



Parent Newsletter

Director's News

Dear Parent,

To your right is a financial summary of the Chili Luncheon and Silent Auction. As you can see, the Center's net is \$9,577.00. We are very pleased with the results of this year's endeavor.

This event could not be successful without your support. Every person's contribution was important. The participation of families in selling raffle tickets and donating Cash & Carry baskets was outstanding! Many of you attended the event for the first time this year and witnessed how many volunteers are needed to make it run well. A hearty thank you to all who helped for an hour or all day—again, it could not come off without your help.

There are parents who worked behind the scenes on areas who deserve recognition.

Cash & Carry and Bake Sale,

Amy Rummel and Cindy Fendrick

Raffle Prize (Gateway), Angela Franz

Raffle Prize, (Creighton Federal) Tricia Sharrar

Auction, Amy Messbarger and Lori Rusch

Raffle tickets, Meredith Choquette and Lynn Snoza

On-line auction, Don Otondi, Jim Carter, and Josh Wester

Printing, Jim Carter

Centerpieces, Pat Pulsifer, Brandi Powers, and Stacey Sype

Auction basket solicitation, Anna Nubel
Auction donations, Theresa Thurin and Tricia Sharrar

Support & Advice, Parent Council officers: Theresa Thurin and Meredith Choquette, Parent Council Members

A heartfelt thank you to all you!

Connie

Winner of the gift certificate to the Upstream for selling the most raffle tickets prior to the event is:

Tricia Sharrar

Congratulations!

Financial Summary

Silent Auction	\$3,780.00
On-line Auction	801.00
Cash donations	2,570.00
Raffle	2,904.00
Luncheon	1,828.00
Cash & Carry/Bake Sale	920.00
Sub-Total	\$12,803.00
Expenses	3,226.00
Net Total	\$9,577.00

Happy Holidays to Everyone!

If the University is closed or has a late start because of inclement weather, the Center will do likewise. Call 280-5800 for the latest information.

**Creighton University –
James R. Russell
Child Development
Center**

**December
2006**

**Mark Your
Calendar**

**12/23-1/1
Center Closed**

**Christmas
Break**

**We reopen:
January 2nd**

January 5, 2007

**Reception for
Maria 4-5 PM
Welcoming Area**



Infant Room News

“Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle All the Way.” As we sing this song, we pretend to shake bells. The other day I brought in real bells and you should have seen their faces. It was a sight of wonder. The joy of working with young children!

The older infants have enjoyed doing hands on activities at the activity table. They have included puzzles, pegs and peg boards, shape containers, and the favorite, scooping and pouring oatmeal.

As you know, music plays a very important part in our day. I walk into the room and Tyler says “football”, Daniel pumps his

arms and Elaina says “Fried Ham.” The song of the month has been “Fried Ham.” Someday I will video tape them singing this song so you can enjoy watching them as much as we do. The younger infants also enjoy their songs. “Baby Bumblebee” seems to be a big hit.

All the children enjoy story time. DJ and Elaina help us finish the sentences of their favorite stories. The younger infants sure like to look at books with pictures of babies. It is amazing to watch their concentration as we turn the pages.

We have welcomed two new infants to our room.

Aubrey Franz is the daughter of Michael and Angela Franz. She has two brothers, Aaron is in the preschool room and Nathan is a graduate of the Center. Tatiana Ebarb is the foster daughter of Larry and Maria Wilson. Our time with Tatiana will be short but we sure do enjoy every minute we have with her. We wish Maria days full of smiles and joys as she opens her heart and home to foster children.

Shanna



Toddler Room News

Another year is coming to a close and everyone is looking forward to a fresh new year. It has been exciting to watch as the children have grown over the last 12 months. Infants have become toddlers and some toddlers have moved on to preschool. The excitement in our room happens daily, and not just because of the upcoming holidays. Although, we are able to predict some of the weather changes when the children’s energy level rises without warning.

The children are reaching many milestones in our room. Many of the children are becoming more independent and maturing in their social skills. Some of the children have become master artist in painting and stamping

especially in their latest creation of “trains”. Some toddlers prefer a more hands on type of art and really shine when it comes to finger painting, handprints, and free form paintings.

Lego creations have hit an all time spectacular height. Even Superman would not be able to leap a toddler’s Lego tower in a single bound. The light table has added a challenge for future engineers and architects. Getting just the right colors to light up takes a lot of time and patience.

Ask your child what they enjoyed most in sensory play this past year and you are sure to get a variety of answers. However, top on the list would be the “human bubbles”, outdoor water play, mixing up clean mud, or hunting through

oatmeal or cornmeal for dinosaurs, bears, or even seashells. The latest one has been the magnets. Did you know they can pull a whole line of magnets across the floor and make flower designs on the chairs?

The toddlers aren’t the only ones who have created something new. The teachers have added the “Question of the Day/Week” chart and pictures of each child at their places for story time and after lunch. Both have been a big hit with the children and teachers alike.

As you look back over the past year, we hope you have seen the many accomplishments your child has achieved and the enjoyment of it all in their face.

Wishing you and your family the peace and love of the season!



**DuRell, Laura,
& Corey**

Preschool Room News (Delois)

“Everyday is the Day of Thanksgiving” In November, our theme was “Being Thankful”. During group time each day we start the discussion by asking the children if there is anything they would like to tell the group before we start our daily activities. Here are some of the recent comments after Delois finished teaching the children the finger play “Five Turkeys in a Tree”.

**Five fat turkeys are we,
We slept all night in a tree.
When the cook came around,
We couldn't be found.
That's why we're here, you see.**

James: “I want to catch that turkey and eat him up!”

Harrison: “Me too!”

Gabriel: “I'm thankful for Noah. You know, my brother in the baby room.”

Timothy: “I talked to my mom on the phone last night with my dad and brother. She will be home tonight.”

Chloe: “My mom.”

Estelle: “I'm thankful for my grandmother. I'm going over to her house and put up the Christmas tree and apple, did you know my mom going to have a baby?”

Jonathan: “I will take that turkey home to my granddad's house. I'm thankful for my brother Jared, Dad.”

Jahnavi: “My mom and dad. I am going to India in January.”

Joshua: “My family.”

Lindsey: “My family, did you miss me when I went to Disneyworld? I had fun.”

Abigail: “My family, I don't like that one kind of turkey.”

Aaron: “My baby sister she is so cute, you know. I thankful for my mom and dad, grandparents and you know my brother.”

Mia: “My cousins. I go to his school, you know. My brother Chase is in the toddler room. He gives you a hug.”

Lily: “My mom and dad. My sister Ann and Grace.”

Ben: “My mom, you know I have a good car?”

Alex: “My mom, dad, you know my grandmother brought me to school. Yeah, Ben and me too.”

The preschoolers have been staying very busy. Staying healthy was a theme in which the children learned about all the things we need to do to take good care of our bodies. Brushing our teeth, combing our hair, putting on clean clothes, covering our mouths when we cough, and taking naps are all very important in maintaining good health.

Last week, both groups attended the production of the “The Nutcracker” performed by the Omaha Ballet. As always, the children and teachers enjoyed the show, especially when we get to see a familiar member of the cast. Sebastian West is a graduate of the Center and a cousin to DJ Williams in the infant room. Sebastian played the butler in

one scene and was one of the Chinese lanterns in another scene.

The preschoolers always enjoy taking field trips, especially to the Rose Theatre. On December 12th and 13th, the children attended a production of “Holidays Around the World.” This is an interactive play that shows children how people from many different cultures celebrate the holidays. We enjoyed scenes from Germany and Mexico. They also told the story of Hanukkah, a tradition from Israel, and the story of Kwanzaa, a tradition from Kenya. Some of the children were asked to participate in acting out the scenes. Aaron Franz played one of the spider children in the scene from Germany and Jahnavi Salaria played one of the rabbit children in the Kwanzaa scene. Have a safe and happy holiday!

Delois

Preschool Room News (Jessica)

At the present time, the weather outside is not frightful...but I am surely delightful about what has been happening in the preschool room. What a wonderful time of year!! The children are really getting excited about the upcoming holidays and the events that are taking place in the classroom to correlate with these holidays. The Nutcracker was wonderful as always. The children really enjoyed themselves. There were a

Preschool Continued

number of comments about how young our group was, as compared to the other groups of children who went to the Nutcracker. The comments were so positive! How young, yet well behaved the children were and how excited they seemed. That should make us all-parents as well as teachers-feel great!

The month of November brought a theme that we find really important, especially since winter is just around the corner. This theme was staying healthy, which entailed a large focus on hand washing. Some of the preschoolers learned a phrase to say while washing their hands.

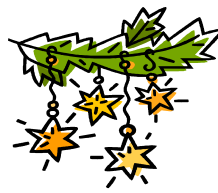
It goes "This hand is a good little hand; this hand is it's brother. Together they wash and wash and wash, one hand washes the other."

We would have the children recite this poem while washing their hands OR would have them count to ten. We have noticed some great improvement in hand washing since that week!

We also discussed some classic children's stories in November. We did a lot of flannel board activities that week. The children acted out "The Three Little Pigs," "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," and "Three Billy Goats Gruff" with the flannel board. It made them feel very special when they each would have a special role in each story.

Another event we celebrated recently was National Brownie Day, which was held on December 8th. The children wore brown to school and made brownies that day. It was very thrilling. That week we also did a lot of activities that involved gingerbread men. Before the holiday break we will be talking about the Gift of Giving. All of us in the preschool room wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday!!!

Jessica



Happy Birthday

November

4	Michael Chase	1 year
7	Kaswyn James	1 year
13	Tierney Adler	1 year
13	Ethan Wheeler	3 years
15	Estelle McLaughlin	4 years
20	Gina Whittington	Staff
21	Jahnavi Salaria	5 years

December

16	Alba Garcia-Sarabia	3 years
16	Maria Wilson	Staff
22	Anne Lynch	3 years
27	Jonathan King	4 years
27	Fatmah AlGhafli	3 years

