets

A few parents have raised concerns about bike helmets not being available for children to use while riding bikes and scooters at Whistle Stop. We are not allowed to provide helmets that are shared for hygiene reasons. If you wish to have your child wear a helmet while riding the bikes and scooters, please bring one from home. You are welcome to label it and leave it here for your child to use.

Classroom Highlights

The **Sweet Peas** have been enjoying some fun fall activities lately. They have made some block faces and leaf rubbings. They have been doing some fun art projects also.

The **Jelly Beans** have been having fun exploring nature no matter the weather! They have been increasing their fine motor skills indoors by stringing beads and carving pumpkins. They put the seeds and pulp from the pumpkins into the sensory table. They also made fun paper scarecrows and pumpkins which now decorate their room.

The **Jumping Jacks** did a wonderful science experiment recently. Along with Ruth, they tended and grew pumpkins this

summer that they made into a pie. The children got to watch the pumpkin be cut up and the seeds removed. They watched the pumpkin be steamed to make the pie filling. Ruth completed the baking process and brought

the pie in for the children to sample. They, too, have been doing leaf and bark rubbings, and collected pine cones to make into bird feeders this month.

The **Young Explorers** have been doing science every day. They recently learned fun squirrel facts, and have been learning about their sense of touch by guessing objects in a sock by feel.

Kids Say The Funniest Things

A staff member in the Sweet Pea room said, "Wow!" in response to a comment. One of the **Sweet Peas** immediately copied her and said, "Wow!" Imitation is the best form of flattery, they say.

When Phyllis went to get one of the **Jelly Beans** for a hearing and vision screening test, she said, "Thank you very much for taking me to my appointment."

A **Young Explorer** was caught throwing sand at a friend in the sand box. When a staff member mentioned this, his response was, "I thought it would go around him."