Quarterly Newsletter for Families of the Dandelion Community

Dandelion Community Mission Statement
We are dedicated to promoting positive development in children by:

- Building caring relationships through positive discipline offered in a safe and enriching environment;
- Providing dedicated staff to engage children in the joy and excitement of learning;
- Offering a quality curriculum using innovative and research-based teaching strategies;
- Establishing strong partnerships with parents/guardians; and
- Nourishing spiritual growth through modeling love and respect for each other and the world around us.

Recent Family Events

Family Festival Fun
Our 2nd Annual Family Festival was held on February 24, 2007. Children played carnival games, had faces painted and visited the Scholastic Book Fair and Snack Bar. They were able to “purchase” prizes with tickets awarded at each game (see photo to the right).

A Delicious Date
On January 26, Dandelion families and friends gathered at Mama Lucia’s for a Night-Out-of-the-Kitchen. Delicious food and stimulating conversations among children and families made the evening one to remember. Mama Lucia’s donated 10% of the evenings profits to the Dandelion Family Association.

The Hanscomb’s enjoyed a family dinner at Mama Lucia’s.

What’s New?

The Dandelion Learning Community continues to add enhancements to the program to promote positive growth and development in children. Monthly parent workshops began in January. Before each workshop pizza is served to children and parents. Childcare is $5.00 per child. Attendance is free for parents but pre-registration is required at the front desk. Hope to see you there! All workshops will be held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

“Between Miss Sue’s knowledge and ability to effectively share it, and the interaction and personal stories from the other parents, the workshops are insightful and beneficial. Once I went to my first one, I knew I didn’t want to miss any.”
—Annie Rodgers, parent of Olivia in Room 4

Upcoming Workshops:
Mar. 28 “I Am Getting Ready to Read and Write” Promoting Early Literacy
Apr. 25 “Teach Me a Better Way” Positive Discipline Part I

“By giving children lots of affection, you can help fill them with love and acceptance of themselves. Then that’s what they will have to give away.”
—Wayne Dyer

Calendar of Events

March: Going Places
March Conferences (for specific dates for each class, see forms by classrooms)
- Mar. 5—FCPS 3 1/2 Hrs. Early Dismissal, DFA Meeting 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- Mar. 6—FCPS 4 Hr. Delay, No DCCC Preschool Program
- Mar. 14—Family Breakfast 6:30-9 a.m.
- Mar. 24—Parents’ Night Out, 4-8 p.m.
- Mar. 28—FCPS 2 Hr. Early Dismissal, Parent Workshop 6:30-8:00 p.m.

April: Plant Power
- Apr. 2—DFA Meeting, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- Apr. 4 - 6—FCPS Closed/No DCCC Preschool Program
- Apr. 6—Good Friday (Staff In-service Day DCCC Closed for Children)
- Apr. 11—Family Breakfast 6:30-9 a.m.
- Apr. 21—DFA Earth Day Celebration, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Apr. 25—Parent Workshop 6:30-8 p.m.

May: Amazing Animals
- May 5—DFA Spring Clean-up Yard Sale 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
- May 7—DFA Meeting, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- May 9—Family Breakfast 6:30-9 a.m.
- May 19—Parents’ Night Out 4-8 p.m.
- May 28—Memorial Day -- DCCC Closed
- May 30—FCPS Dismiss 2 hrs. early (postponed from Feb. 15), Parent Workshop 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Dandelion Administration
(Please see Staff Bulletin Board in entryway for staff photos)

Mary Janson, Director
Janice Czeh, Program Administrator
Kim Mogard, Office Manager
Staff News

Jean Schricker has joined the Dandelion Community as our late afternoon lead staff and daytime sub. Jean’s background includes experience in working with young children and completion of college classes in early childhood.

Meagan Weddle also is a new member of our Dandelion Community. She is completing her last semester at Shepherd University majoring in Family and Consumer Science. Meagan is an assistant to Ms. Tiffany in Room 3 during the day and to Ms. Jean in the late afternoon in Rooms 2 and 3.

Brittany Arnold became an assistant to Ms. Nicole for our after-school program in Room 5. She is a Senior at Brunswick High, an active member of the FFA, and also works as a florist on weekends.

Program Updates

Time to Update
Emergency cards and “All About My Child” records need updating as required by the Office of Child Care Licensing Office. Make sure to ask for your child’s records at the front desk and make any additions/changes no later than March 30, 2007.

Accreditation Update
Our program has completed the pre-validation phase of Maryland State Department of Education Accreditation. We are waiting for the state validators to visit to finalize the process.

Curriculum Corner
Building Displays – Our Gingerbread House decorations made by each classroom adorned our building for several months. As of February, flags have been displayed that were created by children based on the theme of “Caring and Sharing.” Families are invited to look for individual children’s contributions located on each flag.

Parent-Teacher Conferences
Conferences are scheduled in March for classrooms 1 – 4 and the Preschool-Hours-Only program to discuss children’s progress since November. Please make sure to sign up on the conference forms outside classrooms. Parents who are unable to attend during the times provided are encouraged to schedule a phone conference with the classroom teacher.

REMINDER: Inclement Weather Policy
Dandelion will make every effort to maintain their regular open hours during inclement weather. If the weather becomes too difficult for staff to get to the center, a message will be left on the Dandelion phone and the website by 5:30 a.m. stating the adjusted hours of operation. If the regular message is on the machine, Dandelion is operating normal hours. Parents can also sign up on the website under the parent information link to receive updates via email.

Registration Reminders
Re-registration fees were due for current families on Feb. 5 for children attending Fall 2007. Activity fees for children attending during the Summer are due by April 2: $25 for children in Rooms 2 – 4 and $50 for school-age children. If a child is not attending the Summer but is returning in the Fall, a month’s tuition (non-refundable) is due by June 1 to hold a child’s placement for Fall. The deposit will be applied to the September 2007 tuition.

Summer Splash 2007
Dandelion’s Summer program is a fun divergence from the school year’s curriculum complete with Water Play Days, Wacky Wednesdays, and Summer themes that focus on outdoor fun. A brochure announcing Summer Splash 2007 activities will be distributed soon.

Family Breakfasts
Breakfasts are provided by Dandelion Administration for families and staff to enjoy on the second Wednesday of each month from 6:30 – 9:00 a.m. Please mark this special event on your calendars. It is a great time to meet other families, talk with teachers, and start your day off with a sit-down breakfast.

Dandelion Family Association Updates

- The DFA continues to meet on the first Monday of the month. All families and staff are welcome. Childcare is provided at no cost to families. Please see the minutes from each meeting posted on the Parent News Bulletin Board by the front desk or on the Dandelion website www.educatewithcare.com.

- Presently the DFA has $5,800 in its account. Joe Corbi’s is our most recent fundraiser bringing in $1,300 profit. We continue to offer Parents’ Nights Out which also provide income to the DFA account (see framed schedule by the front desk for PNO schedule).

- The Scholastic Book Fair held in tandem with the Family Festival was a big success. We received 120 free books! Be looking for our new “Take Home” literacy program beginning in March.

- Recent DFA family activities include the Holiday Festival in Dec., Mama Lucia’s Night Out in Jan., Family Festival in Feb. along with PNO in Dec. and Jan.

- Guard-a-Kid Child ID Services will be available Friday, March 23. The cost is $18. Parents will receive 2 laminated wallet ID cards and your child’s photo, fingerprints, and critical information stored on a CD. This is the same service offered at our Family Festival. More information will follow via a flyer to be sent home March 9.

- Upcoming DFA events include an Earth Day Celebration in April, a Yard Sale in May, and an outdoor concert in June. Please request a DFA Event calendar at the front desk if you do not have a copy.