

# Small Wonders Happenings

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Paul Chinn, Director



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## School Notices

- ◆ Fundraiser due May 31<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Income verification due

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Summer Camp enrollment under way
- ◆ Potluck Dinner

## Director's News

For those of you who do not know, I have a Masters in Early Childhood Education from Bank Street College in New York. My background includes over fifteen years in childcare, most of it as educational or program director in a variety of programs - migrant day care, corporate sponsored childcare, intergenerational care, and government sponsored centers. When I began employment at the end of December, a number of changes had already taken place at Small Wonders. Heather Cozzens and Kathy Crivelli had been hired as teachers in toddlers and 3's respectively, over \$5,000 had been spent on classroom supplies and

equipment, a series of workshops had been arranged and have since been completed. New improvements in communication have been implemented including a bookkeeper who is available to answer your billing questions every Monday from 8:00 - 1:00, a parent edited newsletter to keep you up-to-date about events at the center, and a staff that is committed to on-going discussions about your child's day at the center. Recently, Sabrina Walker (Infants) and Lisa Taylor (Pre-K) have joined our staff and we are preparing for graduation and summer camp. Our hope is that you have noticed these changes and will continue to support our growth for the benefit of your children.

## Reminders and Notes

- ❖ **Peanut Free Environment** - Please monitor the snacks and foods you send into the center. Even though some foods don't contain peanuts, there may still be a hazard from being processed in a plant that also processes nut foods. Peanut allergic reactions are especially dangerous and easy to avoid.
- ❖ Thank you for timely payment of fees. We run on a **VERY** tight budget and your prompt payment of fees help maintain our commitment to staff (payroll), the classrooms (supplies/food), and allows us to keep our vendors happy and fees low.
- ❖ Over the next four months we will be going through the process of re-licensing the center. This happens every two years. As we go through the records of each child, you may be requested to supply information or fill out a form. Your prompt attention to this will make this process easier.
- ❖ Yes, it is important to use the sign in/sign out sheets for your child. This information is used in conjunction with the attendance sheets kept by the teachers to keep track of children during fire drills (which we have every month) and helps staff during shift changes. The thirty seconds you spend signing in/out is for your child's benefit.
- ❖ The Center has a commitment to you (and to OCFS, the licensing department) to maintain staff-to-child ratios that provide proper supervision for your children. Staff schedules are set up according to the information you give us concerning the hours of care/schedule you need. If you need to make adjustments in the schedule, please communicate that with your child's teacher or the office so that we may make staff adjustments as necessary. Please understand that we may not be able to accommodate last minute changes.

## Pre-K News

This month we really enjoyed learning about seeds, planting, worms, frogs and caterpillars.

In math, the children are charting, classifying and developing an understanding of quantities.

Language arts are assisting us in developing discussion skills and

expressive language.

Through dramatic play we are displaying creativity, decision making skills, and participation as well as group consensus skills.

It is wonderful to see the children come up with ideas as they work together and expand their creativity.



## Three's Tales

The 3 Year Olds have been enjoying the spring season. We've been playing outdoors on the playground. Last month, we learned about planting and what items are needed to make flowers grow. The children experienced planting their own flower seeds in dirt and watered their seeds daily. It was exciting to see the leaves grow taller each day. They also painted their own flower gardens for our classroom

bulletin board.

This month we talked about Mother's Day and all the special things that mom's do for us. The children made beautiful handprint floral cards and a candy dish for Mother's Day.

We are learning about transportation and the many different ways we can travel.

*"While we try to teach our children all about life, Our children teach us what life is all about."*  
Angela Schwindt

## Toddler Times

Spring has sprung in the Toddler classroom. We have observed many signs of spring - flowers, birds, some of us even found bugs!

Through planting seeds, we are discovering how things grow. We are looking forward to having some flowers in bloom soon. We are continuing to check their progress.

We are so lucky to have a new friend in our class - Charlie, our hamster. He likes to look at us and we love to see

him move around his home. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class publications have begun to circulate around the class for everyone to see.

In May, we celebrated our "Mommies" with a very special Mother's Day "Tea". We made yummy iced tea and a very special video. We loved having our mommies come to school.

We are getting ready for a lot of summer fun!

## Infant I Developments

The sound of pitter patter as Ian takes a leap  
With his little walking feet.  
Nicholas crawling to the beat

As he makes his stance, standing tall.  
Charlie's happy, smiling and signing 'more'  
Clapping to David about to crawl.

Reaching for Ella to join in the fun  
She's has just begun to sit beside  
Cassandra and play along.

Cassandra now on the move as she's starting to crawl.  
Selena who has begun to coo, our youngest of all.

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## New Students

A warm welcome to new friend:  
Selene

## New Teachers

A warm welcome to new friends:  
Miss. Krystal Miss. Sabrina  
Miss. Lisa

## Dates to Remember

May 28 - Memorial Day  
May 31 - Income verification due  
May 31 - Fundraiser Due  
June 14 - Flag Day

## Thank You!

A big thank you to Board Member  
Dot Schroeder for her service to the  
Board and for her thoughtful flower  
bulb donation to the center.

## Newsletter

If you would like to contribute to the  
newsletter or have an announcement  
you would like printed, please contact  
Jennifer Bailey.

## Happy Birthday...

Brett F.	Nicholas A.
Charles R.	Nicole M.
Dawn D.	Miss Kathy

## Fundraisers

In April, G.G.'s mom had a Pampered  
Chef Fundraising Party at her home.  
This party raised about \$200 for Small  
Wonders! When a friend found out  
about the fundraiser, she donated \$100  
(aside from ordering from Pampered  
Chef)! So, in total it brought \$300 to  
the Center. NOT BAD! Parents, please  
consider having a fundraiser party if  
you wish to have a Tupperware Party,  
Home Interiors Party, etc. Not only  
does it provide an excuse to get  
together with friends and family but it  
allows other to donate to the Center  
(besides us parents!).

Remember, fundraising successes (and  
failures) have a direct affect on our  
tuition.

Be sure to participate in the latest  
fundraiser - Uncle Jerry's Tees. Think  
gifts for family, friends, etc. Thank  
you!