



MudPies Matters

January 2006

Working Together for a Great Start



Sandy's Section

HELLO 2006! Another fun-filled year starts in the wonderful world of MudPies. First let me begin the new year by saying **THANK YOU!** Thanks for all the support, cooperation, volunteerism, smiles, gifts and most importantly your trust in allowing us to care and educate your children in 2005! You definitely play a big role in the success of this center and your participation does not go unnoticed. I look forward to working with each family, new and old, in 2006. I personally wish each of you a very blessed and prosperous 2006!

Thanks to all the participation with all the holiday events during the months of November and December. I understand we had a lot going on but your participation made for happy holidays for others less fortunate. A very special thanks to those who pulled tags from our 2005 Angel Tree. The families were overwhelmed and very thankful for your generosity. It always humbles me to play Santa and deliver the gifts. It helps me to better understand the importance of love and kindness and to be truly thankful for the blessings I have been bestowed.

A VERY SPECIAL, SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE MUDPIES FAMILIES. THE MONETARY GIFT AS WELL AS ALL THE OTHER GIFTS WERE GREAT. YOU WENT WAY ABOVE AND BEYOND AND YOUR THOUGHFULNESS IS APPRECIATED MORE THAN WORDS CAN EXPRESS. THANK YOU FOR ADDING MORE BRIGHTNESS TO OUR CHRISTMAS!

As always we are continuously striving to provide the very best quality care for your child. We make mistakes as we go but we continue to push forward to provide you and your child with a safe, fun and educational center in which you can be proud of. Again, hello 2006 and Happy New Year to everyone!

Remember a smile goes a long way. ☺

Sandy

2006 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

MudPies will be closed for the following holidays during the 2006 year:

Monday, May 29

Tuesday, July 4

Monday, September 4

**Thursday & Friday,
November 23 & 24**

Memorial Day

Independence Day

Labor Day

Thanksgiving

(The Christmas holiday will be determined at a later date)



Quote of the Month:

... The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given a wish to learn.

-SIR JOHN LUBBOCK, British Archaeologist

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 December:

<i>Lillian Moody</i>	<i>Sally Bender</i>
<i>Cha Wilson</i>	<i>Ashley Pinkston</i>
<i>Brandi Inzar</i>	<i>Constance Wright</i>
<i>Cynthia Joyner</i>	<i>Angel Johnston</i>
<i>Carla Reid</i>	<i>Gina Brooks</i>
<i>Donese Gaskins</i>	<i>Sha Woodard</i>
<i>Pat Toney</i>	<i>Chrissy Choplin</i>
<i>Carlatta Miller</i>	<i>Dashan Gerald</i>
<i>Linda Bertman</i>	<i>Peggy Conrad</i>
<i>Jennifer Wiley</i>	<i>Sandy Weaver</i>
<i>Cheryl Smith</i>	<i>Tiffany Fuller</i>
<i>Wilson Carrillo</i>	

Teacher of the Quarter

December 30 ended our 4th quarter. If you want to nominate a teacher or team of teachers that has gone above and beyond their normal expectations, you can submit a nomination for them via email to Sarah McCollum, MudPAC chairman, or to the office at mpadmin@nwcdc.org

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

Happy Birthday to . . .



<i>Kat Johnson (Ducks)</i>	<i>January 3</i>
<i>Tiffany Fuller (office)</i>	<i>January 12</i>
<i>Michelle Stewart (Ocean)</i>	<i>January 29</i>

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Thanks to the following staff for their years of dedication to the MudPies children and their families!

<i>Gina Brooks</i>	<i>Pandas</i>	<i>4 years</i>	<i>January 15</i>
<i>Brandi Inzar</i>	<i>Ducks</i>	<i>2 years</i>	<i>January 28</i>



***Behind every successful student
is a successful teacher.
Thanks.***

MudPAC

The MudPAC wishes everyone a Happy New Year. I hope that you all experienced the wonders of the season and had a safe and exciting New Year's Eve. 2006 brings new resolutions. Let MudPAC help you with a few New Year's Resolutions this year:

- Attend a MudPAC meeting
- Nominate a teacher for Teacher of the Quarter
- Nominate a parent for the Unsung Hero Award
- "Three 4 Me"- Volunteer in the center 3 hours per month
- Log your volunteer hours
- Consider serving on the MudPAC board
- Above all - Love

MudPAC committees have several volunteer opportunities this year. Please consider volunteering for these events even if you aren't a member of the committee. We want all parents to participate in the center and with our children. Thank you to all the parents who supported the Angel Tree. Our families had a wonderful Christmas thanks to the generosity of our parents.

Please join me in thanking Micki Bryan for her many years of service preparing the MudPies monthly newsletter. Micki has spent countless hours over the past several years gathering and organizing our newsletter. We look forward to Micki utilizing her many talents in other areas of the center. Trina Chery has graciously agreed to be the contact for our newsletter. Thank You Micki and Trina.

MudPAC voted to purchase new computer programs for our classrooms at the December meeting. We have allotted \$1000.00 to purchase these items. Thanks to all the cookie dough sellers who raised the funds for these programs.

MudPAC meetings will be held on the 6th Floor Board Room for the 2006 year- We hope to see you there on January 10th.

Want to be more involved in the center and don't know how? Please contact me and we can discuss your area of interests. smccollum1@triad.rr.com.

Happy New Year!!

Sarah McCollum
Chairman



November Unsung Hero

Congratulations to **Sharon DeMaria**- Our November Unsung Hero. Sharon was nominated for organizing two events to help others in our community: The Penny Drive and 2nd Harvest Food Bank

Submit your nomination for the December Unsung Hero by Monday January 9th by visiting [www.mudpieschilddevelopment.org:MudPAC:Unsung Hero](http://www.mudpieschilddevelopment.org:MudPAC:Unsung%20Hero) or sending an email to mpadmin@nwcdc.org

January MudPAC Meeting

MudPAC's fifth meeting for the 2005-2006 year is Tuesday January 10th 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
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 44 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

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

Events Committee

My, how the time has passed. The Pennies Campaign and the Angel Tree were a success. As we begin the month of January, the Events Committee wants to remind everyone that the Teacher's Snack Day will resume on the 23rd. Check with your Room Representative for the date your child's classroom sponsor's the event. As a special note, the Events Committee would like to thank you for participating in the many events we sponsored. Without you, none of the events would have been a success. Thank you again for your continued support
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. 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

Parent Involvement Committee

GET READY TO READ!! The 2nd Annual Scholastic Book Fair is coming to MudPies on Feb. 20 - 24. Children and parents will have opportunities to buy books for themselves and for the classrooms. We'll need lots of volunteers to set up the Fair, staff it during afternoon hours, and take down the Fair. You'll get more information as the time gets closer, but if you can block out a few hours one afternoon during that week, please do! We need all the help we can get!!

Keep logging those volunteer hours!! We'll soon be announcing which class had the most volunteer hours per child this quarter. That class will get \$25 to buy new books for the classroom. Mark time on your January calendar now to get your 2 hours of volunteer time in. It's easy and fun!

Thanks to all the parents who contributed to the Holiday Gift Fund. We raised a total of \$3220.00, which was divided equally between the MudPies staff. Each staff member got \$92.00. Your generosity is appreciated!!

Susan

Fund Raising Committee

The Fundraising Committee encourages everyone to participate in the Campbell Labels for Education program. Please bring your labels to Mud Pies and place them in the Campbell Labels for Education collection box 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® Foodservice products

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



Recipe for a Happy New Year

CLEAN THOROUGHLY 12 whole months.

DIVIDE INTO 365 parts, set aside, preparing one part only at a time as follows:

MIX WELL into each day:

- 1 part patience
- 1 part courage
- 0 part work

ADD to each day: 1 part each of hope, faithfulness, generosity, and kindness

BLEND with:

- 1 part prayer
- 1 part meditation
- 2 good deed

SEASON mixture with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play, and a cup of good humor.

POUR mixture into vessel of love.

COOK over radiant joy, garnish with a smile.

SERVE with quietness, unselfishness, and good cheer.

Happy New Year Friend



I wish you **Health**...
So you may enjoy each day in comfort.

I wish you the **Love** of friends and family...
And **Peace** within your heart.

I wish you the **Beauty** of nature...
That you may enjoy the work of God.

I wish you **Wisdom** to choose priorities...
For those things that really matter in life.

I wish you **Generosity** so you may share...
And good things that come to you.

I wish you **Happiness** and **Joy**...
And **Blessings** for the New Year.

I wish you the best of everything...
That you so well deserve.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FRIEND!
(Author Unknown)

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 Table Toys?

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 Table Toys? The early childhood classroom should be filled with age-appropriate opportunities for children to practice coordinating what the eye sees with what the hand can do. When children experience interesting and challenging materials, they are creating a knowledge base for interpreting the world and for making sense of things that they will later talk about, draw, read about, and use in problem solving. Small-muscle activities such as puzzles, small construction sets, and other table toys are normally found in an area of the classroom defined by low, open shelves and child-size tables and chairs.

What Is My Child Learning? Fun, hands-on, and visually stimulating manipulatives help children acquire basic skills, practice fine motor development, and refine eye-hand coordination – all critical for reading and writing readiness. Stacking, fitting, connecting, stringing, comparing, matching, sorting, sequencing, building, classifying, persisting at tasks, turning knobs – children continue to build basic skills through play. Children also learn to think logically, understand cause and effect, recognize shapes, and predict outcomes as they manipulate table toys.

Taken from A Publication of the Environments Professional Group.

©Environments, Inc.

www.environments.com

Classroom Clips



Baby Bears

Happy New Year to all our wonderful babies and their parents! The Older Bears would like to welcome Jack Randall, Caroline Cates and Jackson Sutton to our side! We're saying goodbye to Lily Smith, Aaliyah Howard, and Madison Hairston who have graduated to the Dandy Ducks! The Young Bears would like to also welcome Caitlin Brogden, Kelsey Thacker, and Bryce Baker to our group! Thanks to everyone who contributed to the gift fund and for all the individual gifts. You made our holidays bright! A few reminders:

- Sign your child in and out each day
- Fill out the daily feeding sheet each day
- Check your child's cubby every day

Thanks for all the support and Happy New Year!

Lillian, Sally, Linda, Cha, and Traci



Young Dandy Ducks

Hey Young Duck Parents,

The Young Duck teachers would like to thank all the parents and children for participating in the Secret Santa Gift Party Celebration. We would also like to thank the parents for the gifts and those that participated in the Gift Fund. The Duck teachers hope that everyone enjoyed their holiday. A few reminders for parents are to make sure your child has a change of weather appropriate clothing, also make sure that you bring in a bag labeled with your child's belongings. We will also appreciate it if you would help us by making sure that your child's cups are labeled with their name and correct date. On January 3, we welcomed Lily Smith, Madison Hairston, Aaliyah Howard, and Jameson Bush.

Constance, Brandi, and Jennifer



Perky Penguins

Happy New Year! Where did the time go? We take this time to thank all our parents for what you've done this past year. Your participation was greatly appreciated and we say thank you. The Food Drive, the Penny Drive, and the Angel Tree were a success. We are gearing up for the winter months ahead. We will be watching for snow birds and talking about our furry winter friends. Who knows, maybe we will get some snow! We take this time to say goodbye to Aiden Halvorsen, Dylan Johnson, Margaret Marpo who will be moving to Circus Tykes upstairs. We welcome Caroline Bumgarner, Caden Young, and Breanna Wallace. Have a great year!

Donese, Sha, and Ashley



Older Dandy Ducks

Welcome back and we hope you had a Merry Christmas!

Just a few reminders for the new year:

1. Label and date all cups with the correct date
2. Check your child's cubby every day
3. Keep two weather-appropriate change of clothes in your child's cubby.
4. Please work with your child on using an open cup and using a spoon

We would like to welcome Bella, Jacob, and Nicholas to the Older Ducks. Farewell and good luck to Madison, Lindsey, and Nicole who graduated to the Penguins. Happy New Year, Older Ducks!

Kat, Cynthia, and Arkisha



Playful Pandas

The month of December is always special. We hope everyone had a blessed and joyous Christmas. We said goodbye to DeNorris and we say hello to Timothy Clegg. We wished Cameron Lane a Happy Birthday and would like to thank all the parents who participated in the teachers' fund and generously gave gifts to Pandas' teachers. A special thanks to the Carpenter family for caring for our bunny rabbit over the Christmas holiday. During December we made Christmas trees, Santa faces, and Gingerbread men to decorate our classroom. We learned the colors green, white, and brown. We practiced our potty training and how to put on our shoes. We learned new songs and danced to Jingle Bells. We had a great December and look forward to a New Year with our teachers and friends.

Angel, Gina, and Carla



Circus Tykes

Welcome 2006! Can you believe 2005 is over already! The Circus Tykes had a wonderful year of 2005 and we hope 2006 is even better! We would like to take the time to thank all the parents who volunteered either supplies or time during the year of 2005. You are greatly appreciated. We would also like to remind you of a few things: First of all, please make sure your child's cubby only contains those items needed for daily functioning in our room; Our cubbies are beginning to look junky and unorganized. We are trying to keep the clutter down. Also, please be sure to check your child's cubby for artwork and important information. Thanks again and we look forward to yet another great year!

Carlatta and Millicent



Ocean Divers

Ms Michelle and I would like to welcome into our class Morgan Eastling, Langston Peoples, and Katie Myers. We wish Morgan Beane, Emilia Coleman, Maggie Malloy, Lilly Myers, and Ashley Rhoades a successful year in their new class. Just another reminder to try and label all the children's clothing. Michelle and I would also like to mention how proud we are of the children and their hard work with their learning. They are all doing a fantastic job. Thank you to all the parents who contributed to the MudPies Christmas fund, the ones from our class who provided us with the Christmas gifts and finally Northwest for providing us with your most generous Christmas bonus. On a final note, Ms Michelle and I would like to wish everyone a **Happy and Healthy New Year!**

Linda and Michelle



Dino-mytes

December was a very busy month for the Dinos. We were busy getting ready for Christmas. We can't believe it has come and gone already! Our most exciting time was when we visited the Oaks at Forsyth Nursing Home to sing Christmas carols and give out gifts that we made for the residents. We also made gifts for our parents and ornaments to hang on their trees. The Dinos were excited to exchange gifts that they got for their friends. We will like to thank all of our parents for the gifts that you gave us. Thanks for all of your support. You are the greatest! We are looking forward to a New Year. We would like to welcome Tyler Roberson to the Dino Class. We will be busy learning, learning, learning! Have a Happy New Year!

Pat and Chrissy



Space Travelers

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. We look forward to a new year and many adventures! The cold weather is here for a while so please make sure your child has appropriate clothing in their cubbies. Also we would like to remind all our parents that volunteer hours are important, so any time you can give (15 to 30 minutes to come read or do a short art activity) would be wonderful. Stacy and I would like to thank all the parents who contributed to the holiday gift fund and brought presents. We really appreciate your kindness and gratitude.

Sharon and Stacy



Jungle Explorers

December has been a month of togetherness, multi-cultural celebrations, and the anticipation of sharing gifts with family and friends. We would like to thank each family for helping make our Christmas party and gift exchange a huge success. We sincerely enjoyed sharing this holiday season with parents and children together.

Ms Dashan and I would like to thank the Jungle parents and children for our wonderful gifts and cards. It is truly heart warming to know we are appreciated by each of you. It is our pleasure to work with your children in hopes of a successful transition into kindergarten. We have been working on name writing and recognition, shape creations, and seasonal things such as weather and traditions. We encourage each child to discuss their day with a parent in hopes of sharing their day and reviewing what we have learned.

Please remember to check your child's mailbox daily and clean out cubbies every Friday. We are encouraging the children to work on being organized and neat. This will help them become more responsible for their belongings.

Just a reminder: Homework is sent home as review for the children and as a possible activity for children to share with parents. It is not a requirement to do or return homework. We enjoy having the homework returned as added observation on each child's progress. Happy New Year from the Jungle!

Dashan and Ginger