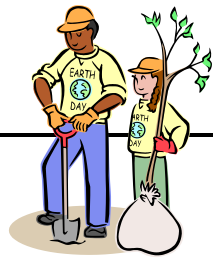




ACC-CLS Parent News

A Note from the Director



April 2010

Volume 10, Issue 8

“What is the Week of the Young Child?” First established in 1971 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the purpose of WOYC is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs. This year’s theme, “Early Years are Learning Years”, focuses attention on the importance of children’s early learning experiences to their later education.

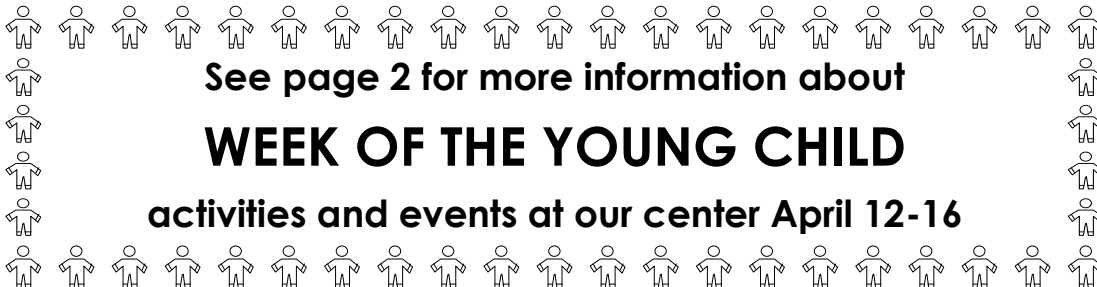
Here at the Lab School we want to balance educating the community about the importance of the early years, recognizing staff and families for their contributions, and offering fun activities that focus on the children. We hope that you will join us for some of the events that we have planned.

The “Week of the Young Child should really be the “Year of the Young Child”. The reality is that while the WOYC is a good community education marketing strategy, the needs of our youngest citizens must be a priority year round. Unfortunately, those needs are especially overlooked or underfunded during the tough economic times.

I challenge you to get involved this year in some small way to advocate for children—whether it is voting, testifying to a council or board about the needs of children, writing a letter to an elected official or helping clean up a neighborhood park—find a way to speak for those who have no voice. Better yet, teach your child the importance of community participation and service by volunteering or speaking out about a cause that is important to him or her or to your family. Your children are watching—model advocacy!

Important Dates:

- ☺ **Reading is Fundamental: Barnyard Book Buddies—** Wednesday, 4/7
- ☺ **Week of the Young Child—**4/11-17
- ☺ **Parenting Workshop: Change Your Child’s Behavior by Changing Yours—**Wednesday, April 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- ☺ **Parent Conferences—** April and May (see page 3 for more info)
- ☺ **Planet Earth/Stars Field Trip—**Thursday, April 29
- ☺ **17th Annual Celebration of Families: Connecting with Nature—** Saturday, May 1, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
- ☺ **SAVE THE DATE!** End of Year Party at the Austin Children’s Museum—Thursday, June 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m.



See page 2 for more information about
WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD
activities and events at our center April 12-16



17th ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF FAMILIES
CONNECTING WITH NATURE
SATURDAY, MAY 1, 10 AM—3 PM
PALMER EVENT CENTER 900 BARTON SPRINGS RD
www.familyconnectionsonline.org

WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

April 11-17, 2010

"EARLY YEARS ARE LEARNING YEARS"

Monday, April 12

Who Dat Baby?

Have you ever wondered what the staff looked like as infants or young children? Parents and children can join talents in a guessing game to match names to faces in the front foyer. You may be in for a surprise and you will definitely be in for a good laugh!

Tuesday, April 13, 7:30-9a.m.

Parent Appreciation

Parents do the world's most important and sometimes thankless job and are an important part of our school community. Join us for breakfast in YOUR honor.

Wednesday, April 14, 10 a.m.

Family Entertainment

Elizabeth Kahura of African Safari Programs returns to delight us again with her dynamic storytelling and music. Family members are welcome to attend.

Thursday, April 15, All Day

"Blockarama"

Take a moment at the beginning or end of the day to discover the value of playing with blocks. Find out more about what children learn when they play with blocks and have some fun with your child.

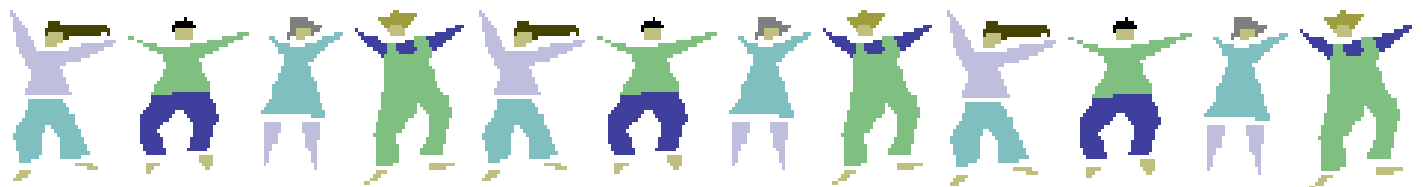
Friday, April 16

Week of the Young Child Parade

Families are welcome to join us for a children's parade around campus at 10 a.m. to draw attention to the importance of young children. Family members are welcome to attend.

Monday-Friday, April 12-16 Staff Appreciation Activities

Parents in each classroom will provide special goodies each day to honor teachers and other staff members who contribute to children's development of a sense of community. Contact your classroom room representative or sign up on the classroom door to help.



Parent Association Invites Your Participation

Current Year Officers:

Paloma Hernandez—Chair

Aoife Longmore—Secretary

Diane Bogard—Treasurer

Parent Room Representatives:

Sunbeams—Erin Romero

Moons—Mison and David Zuniga

Stars—Amy Esqueda and Rick Taylor

Planet Earth—Laurie Drucker

Room representatives

communicate with parents in their child's classroom by e-mail, phone or notes to remind them about upcoming events.



Parent Association Purpose:

1. Choose, organize and implement fundraising projects to benefit the program.
2. Provide opportunities for parent education and support.
3. Act as an avenue for communication between staff and parents.

The Parent Association will not meet in April due to Week of the Young Child events and the Parenting Workshop. **The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 12, 5:30-6:30.** The focus of the meeting will be planning for the next year, including nominations for officers. As always, child care and a light meal will be served. Please join us.

Do you have a child going to kindergarten next year? It's time to start thinking about after school care NOW! Go to www.yourcommunityguide.org and click on education. After school programs are listed and you can even search by the name of your child's school or by zip code. Remember, you can also check the compliance records of any licensed or registered facility by going to www.txchildcaresearch.org.

Spring Parent Conferences

Sunbeams— April 5-9

Moons— April 9-23

Stars— April 26-30

Planet Earth—May 3-7 & May 10-14

During the conference you and the teacher will discuss your child's strengths and needs and together set goals to support his or her continuing growth and development. Teachers will have information, photos, sample work and observations to share in order to help paint a picture of your child's development and school life. Think about information you may want to share about your child.



AUSTIN
CHILDREN'S
MUSEUM

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, June 3rd, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

End of Year Party

Austin Children's Museum

Pizza provided by the Parent Association

Exhibits Include:

the BIG game (feature exhibit)

In My Family/En Mi Familia and more (permanent exhibits)

3401 Webberville Road
Austin, Texas 78702

512/223-5200
512/223-5220 (fax)
www.austincc.edu\childdev



Austin Community College Children's Lab School is a preschool program for children, six months through five years of age, that serves as a demonstration school for the ACC Child Development Department. The Children's Lab School offers an early childhood program designed to support the growth and development of young children in a warm and creative environment. Through field work experiences in a lab setting, students observe the principles of child development and gain practical experience with young children under the supervision and guidance of qualified classroom teachers. The Children's Lab School is licensed by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services and is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs (NAECP), a division of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

2009-10 Calendar at a Glance

Last Day ACC Spring Semester.....May 14
*Memorial Day Holiday.....May 31
ACC Summer Semester Begins.....June 1
Independence Day Holiday.....July 4
Last Day for Graduating Lab School Children...August 13
ACC Summer Semester Ends.....August 13
*Room Prep & Professional Development Week..August 16-20
ACC 2010-2011 Academic Year Begins.....August 23

Please note the center closure in August for room preparation and professional development. This allows teachers and maintenance to clean, repair and prepare rooms for new children. Staff will also be able to participate in required training, meet as a team, plan, and conduct home visits.

*Lab School will be closed to children on these dates.



Want more family activity resources and information?

FREE monthly magazines in the front foyer:

Austin Family is a magazine based on smart parenting and healthy homes. The family columns vary on topics, but every issue presents calendar events and things to do. This magazine offers book recommendations, special monthly features, advertisement of family events, businesses, camps, and extra curricular activities.

Parent: Wise Austin is a journal for thinking parents. The magazine begins with a focus on a certain topic for that month's issue. This magazine includes a calendar of events, parent written articles and business advertisements for children.

Other Resources:

Mr. Johnny and Friends sponsors a website that lists local events for children and families each week at www.kidevents.com. You can sign up to receive a weekly e-mail of events on the website.

Scholastic- Parent & Child is a magazine that features a variety of parenting articles. It also has information from the experts, health, ages & stages, and learning together. The Lab School sponsors the cost of the magazine and so it is FREE to you!