

Oak Lane News

May 2008

www.oaklanedaycare.org

We did it!

After 5 months of...

writing solicitation letters, calling businesses, creating donation signs, writing thank you notes, and so much more....

we raised \$8000 at the auction!



A Community Effort

The auction has always been the day care's major fundraiser and it has also been an event that requires a tremendous amount of volunteer work. This year dedicated parents and staff were once again able to pull together resources and make this event happen. On one hand we are all glad that it is over because it is so much work but on the other hand, the incredible amount of time and energy that was invested was well worth it. We did not expect to raise \$8000 and are grateful for the generosity of all the guests and other donors.

When we started planning the auction in the fall we weren't quite sure what the money should be used for. But as the weeks went by and the Board of Advisors became clear about their intention of taking on major improvements of the facility, it became obvious that the proceeds would go towards the renovation project. Over the past few weeks we have been closely working with

architects from Archer & Buchanan Architecture, Ltd. in West Chester who guided us through the challenging task of redesigning the space. The plans are being finalized and we hope to start construction on June 16.

Carrying out this project will require the cooperation and help of the entire Oak Lane community. We will have to move the day care to a temporary location for two months, which will be Westtown's Middle School. The move will include cubbies, tables, chairs, toys and more. Everything else will be stored in Pod's until the reopening of the day care mid-August. We are working with Westtown School to make the move as smooth as possible and will provide you with more information as soon as it becomes available. You will also have the opportunity to see the Middle School and find out where to drop off and pick up your child.

Here is how you can help:

- 1) Drop off boxes (preferably flattened) at the day care so that we can start to pack up toys and other items.
- 2) We will need a few extra hands on moving day. (Date will be announced)
- 3) Let us know if you have any questions or concerns so that we can address them. This is a big undertaking and we want to make sure that everybody is comfortable with it.

Calendar

June 12 - End of the year picnic for all Oak Lane families at 6 p.m.

June 16 - OLDC at new location in the Middle School until August 15

Classroom News

Infants and Young Toddlers

All of our infants are growing into mobile young toddlers these days. Chloe is now a proud walker and quickly gets herself up on her feet when she falls down. William, who will be turning 1 in June, is our little dare-devil who seems convinced that he is ready to walk and frequently lets go off furniture. Aleksander is scooting all over the place and his flexibility often amazes us.

Our now older toddlers are talking up a storm and they all know how to say “No.” But all in all they are a great group and play together very nicely most of the time.

In a few weeks we will be welcoming Eric (T. Margaret’s son) and Charlotte (Olivia’s sister) to our room. We are looking forward to having some little ones around us again.

T. Sheila, T. Savannah and T. Noreen

Older Toddlers

As T. Kristen and I observe the class we realize that the Toddler Class has come a long way since the beginning of the school year. We can put on and take off our socks and shoes. We follow directions. Some of us have mastered potty training and the rest of us are well on our way. We use our words appropriately and can resolve conflicts with our friends. We wait our turn and share our toys. We ask thoughtful questions and funny ones too. I think we are at the point where it doesn’t matter anymore if the table is yellow or the chair is blue.

T. Heather has joined our class last week, which means that we will soon say good-bye to T. Kristen, who has been a wonderful teacher for the past 6 months.

We are looking forward to an exciting summer in the Middle School and to the grand re-opening of Oak Lane this fall.

T. Rachel and T. Kristen

Preschoolers

As the year is slowly coming to an end so is our alphabet adventure. We completed the letters W – X – Y – Z and are now reviewing the alphabet. The children’s interest in letters led us to engage in activities where the children could explore the letters of their names. We have used the magnet letters, play dough to make letters and paint. Play dough is always a popular activity.

The other day, the children let their imaginations run wild as they created animals, aliens, robots and much more with the help of various materials including play dough, straws, feathers and cups. The children also love to play bingo and color with markers and crayons, which helps them learn their colors and shapes.

T. Jean

Volunteer Opportunities

We need parents to help us move into the Middle School and move the rest of Oak Lane’s furniture and toys into Pod’s. Date will be announced soon.

Thank you’s: Christine’s grandmother, Barbara Kurowski, surprised the teachers with flowers and cookies for Teacher Appreciation Week. Thank You!!!

We would also like to thank the mystery gardener who planted beautiful flowers into the container next to the front door.

WELCOME!

Many of you have already met T. Heather who started working at Oak Lane last week. T. Heather is working with T. Rachel in the Older Toddler classroom but you will also see her in the preschool classroom from time to time to help out T. Jean until T. Margaret returns from maternity leave on June 16. We are very excited to have T. Heather join our team. She is establishing a good rapport with the children who feel very comfortable with her.

Friendly Reminders

- ❖ Please make sure your child has a change of clothes appropriate for the warmer weather.
- ❖ Please let us know what your child’s last day will be if s/he is not attending over the summer. We need to know how many cubbies, tables and chairs, etc. to move into the Middle School. Thank you!