



# STAFF STUFF

## Congratulations!!

The MudPies staff continues to excel in many ways one of which is achieving PERFECT ATTENDANCE! This helps teach the children about consistency and stability. Keep up the good work guys! A BIG pat on the back to you all!

The following staff had Perfect Attendance during the month of January:

Lillian Moody

Cha Wilson

Brandi Inzar

Kat Johnson

Gina Brooks

Sha Woodard

Millicent Hawkins

Linda Bertman

Tiffany Fuller

Cheryl Smith

Peggy Conrad

Sally Bender

Linda Marshall

Cynthia Joyner

Angel Johnston

Donese Gaskins

Pat Toney

Stacy Marts

Michelle Stewart

Sandy Weaver

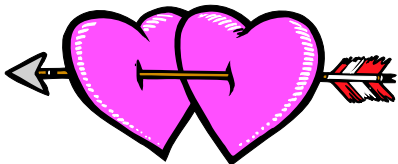
Wilson Carrillo

## Happy Anniversary

Sally Bender (Bears) 3 years February 24

*Thanks for the dedication and commitment to our children and their futures!*

*Your efforts,  
Your time,  
Your devotion,  
YOU  
make such a difference!*



## Happy Birthday to . . .



**Chrissy Choplin** (Dino-Mytes) Feb. 9

**Sandy Weaver** (office) Feb. 18

**Gina Brooks** (Pandas) Feb. 21

## Teacher of the Quarter

Congratulations to **Gina Brooks** (Playful Pandas) our 2005 fourth quarter **TEACHER of the QUARTER** winner. Below is an excerpt from her winning nomination....

*"When my son was in the Panda room, Ms. Gina always took time to share something special about his day with me. She always made suggestions of ways to implement things at home to coordinate their weekly activity plans. She goes out of her way to get to know each parent not just the child."*

Gina has been a part of our toddler team for 5 years. Thanks, Gina, for your hard work and commitment to the MudPies' families.

We had several other wonderful teachers who received very deserving and well-written nominations. Thanks to all our hard working and dedicated group of teachers. Other fourth quarter nominees were:

- Mr. Dashan & Ms. Ginger
- Ms. Pat & Ms. Chrissy
- Ms. Linda & Ms. Michelle

Parents keep your eyes and ears open for our 2006 1<sup>st</sup> quarter recipient (Jan.-Mar.). Nominations can be e-mailed to Sarah McCollum at [Sarah.McCollum@bankofamerica.com](mailto:Sarah.McCollum@bankofamerica.com) or directly to the MudPies office at [mpadmin@nwcdc.org](mailto:mpadmin@nwcdc.org). Thanks for recognizing the MudPies' teachers and what they do for your children.

# MudPAC

## PAC Particulars

The 2005-2006 year is in full swing and it's time to consider serving on the MudPAC committee for next year. Please let me know if you are interested in acting as Chairman of the MudPAC. I'll be happy to discuss the time commitment and responsibilities. It's a wonderful opportunity to work closely with the office staff and all the parents at MudPies.

Please be considerate of others when parking in the MudPies parking lot. On several occasions, parents have been blocked in their parking space because another car has parked behind them. This is happening on the side of the building. We all are anxious to get in and out of the center so please be considerate of others.

### CAMP READ A LOT BOOK FAIR – LET THE BOOK BUGS BITE



February 20<sup>th</sup>-February 24<sup>th</sup>

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 3:00-6:00  
Thursday 3:00-7:00

Mark Your Calendar - our Scholastic Book Fair is February 20<sup>th</sup>-February 24<sup>th</sup>. The book fair will be open and your family can shop and your child can enjoy reading a book in our friendly campground environment. During the event, we also invite you to help build our classroom libraries by purchasing books and donating them to your child's class through the Classroom Wish List program. You can read the book you purchase to your child's classroom during **March Reading Month**. You'll be provided a label to place in the book recognizing your special donation to the classroom.

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who have signed up to man the book fair during the week. You will be provided more information in the near future. On Monday morning, Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be assembling the fair. Please let me know if you are available to help on Monday or just show up. All volunteers and helpers are welcome.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED ON MONDAY FEB 20<sup>th</sup> TO SET UP FAIR.**

All proceeds from the fair will be used to purchase new books for our classrooms.

Hope to see you there!!

Sarah McCollum  
Chairman

## December 2005 Unsung Hero

Congratulations to **Susan Boyles**- Our December Unsung Hero. Susan was nominated for her continued support of the MudPAC and our center. She is the Chairman of the Parent Involvement Committee and supports all the MudPAC events.

A special thank you to **Bobby Bender** (Ms Sally's husband) for helping Santa Claus share his love with our children at the annual Christmas Celebration.

Submit your nomination for the January Unsung Hero by Monday February 13th by visiting [www.mudpieschilddevelopment.org:MudPAC:Unsung Hero](http://www.mudpieschilddevelopment.org:MudPAC:Unsung Hero) or sending an email to [mpadmin@nwcdc.org](mailto:mpadmin@nwcdc.org)

### February MudPAC Meeting

MudPAC's sixth meeting for the 2005-2006 year is Tuesday February 14th at 12:00. The meeting will be held in the 6th floor board room. Check in with the security guard who will issue you a guest pass. Don't forget you can stop by the cafeteria and bring your lunch to the meeting. You can park at MudPies and walk to the GMAC building.

MudPAC meetings are open to all the parents of MudPies. Please plan to join us for the monthly PAC meeting and let's begin this year with a bang.



**We Want You  
To  
Receive MudPies Email**

Join the MudPies email distribution list

1. Send an email to [mudpiesparents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:mudpiesparents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)
2. You will receive a confirmation message – Reply to this email by clicking “ Reply” and then “ Send”
3. You are added to the email list and will begin receiving important information from MudPAC and the MudPies Staff

The email distribution list will be used to send volunteer opportunities and other MUDPAC information to the MudPies family. Currently we have 45 members and hope that everyone will subscribe to the distribution list.

Need to contact all the parents on the MudPAC distribution list? Send an email to [mudpiesparents@yahoogroups.com](mailto:mudpiesparents@yahoogroups.com)

# MudPAC (continued)

## Pac Mission

To involve parents and ensure that MudPies remains a distinctive, premier, and safe preschool facility for our children and their teachers.

## MudPAC Committees

Meet our committee chairman and join one of the teams. MudPAC has four committees that plan and coordinate events and activities for the 2005-2006 year. All parents are encouraged to join one of the committees and support MudPAC.

Events	Sharon DeMaria - Chairman
FundRaiser	Leigh Ann Miller -Chairman
Facilities	Matt Warman -Chairman
Parent Involvement	Susan Boyles - Chairman

Name	Class Rep
Elizabeth Cobb	Bears
Cynthia Davis	Bears
Sharon Demaria	Young Ducks
Stephanie Hamby	Young Ducks
Leigh Anne Miller	Older Ducks
	Older Ducks
Teresa Armstrong	Pandas
	Pandas
Heather Bumgarner	Penguins
Susan Boyles	Penguins
Deb Halvorsen	Circus
Kelly Creasy	Circus
	Dinos
Claressa Davis	Dinos
Lori Elder	Ocean
Melody Meyers	Ocean
Katie Parvin	Space
Matt Warman	Space
Melissa Lloyd	Jungle
Trina Chery	Jungle

## Parent Involvement Committee

### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!! WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP!!

Listen up for lots of volunteer opportunities in February and March. From Feb. 20-24, we will again sponsor the **Scholastic Book Fair** at MudPies. Look for more details in the newsletter or talk to our co-chairs, Deb Halvorsen and Sarah McCollum. There will be many, many opportunities for you to help before, during, and after the Book Fair.



Right after that, we have **Reading Month**. During March, we aim to have a parent read in every class every day. Look for sign-up sheets outside the classrooms in mid-February. If you can't read in your child's class, walk across the hall and sign up for another class. There will be times to fit everyone's schedule. Take a favorite book from home to share with the class or read one already in the classroom. The reading time for most classes will only be about 15 minutes. Please look at your calendar when the schedules are posted and sign up to read to our children! It's a fun way to get in your 2 hours of volunteer time. (And don't forget to write down your time in the Parent Volunteer Log.)



Speaking of volunteer time, we had a record-setting fourth quarter. The Volunteer of the Quarter Award was too close to call, so PAC approved allocating \$25 for TWO classes to buy new books. **Ocean Divers** parents logged 3.89 volunteer hours per child in the fourth quarter. **Perky Penguins** parents had 3.838 volunteer hours per child. Wow!!! Older Ducks wasn't too far behind with 3.19 volunteer hours per child, and Space Travelers was next with 1.99 volunteer hours per child. Keep up the good work!! A new quarter began on January 1. Get out your calendars and pencil in some time for a date with your child's class (or any class!) at MudPies. The children love it when parents get involved -- and it might just be the highlight of your day, too.

Susan

# MudPAC (continued)

## Events Committee

**Teacher's Snack Day** resumed in January with the Playful Pandas and Perky Penguins providing the goodies for the teachers. Next, it will be the Dandy Ducks' turn on February 28th. The remaining schedule is:

<b>February 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Dandy Ducks</b>
<b>March 28</b>	<b>Baby Bears</b>
<b>April 25</b>	<b>Dino-Mytes</b>
<b>May 23</b>	<b>Ocean Divers</b>
<b>June 27</b>	<b>Circus Tykes</b>



Check with your Room Representative for more information on what you need to do to participate.

Save the Date! –  
**May 20<sup>th</sup> MudPies Annual Spring Fling**

Sharon

## Facilities Committee

The Facilities Committee continues to maintain the MudPies Website. We are beginning to review the plans for a storage building to evaluate options. Our goal is to begin construction of the storage facility by early April. The facilities committee will be organizing a day to finish the painting in the stairwell. Let us know if you are handy and would be willing to participate. Please contact the facility committee if you have suggestions or concerns about our facility.



Matt

## Fund Raising Committee

The Fundraising Committee is busy planning the spring fundraisers. We plan to sell raffle tickets to raise money to fund MudPAC projects. The prizes will be cash. Look for more details about the raffle in March. We also plan to participate in the Art to Remember program again this year. Take this opportunity to preserve your child's artwork. The completed art items will be back in time for Mothers Day. This year we will need parent volunteers to help the children and teachers create the artwork. Finally, the Fundraising Committee is monitoring the Campbell Labels for Education program. We have already collected over 250 labels. Help us reach our goal of 2500 labels by bringing in your labels and dropping them in the collection box located at the front desk.

Leigh Anne



## Campbell Labels for Education Program

Mud Pies is collecting labels from the products listed below to exchange for FREE merchandise, such as art supplies or classroom accessories, to benefit our classrooms.

- Campbell's® soups
- Campbell's Supper Bakes® meal kits
- Campbell's® or Franco-American® SpaghettiOs® pasta
- Campbell's® beans, gravies, and canned pasta
- Prego® pasta sauces
- Swanson® broths and canned poultry
- Pace® salsa and picante sauces
- V8® vegetable juices and V8 Splash® juice drinks
- Campbell's® tomato juice
- Pepperidge Farm® breads, cookies, crackers, and frozen products
- Pepperidge Farm® Goldfish® crackers
- Campbell's® Food service products

Please bring in your labels and drop them off in the Campbell Labels for Education collection box located at the front desk.

# Policy Review

Please keep in mind that there are certain operational policies that are in place to help make MudPies run smoother. These policies must be adhered to by all families. Here is a short review of some of them.

- TUITION PAYMENTS:

Tuition payments are due by Thursday morning, 9:00am. If payments are not received by this time, a \$10.00 late fee will be assessed to your account.

If you choose to pay monthly or bi-weekly, tuition payments are to be made at the beginning of the month and at least 2 weeks in advance. No account can be in arrears more than 1 week.

If your child receives subsidized payments (Smart Start or DSS) you have a weekly fee instead of a monthly fee. If you are not sure what your weekly fee is, please see one of the office staff. These families are still required to have their account balance paid up front and not run in arrears or late fees will also be assessed.

- HOURS OF OPERATION:

MudPies hours of operation are from 7:00am – 6:00pm. Do NOT drop off children before 7:00am. An after-hours late fee will be assessed if you pick up your child after 6:00pm!

- SIGN IN – SIGN OUT:

Remember to sign your child in upon arrival and out when you pick them up in the afternoons.

- MEDICINE:

Medicines are given one time a day, between 11:00am – 12:00 noon. Over the counter medicines cannot be given without a note from your child's doctor! Prescription medicines must be in the original container with the prescription label on. Parents must provide their own dispenser to administer the medicine.

- CLOTHING CHANGES:

Children are required to have at least one complete change of clothes in their cubbies at all times. Many classrooms prefer at least 2 sets.

- ILLNESS POLICY:

MudPies will contact you and ask that you pick up your child if he or she becomes ill during the day. **IF YOUR CHILD IS SENT HOME DUE TO ILLNESS, THE CHILD MUST STAY AT HOME THE FOLLOWING DAY BEFORE RETURNING TO MUDPIES!**

- FOOD POLICY:

Food is not to be brought into the center except for the following reasons: an allergy that would prevent your child from eating the food served at the center or classroom activities or parties.

- BOTTLES, SIPPY CUPS, and FOOD must be LABELED and DATED!

If there are ever any questions about any operational policies, please feel free to write them down and drop them in the check box. We will try to address all questions/concerns in the next month's newsletter.

# All Aboard!

## *The Parent Express* *“Connecting home and school”*

This year, our **Parent Express** will focus on PLAY. As you know, our philosophy is centered around the value of play for the young child and how important it is to a child's development. We feel it is as equally important that our families understand our philosophy and why your children so enthusiastically answer “I played today” when you inquire about their day.

So sit back, grab a cup of your favorite drink, and jump on board the Parent Express for some informative information about your child's development!

## **What Does My Child Learn From Music & Movement Activities?**

**Why Is My Child Playing?** For the young child, play and work involve the same actions: interacting with people, manipulating objects, and making discoveries that help make sense of the world. Learning happens naturally through play. Play is the work of children. For school success, children must develop physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and creatively. Play is a crucial part of this development of the whole child.

**What Are Music & Movement Activities?** Young children are active, creative, and spontaneous. They need to sing, to listen to music, to make satisfying sounds with simple musical instruments, and to use their bodies in rhythmic response to music. Song, dance, and musical instruments bring joy to children's play. The music and movement area in the classroom contains tapes, CD's, equipment for listening to music, rhythm instruments, and a variety of props such as scarves to encourage movement and creative dance.

**What Is My Child Learning?** Young children enjoy music and movement activities and often use them to express feelings and emotions, relieving stress and increasing self-esteem. Listening skills, auditory discrimination, and concentration are all promoted through music and movement. Music helps children develop memory skills and language and literacy skills. Other learning taking place in the music and movement center includes social development, physical (large and fine motor) development, multicultural awareness, music knowledge, and creativity.

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# Classroom Clips



## Baby Bears

Happy February to all our Baby Bear Parents! This month is the month to party! The Older Bears will be having a Valentine's Day Party on 2/14. All the Baby Bear parents are welcome to attend this event. A sign-up sheet will be posted the beginning of February. We would like to welcome Abigail Hobson and Brooks Morris to the Younger Bears. The Younger Bear friends are going to miss Colton and Reese but that will be okay because they'll just be a hop, skip, and a jump on the Older side. On February 6, we will say goodbye to Ronald and Alana McKeever as they graduate to Younger Dandy Ducks. Enjoy the month of February as you receive food treats and sweet Valentines!

*Lillian, Sally, Traci, Cha, and Linda*



## Young Dandy Ducks

Parents, thank you for your support thus far this year. We would like to say farewell to Lila Parro who is moving to the Older Ducks. We would like to welcome Roni and Lani McKeever to the Young Ducks. Please help us to make them and their families feel welcome.

A few reminders:

- Please sign your child in and out
- Check your child's folder daily
- Encourage the use of spoons and drinking out of sippy/open cups
- Label your child's cup with the correct date and name
- Sign up for volunteer hours

Thank you for your support.

*Constance, Brandi, Jennifer and Arkisha*



## Perky Penguins

Hello from the Perky Penguins! Hats off to all of our volunteers! Thanks for a job well done. We have had some nice weather and we've really taken advantage of it outside having fun. Let's not forget our book fair. It means a great deal to our class. We are now talking about the windy weather we've had and how to bundle up and stay warm. Cupid's arrow is heading our way February 14<sup>th</sup>. Love is in the air!

*Donese, Sha, and Ashley*



## Older Dandy Ducks

Hello parents! As you know Valentine's is fast approaching and we will be having a party. You should have already received your class Valentine list but please be on the lookout for a party sign-up list on the door. We hope to have 100% participation. We are still in need of family photos. These photos will be displayed around the room. We want to thank you for remembering to wash your child's hands upon arrival in the morning. This is very important and a STATE LAW! Continue to allow your child to drink out of open cups and to use a spoon. This will help to build their fine motor skills and their self-help skills. We appreciate the ongoing support and cooperation.

Daily reminders:

- Cups MUST be labeled and dated daily.
- Your child must be signed in and out everyday!
- Check your child's cubby and folder everyday!
- We must have on-site 2 complete changes of clothes (weather appropriate)

*Cynthia, Kat, Jennifer and Arkisha*



## Playful Pandas

The month of January was great. We hope everyone had a Happy New Year. We said goodbye to Caroline Bumgarner, Bre'anna Wallace, and Caden Young. We said hello to Madison Minga-Perry, Nicole Shadley and Lindsey Armstrong. We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Lilly Carpenter, Tayler Scott, Alondra Dunham, and Ms Angel Johnston. We would like to congratulate Mrs Gina Brooks for making *Teacher of the Quarter*. We would also like to thank Tayler Scott's grandfather for bringing the fire truck for her birthday party. This month we talked about winter and community helpers. We would like to remind all parents to make sure that you wash your child's hand when they arrive in the classroom. Also we would like to say bye bye to our classroom pet Peanut.

*Angel, Gina, and Carla*



## Circus Tykes

We would like to take the time to let you know some of the Circus Tykes' daily lessons. Every morning we review our colors, shapes, counting, and the first letter of our names. Sometimes the children learn these concepts through activities such as flash cards, playdough, posters, etc. These concepts are an important aspect of your child's intellectual growth and should also be practiced at home. These concepts are harder to grasp in some children which is why we stress the importance of practicing at home. Stop lights, street signs, cereal, etc can also be used.

Please remember to make sure your child has the appropriate clothes in his or her cubby and also only the necessary items to function at school (small blanket, small sleep friend). Remember the children's individual cubby space is limited. Therefore, the articles allowed for each child to bring to school are also limited. Thanks for your support and understanding.

*Carlatta and Millicent*



## Dino-Mytes

January is gone already. It is hard to believe we are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> month of 2006. January was lots of fun. Our unit on bears was the most fun especially our trip to Build-A-Bear at Hanes Mall. The children really enjoyed picking outfits for their bears. We would like to thank the following kid's moms for joining us: Cameron, Caila, Jordan, Koree, and Emma. We are continuing our letter and number recognition activities and have begun practicing writing also. We have a lot of fun activities planned for February including our Valentine's party so be on the lookout for notices. Again, thanks for the ongoing support and cooperation and remember you are ALWAYS welcomed to lend a helping hand.

*Pat and Chrissy*



## Ocean Divers

Ms Michelle and I would like to thank several parents who have contributed items and their time to the Ocean Divers classroom. Thank you to Langston Peoples' family and Katie Steffan's dad for the playdough they donated to the class. Thank you to Christopher Beam's mom for helping around the classroom and playing with the children. Thank you to Charlotte's mom, Kyndal's family, Christopher B's family, Taylor's family, Ethan's family, and Christopher E's family for donating the items for our Super Bowl Party. If we forgot you, we're sorry and will recognize you in the next newsletter. Also, thank you to Micki Bryan for not turning us down in organizing a field trip for the Ocean Divers. Finally, please do not forget to volunteer to read to the class in the month of February.

*Linda and Michelle*



## Space Travelers

As we say goodbye to January, we would like to remind all parents that we are still in need of some items for our room! We have a list located on our door as well as copies in children's folders. These items are needed to enhance the learning objectives for the children as well as increase their level of fun!

Also it is important and STATE LAW that everyone have a complete change of clothes, in a small container with a lid, to be kept in the child's cubby.

I know it seems that we are asking for a lot but we want to do our best to provide a safe, fun, and secure environment for you and your child! Your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for GRADUATION on June 7, 2006 at Pinedale Christian Church! We will be receiving more info soon so please keep your eyes and ears open! Happy Valentine's Day!

*Sharon and Stacy*



## Jungle Explorers

First let us once again thank each of you for your support and cooperation during this transition period. We are doing our best to keep the environment fun and exciting for the children yet stable at the same time. We have been very busy learning and doing many things. We had a blast with our Bear week and we have become very knowledgeable about African American inventors. Just ask us who invented the stop light and who found different things to do with peanuts. February begins our unit on Dental Health. We are looking forward to our visit to Dr. Felts, Peoples and Broughton's dental office on Feb. 10. We would love to have you accompany us and lend a helping hand (and it will hopefully eliminate us having to take 2 vans). Your help directly or indirectly is greatly appreciated. We also look forward to our Valentine's Party scheduled for Tuesday, February 14. Please be on the lookout for more info and a class Valentine list. Hugs to everyone this Valentine's Day!

*Dashan and Tiffany*