



# DSECC News



Issue 241

DIAMOND STREET EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

July 2009

## From the Assistant Director,

July brings warm weather and exciting summer activities at DSECC. Water play and bike days are popular ways enjoy time outdoors. This is also the time for treasured family vacations. We ask that you inform the office of any days your child will be absent and fill out a free day request in a timely manner. Don't forget Tuesday, July 21 is Diamond Street night at the Ephrata Isaac's restaurant.

One factor that helps to make Diamond Street a high quality center is our high rate of staff retention. The twenty-four regularly scheduled staff have an average length of tenure of over 8.6 years. Two staff, **Ms. Sharon** and **Ms. Joanne**, have been here over twenty years. Yet each staff is still learning – our STAR 4 rating requires staff to complete 24 hours of continuing education each year in addition to annual first aid and fire safety training. That mix of experience and new ideas is reflected in our nurturing and educational environment.

Looking ahead – new family guides and contracts will be distributed in August to prepare for the 2009-2010 school year. But first, let's enjoy all the great summer fun ahead of us!

Cathy Stephens

## Warbler Room (Infants)

The Warbler room would like to welcome Nathan, our newest infant to join our room. We now have three young infants and the staff is busy learning to know each new personality and needs.

Three of the older infants in our room are over one year old. No more baby formula and baby food! They are settling into one nap after lunch, new teeth are being discovered, and a few are saying their first words. These are a few of the exciting things that happen in our room right now.

Our eight-month old and 11-month old sometimes join the older ones but also enjoy the play area while the others are sleeping.

We all look forward to our time outside and are especially enjoying the new ground cover inside the toddler fence on the playground.

Ms. Sharon, Ms. Leah, Ms. Starla, & Ms. Dolly

## Bluebird Room (Older Infant)

Goodbye rain, hello warm weather! For the month of July the theme in the Bluebird room will be *Summer!* Water play will continue this month with a special *Water Play* week from July 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup>. (More information is coming on the schedule for that week's activities.) The Bluebirds will be doing lots of new and exciting things this month. On Wednesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be having a *Beach Party* on the playground and later in the

month we will be *Making Ice Cream* and having a *Picnic Day*.

Ms. Amy, Ms. Jean, & Ms. Kelly

## Robin Room (Toddlers)

Keeping cool everyone? The Robins are—especially on water play days which the children love! It is a great help when you bring your child on those days dressed in their swim suit. Thanks! Water play days will continue to be once a week through August with the exception of Water Play week which is July 13-17.

The Robin room will focus on the *Beach*, *Bubbles*, and *Bugs* during the month of July. If your children have any interesting toys pertaining to these topics we will invite you to bring them in to share. We will let you know when.

We are always working on potty training, so please be sure your child has an extra set of clothes in their hall box, just in case! Thanks.

Welcome to **Allison** and **Cade**, our newest Robins!

Happy Summer!

Ms. Debbie, Ms. Joanne, Ms. Dolly, Ms. Pam

## July Calendar

July 2 **Water Play**  
July 3 **DSECC Closed**  
July 10 **Water Play**  
June 13-17 **Water Play Week**  
July 21 **Water Play**  
**Isaac's Night Fundraiser**  
July 29 **Water Play**

## Hummingbird Room

We had a great time in June with our *Five Senses* unit. The children would tell us during the day what sense they were using as they did various things. We enjoyed many famous fairy tales as well.

In July we will spend the week of June 6<sup>th</sup> with *The Three Little Pigs*. We have several versions of the story in addition to the classic story that we will be sharing.

The week of June 13-17 is *Water Play* week. Please have your child dressed each day in their swim suit. If you have a sprinkler that we could use during that week, please let us know.

The week of July 20<sup>th</sup> we will be learning about *Magnets*. Following that discovery we will begin our unit on the *Ocean*.

### Important dates:

**July 1:** Fairy Tale Dress Up Day

**July 2:** Water Play

**July 8:** Bike Day

**July 10:** Water play

**July 13-17:** Water play week

**July 21:** Water play

**July 24:** Bike Day

**July 29:** Water play

Ms. Kelly & Ms. Jessie

## Cardinal Room (Pre-kindergarten)

June is already over, can you believe it? We had a great time this month. Our class said some good-byes to **Brynn, Kendall, Trayton, and Kevin** who are heading off to Kindergarten in the Fall. We did introduce four new friends to our room: **Alycia, Anbu, Desiree, and Damion**.

In June we celebrated our dads, grandfathers, and uncles – all the important guys in our lives. We also did a unit on Cinderella, and then the class chose to explore Cats.

In July the Cardinals will start off the month exploring the Characteristics of Summer. During Water Play week we will be looking at different uses of Water. The end of the month our class will be looking at our 8-legged friends—Spiders!

Thank you all for bringing in sunscreen for your child. Please do not forget to tell the office of any upcoming vacations or time away from DSECC.

Ms. Amanda, Ms. Suzy & Ms. Wendy

## Eagles

Aloha! Bula! are some greetings from other islands we have visited on our Island Adventure!! We have been having an awesome time learning about different islands and their customs. We have visited **Hawaii, Fiji, Japan, Philippines, and Tasmania** so far, and we have only just begun! Some future destinations include some islands near **Canada, Denmark, Finland and Germany**. Ms. Brianna and I are anxious to visit **Madagascar and Sri Lanka** and we may not return when we stop at **Bora Bora**.

The Eagles have learned with all of their senses about volcanoes including eating a volcano. Weaving Fijian dining mats was challenging yet exciting to see the end result. **Ms. Suzie** spoke to us about her home country of Japan and showed us how to write our names in Japanese. The Eagles made Ati Atihan masks from the island of the Philippines and we paraded throughout the center showing off our creations.

As you can tell, life is really exciting in the Eagle room....

OH! got to run... need to get my passport, we're off to **Victoria Island!**

Ms. Dede, Ms. Brianna, & Ms. Rebecca