

January  
2009



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN HEALTH SYSTEM

# 1st Quarter Family Newsletter

Feliz Año Nuevo!

Shanah tovah!

Happy New Year!

Buon Capo d'Ann!

Yeni Yiliniz Kutlu Olsun!

Sun nien fai lok!

**Our annual Kindergarten Information Night will be held here at the Center on Tuesday, January 13, from 5:15-6:30.**

We hold this information night every year and invite representatives from various local schools to join us. This year we have representatives from Honey Creek Community School, Daycroft Montessori, Hebrew Day School, Ann Arbor Open, and the Ann Arbor Public Schools coming to give brief presentations on their kindergarten and elementary programs.

This is a great opportunity for parents to come and hear about the different kindergarten programs that are available in Ann Arbor, and to ask questions to assist you in making your kindergarten decisions. It's also helpful for parents who are feeling a little unsure about the transition from the Center to kindergarten; in addition to covering schools' philosophies and curricula, much of our conversation will be about "school readiness" and transitioning to kindergarten.

This information session is not just for parents of children entering kindergarten this fall! Every year, we have parents of kids of all ages (yes, even infants). So if you're interested, sign up at the front desk and join us next Tuesday. No late care fees will be charged if your child stays for the meeting. We hope to see you there!

**CENTER CLOSING DATES:**

January 1-New Years Day

July 4-Fourth of July

January 2-Staff In-service

September 7-Labor Day

February 27-Staff In-service Day

May 25-Memorial Day

\*November and December closing dates have not been determined.

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**Kid quotes:**

**Daddy:** "Kira, are you a princess?"  
**Kira:** "No, I am a Gecko!"  
(Gecko classroom student)

**Armaan sitting at the snack table:**  
"My stomach is hurting."  
**Elsa asked:** "Why?"  
**Armaan answered:** "Because there's a bug in there!"

## HOORAY! UMHS CCC School Age Care Updates!

We are very pleased with the positive response to our addition of elementary school age care on days when Ann Arbor Public Schools are closed! We are happy to announce that we will be offering child care on scheduled days off for the rest of this school year (except Friday, February 27, and Memorial Day). Care is available from 8:30-5:30 each day, and we have a limit of 15 children with two experienced staff members.

Monday, Jan. 19	\$65
Monday, Feb. 16	\$65
Mon, Feb 23 – Thurs, Feb 26 <b>**PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR CENTER IS CLOSED ON FRI., 2/27; NO SCHOOL-AGE CARE WILL BE OFFERED THAT DAY**</b>	\$65 for single days or \$200 for all four days
Monday, Mar. 9	\$65
Friday, Apr. 10	\$65
Mon, Apr 13 – Fri, Apr 17	\$65 for single days or \$230 for all five days

We're currently working with the feedback we've received to streamline our registration process. In the meantime, we are asking families to register for each day/week separately (as opposed to a blanket sign-up for all the days). Registration for each day begins TWO WEEKS prior to that day for siblings of children enrolled at UMHS CCC, and ONE WEEK prior to that day for all other elementary-aged children of UMHS employees. Again, we will not hold spots until payment and paperwork (registration form, permission slip, & emergency card) are complete. You only need to complete paperwork once per school year.

Also, just a reminder that we are offering Snow Day care as well. Our permanent list is now FULL; however, you are welcome to call the morning of a Snow Day to see if there have been any cancellations. If there have been cancellations, the spots will be filled on a FIRST-CALL, FIRST-SERVE basis. Sorry, there is no ongoing waitlist for Snow Day care.

Please share your feedback with us as we work to improve the services we offer to our families!

## Licensing Visit, NAEYC Accreditation Renewal and Parent Advisory Board Information

- The State of Michigan Department of Human Services was out to visit our Center on November 26 for our annual licensing inspection. We are proud to say that we passed with flying colors once again! We will continue to be licensed by the State of Michigan through 2010, with annual inspections continuing each November. With our licensing inspection behind us, the entire staff of the Center has now shifted focus toward our NAEYC Accreditation renewal coming up in early 2010. Accreditation is much more stringent in their inspections and standards, so the teachers and staff are already working on evidencing each of the specific criteria that NAEYC will inspect on their visit here. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!!** The Center would like to officially request parent assistance for this accreditation renewal. We will ask everyone to complete an anonymous survey, but if you have some extra time to help us with evidencing practices or reading through policies please see the front desk . . . we would love your help!
- Across the hall from the front desk are two parent information boards with lots of good info about the

Center. One is the existing parent information board with hard copies of our parent newsletter, events, announcements, and any great articles on early childhood that we have found. Next to that, we would like to introduce the Parent Advisory Board (PAB) board. The PAB is another forum for parents to be involved in the leadership of the Center and to discuss any changes going on or coming up at the Center. Members of the PAB are one parent representative from almost every room, our director Sue, the director of the University's Work/Life Resource Center Jennie McAlpine, Mark Hawley, the head of the Center's management company, and Deborah Childs serves as the hospital administration representative. Check out the PAB's new information board (it's bright yellow this month to help draw attention to it!) for information on who the current members of the board are and what they are currently working on for the Center.

See Sue if you have any questions about the PAB or the information presented on their info board.

## Upcoming Center Closing Dates and Events:

Kindergarten Info Night	January 13 5:15-6:30
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Monday, January 19
School Age Care	Monday, January 19
Board meeting	Wednesday, January 28 4:30-6
Lunar New Year Celebration	Monday, January 26
Black History Month African American Inventors Week School Age Care Staff In-service day-CENTER CLOSED	Month of February Week of February 16 February 16, 23-27 Friday, February 27
School Age Care Story Book Week Space Days	Monday, March 9 Week of March 9-13 Thursday, March 26 & Friday, March 27

### Staff Anniversaries

We have been fortunate enough to have the following staff members for quite a while . . .

#### January

Brandy Riddle (Tots)...7 years

#### February

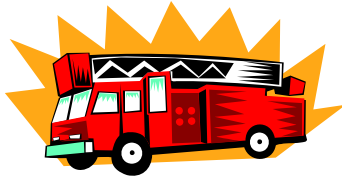
Dana Federer (Bunnies)...12 years

Valerie Tibbs-Wynne (Frogs)...8 years

#### March

Joy Gonyo (support staff)...11 years

Katrina Castelow (support staff)...4 years



*Reminders and other information...*

### **Why do they keep reminding us to sign in and out?**

We do it for several reasons: It is a licensing rule, it helps us with our head count during fire and tornado drills and **MOST IMPORTANTLY**, it would be crucial in the event of an emergency that required us to relocate (leave our classrooms). Thank you for your attention to this, twice a day, *every day!*

### **About our meal program**

You can purchase school lunches from us on a daily/single meal basis or sign up for one to five days per week. Just stop at the front desk the morning you need a meal and pay \$3.50. Otherwise, simply fill out a meal form and a new payroll deduction form to add the cost of meals to your monthly tuition. Meal forms are available under the Parent Information bulletin board.

The cost is as follows:

- 1 meal / week = \$14 / month
- 2 meals / week = \$28 / month
- 3 meals / week = \$42 / month
- 4 meals / week = \$56 / month
- 5 meals / week = \$70 / month

### **Did you know that we take the children outside for fresh air even when it's cold outside?**

Even in the winter the children get outside for some fresh air and exercise nearly every day! That's why it is very important for your child to have winter gear at school on a daily basis. A warm coat, snowsuit or pants, hat, mittens or gloves, boots, etc. are winter necessities! Also be sure cubbies are stocked with extra clothes in case they get wet.

# Parent Discussion Group

UMHSCCC and Champions for Children presented Bedtime, Naptime and Beyond on Wednesday, December 17. During our third Parent discussion group, our facilitator Melissa Pinsky, MSW, MA, discussed and answered questions about bedtime routines, naps and more. Melissa is an Early Childhood Specialist for Champions for Children, a local non-profit aimed at supporting kids and families. Keep an eye out in your e-mail for a summary of the discussion, as well as information on upcoming discussions. As always, please email Cathy G. at [gorgac@umich.edu](mailto:gorgac@umich.edu) with potential discussion topics.



*Sweet dreams!*

## Playground update...

**As you may have noticed, our playground has a new look. After our recent licensing inspection, we found that a few things needed to be relocated or removed and updated to ensure that our playground meets the required safety regulations. With the help of the Health System, we have a brand new climber too!**

Many thanks from the teachers and office staff for the generous gifts and holiday wishes from our wonderful parents!

A special thanks to the Ross family for the Holiday sing along!

I hope that you all had a happy holiday and that it was relaxing and fun for you and your family. I also want to thank all of our wonderful families for their support this past year.

Happy New Year!  
*Sue*

For attractive lips, speak words of kindness.  
~Audrey Hepburn