



A PLACE TO GROW

THE CHILDREN'S CENTER
AT BURKE GILMAN GARDENS

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2008

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE...

Happy Spring! February and March were very busy months for us here at the Center. We have been enjoying the longer days and the children and teachers are all very excited to have more opportunities to play outside in the sunshine. The year has been flying by, and we have several important events planned for the upcoming months— read on for more information about what is going on in your child's classroom...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Upcoming Activities and Events—

PRE-K SPRING PERFORMANCE— Friday, April 18th
Our Pre-K families are invited to attend our spring performance of *La Paquena Gallina Roja (The Little Red Hen)* here at the Center from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday, April 18th. A copy of the performance on DVD will be available for all of our families to purchase following the performance— all the funds raised will be used to purchase a new projector for the Center.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT— Friday, April 25th
Our next Parents Night Out will be here the Center on Friday, April 25th, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. The cost will be \$25 per child, and \$15 for each additional sibling. Dinner and a movie will be provided.

“OCHO DE MAYO” FAMILY DINNER— May 8th
Why stop with Cinco de Mayo? Join your fellow TCC families and celebrate Ocho de Mayo with a *deliciosa* Mexican feast at TCC from 5:30–7:00 p.m. This is a family dinner, so parents will be responsible for supervising their own children. Adults: \$10; children \$5. Each paying adult will be entered to win a door prize of **one free week of childcare** for one child!

*Please note: Upcoming TCC Closure Dates



- ⇒ Monday, May 26th— Memorial Day
- ⇒ Thursday, July 3rd— Inservice Day
- ⇒ Friday, July 4th— Independence Day
- ⇒ Monday, September 1st— Labor Day

CENTER HAPPENINGS

- **Late Breaking News!** Our beloved Toddler teacher, Ana Perez, has had her baby! Her son, Chris Alberto Rivas, was born Saturday, April 5, at 11:45 a.m. He weighed in at 6 lbs, 1 oz., and mom, dad, and baby are all doing well. We wish them the best and look forward to meeting Chris!
- **TCC Welcomes New Board President—** We are happy to welcome Pete Verretto as the new President of TCC's Board of Directors! Pete has been a parent and board member of TCC for several years, and his youngest son is the newest member of our Toddler classroom. We also owe a huge thank you to our previous Board President, Michael Korch, for his commitment to TCC and for all his hard work over the past two years.
- **Family/Teacher Conferences—** Over the next three months, we will be scheduling conferences for our families to meet individually with their child's teachers to discuss their progress within the classrooms. **Pre-K conferences will be held the last two weeks of April, EPS conferences in May, and Toddler conferences will take place in June.** We will make every effort to schedule conferences at convenient times, so keep an eye out for the sign-up sheets that will be posted prior to the conferences.
- **Summer Vacations/Withdrawals*—** Planning a vacation? Leaving for Kindergarten over the summer? Be sure to let the office know ASAP if your child will be withdrawing or will be out on vacation over the summer months. This helps us tremendously in planning for our staffing needs and summer/fall enrollment availability. Please be aware that we are unable to hold slots over the summer months or provide tuition discounts or credit due to extended absences, and we require thirty days written notice for withdrawals in order to apply any deposits paid to the Center at the time of enrollment.



Takahiro Kuno shows alumni Benjamin Korch how to roll sushi during our Japanese Dinner- he's a natural!

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Our "Roll Your Own" Japanese Dinner and Raffle in March was a big success! We raised a grand total of \$2900 (net), which will be used to provide funds for our music and dance classes, and new equipment and curriculum supplies for our playground, the classrooms, and Community Room.

We would like to thank the Kuno family and Warabi restaurant for the incredible dinner and sushi demonstrations, and the Schafer and Young families for their donations of our raffle prizes. We would also like to thank the Hess and Smith families for donating materials to make the beautiful centerpieces, and as always, thanks to our Parent Council members and teachers for their hard work in making the dinner so much fun. We are looking forward to the "Ocho De Mayo" family dinner in May, see you there!

New Additions to our Family Tree!

Congratulations to the following families on their recent arrivals, and welcome to our future TCC students:

Alexander Mentshutkin, born December 28th
(Katrina Mentshutkina's family, EPS)

Emil Yuzo Boctor, born March 25th
(Oliver Boctor's family, Toddlers)

Jose Antonio Lieber, adopted February 13th
(EvaLina Lieber's family, Pre-K)

TCC Volunteer Opportunities

Get involved in your child's education today!

TCC volunteers are a huge part of what makes our program special! There are several ways for family members to get involved in our program, and we are always looking for new ideas. Please contact the office if you are able to help with any of the items listed below, or if you have something different you would like to contribute to our community!

- **PARENT COUNCIL**— We would love to increase the number of parents, particularly our dads, in the Parent Council. Meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month from 5-6 p.m. at the Center, and childcare is provided. Can't attend the meetings? You are still welcome to join. Contact Dana (dana.korch@attachmate.com) to sign up for the Parent Council e-mail list, and stay informed about events at the Center.
- **PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE**— Do you have experience in architecture or landscaping design? Like to work outdoors? We are exploring options to improve and expand our playground space, and we need volunteers to help research and plan this project. Our first meeting will be held in mid-May. Contact Jennifer for more information.
- **VOLUNTEER READERS**— Early literacy skills are a key factor in children's success later in life. Help our children gain these skills by volunteering one hour per week reading one-on-one or in small groups in the classrooms. We would also love to have bilingual parents bring children's books in a variety of languages to share!
- **"GREEN" VOLUNTEERS**— Would you like your child to learn more about environmental issues? Share your skills in our classrooms by teaching a "green" lesson, helping out Akiko with gardening projects, or just taking a nature walk along the Burke-Gilman trail with our classrooms. TCC is always looking for practical ways to be more environmentally and socially aware, and we would love to hear your ideas on this subject.
- **CLASSROOM DONATIONS**— Thanks to the Rossy family for the donation of the new digital camera, and also to our team of volunteers who filled the sandbox recently! We are currently in need of realistic baby dolls in a variety of ethnicities for our classrooms, and we would also appreciate donations of gardening supplies to help us start our flower and vegetable gardens on the playground. Please feel free to see Akiko for specific information on supplies needed for the flower and vegetable garden projects.