

Oak Lane News

March 2008

www.oaklanedaycare.org

Smiling is contagious, you catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today I started smiling too.
I passed around the corner, and someone saw my grin -
When he smiled I realized I'd passed it on to him!

I thought about that smile, then I realized its worth.
A single smile - just like mine
Could travel round the earth!
So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected -
Let's start an epidemic quick and get the world infected!



Spring is in the air...

as snowflakes give way to snowdrops and crocuses. It's amazing how a warm day and the sight of spring flowers can lift the spirits. And if that is not enough to feel energized, the switch to Daylight Savings Time this weekend should do the trick. But before we get excited about everything that March holds in store for us, let's take a look at what happened in February. The children created many Valentine's projects and had a good time at their parties that followed. Some of the parents gathered at the day care one evening for a nutrition workshop. Please see page 2 for a summary about what was said.

Auction Update

Some parents also met at the day care one evening to continue the preparations for the auction. We organized follow-up calls to businesses and have been making good progress with that. However, we could use one more parent to help us with this task. If

have time to make approximately 10 phone calls, please let me know.

While we have been receiving donations from businesses, we have received donations from only four Oak Lane families so far.

Many of you have taken the donation forms home but have not yet returned them. I have to start to put together the Auction Catalog and need your donation information as soon as possible. Please don't wait until the last minute because it would mean that we have to work around the clock to get it done. Thank you!

The catalogs will be printed by Rubinstein's in West Chester, who have also made a generous donation. Rubinstein's will supply and print about 200 invitations for us at no cost!

The next Auction Meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 18 @ 7 p.m. at the day care.

March Events

The highlight of this month will be our Easter Egg Hunt. We will hide plastic Easter eggs filled with

small treats all over our playground. It's always quite a sight when all the children swarm out in their search for eggs. If you have some time to help us fill the eggs, please let one of our teachers know.

The Jitterbugs Music Program will visit Oak Lane every Thursday morning for the month of March. The children had enjoyed the program one morning in January and we decided to bring it back for a whole month!

Calendar

March 9 - Daylight Savings Time

March 14 - OLDC closed
Inservice Day

March 18 - Auction Meeting

March 21&24 - OLDC closed
Easter

March 29 - Spring Clean-up
Day @ 9 a.m.

Classroom News

Infants and Young Toddlers

Our youngsters are growing by leaps and bounds. Aleksander is almost sitting up by himself while Chloe is getting more and more efficient with scooting across the floor and is continuously picking up speed. At this point, we are certain that she will go straight to walking and skip the crawling stage. All the infants are eating solid foods now and William and Chloe have discovered the joys of yoghurt...yummy! The rest of the group is becoming more verbal every day and we adore hearing their little stories as well as firm "No's". We have been enjoying the spring-like temperatures of the last couple of days and are looking forward to spending more time outdoors in the coming weeks.

T. Sheila, T. Savannah and T. Noreen

Older Toddlers

We started practicing yoga this month. The children thoroughly enjoy bending their bodies into the various poses. We are very busy being cows, cats, cobras, lions, dogs, and butterflies. Your children are doing an amazing job.

We had a lovely Valentine's Day party. We made red jello and enjoyed eating brownies and heart-shaped cookies. Our favorite books this month were "The Three Billy Goats Gruff" and "The Little Mouse, The Red Ripe Strawberry and The Big Hungry Bear".

We have enjoyed spending a lot of time outdoors – taking long walks and playing on the playground with the new toy trucks donated by Destiny. We also celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday on Monday. Thanks for sharing your favorite Dr. Seuss' stories.

T. Rachel and T. Kristen

Preschoolers

Our alphabet journey took us through the letters O, P, Q and R. For the letter P we made pizzas for lunch. Thank you to the Vukasovic family for the English Muffins and the pepperoni and to the Mayers for the sauce, cheese and pizza dough. The children made their own little pizzas using the English Muffins, spreading sauce on them and then adding the cheese and pepperoni. They enjoyed their delicious creations for lunch. The highlight of our Valentine's celebration was a Friendship Fruit Salad, which the children made by cutting up and mixing all the yummy fruit that parents had brought in. Thank you to the Perrin's, Nagy's, Vukasovic's and Ditzio's. We ate the fruit salad for two days. We also had cookies and brownies for Valentine's snack. For the letter R we made railroads and rainbows. We look forward to many spring and Easter projects and warmer days.

T. Margaret and T. Jean

Volunteer Opportunities

Come to the Spring Clean-up on March 29. We will need a lot of helping hands.

Please Note!

There will be no pizza on Wednesday's for two weeks due to the fact that Westtown School will be on Spring Break. Pizza will be available again after Easter.

Nutrition Workshop

The message of the evening was to buy groceries that are fresh or have only a small number of ingredients. The longer the list of ingredients the more likely it is that you are consuming things like MSG's and hydrogenated oils. At the same time, it's important to keep in mind that young children need fats in their diet, which are needed for the absorption of vitamins and for brain development among other things. From talking to parents I hear more and more stories about how pediatricians advise parents to use low-fat products for their children. Fortunately, it is good to hear that many Oak Lane parents don't always follow their pediatricians advice or have doctor's that they are very happy with and trust. With new information about nutrition and childhood in general emerging everyday, it's best to ask questions and sometimes to simply trust your instincts.