



MudPies Matters

March 2006

Working Together for a Great Start



...From the Director's Chair

2006 just keeps rolling right along. It is hard to believe that March is here already and I have yet to eat any snow cream or build a snowman. Who knows, March might just be the month for the "BIG SNOW" of 2006. Of course winter doesn't officially end until March 20 so I guess there is still time for my snow cream and snowman. And even though I am anxious about the white stuff I will say the thought of the travel does not excite me. Well maybe I'm more ready for warm weather than I think!

Well whatever the weather holds for us this March, the activities will continue on. And boy do we have a lot of fun and cool events coming your way the next couple of weeks and months. Please take time to read the notices on your children's classroom doors. It will only take a few minutes of your time either at drop-off or pick-up. And those papers you throw in the backseat of your car, well there might be some very important information about a fun event you will want to be a part of. Remember it might only be a few minutes of your time but to the teachers and parents who plan all the fun things for your children it is a huge amount of time! The BOOK FAIR was a huge success. Mainly in part to all the wonderful parents who donated their time to work in the afternoons and especially to Deb Halvorsen and Sarah McCollum who were the primary organizers for the event. Thanks also to everyone who purchased books and an extra thanks to those who purchased books for the classrooms. WOW! What a wonderful group of families we have. As we wrap up the BOOK FAIR we jump right into READING MONTH. It is not too late to sign up to read. If you have never done this before it is a very rewarding experience. Please see your child's teacher or contact Susan Boyles for more information or read about it in the PAC PARTICULARS section.

Remember you are a vital part of MudPies and we want your help. Current research has proven that children enjoy a more enriched learning experience when their parents take an active role in their education. So what does this mean for you – volunteer, volunteer, volunteer! Thanks for your continued ongoing support and partnership! Think Snow, Welcome Spring! Think Snow, Welcome Spring – I can not decide which one I want!! Oh well – Happy March!

Remember a smile goes a long way. ☺

Sandy



Upcoming Events Mark Your Calendars Now!

March	READING MONTH
April 11	<i>Easter Egg Hunts</i> Ducks, Pandas, Penguins
April 12	<i>Easter Egg Hunts</i> Circus, Ocean, Dinos, Jungle and Space
April 13 & 14	Rain Dates for Easter Egg Hunts
April 20	<i>Spring Portraits</i> All downstairs classrooms & Circus Tykes
April 21	<i>Spring Portraits</i> Space, Jungle, Ocean, Dinos & Siblings
May 11	<i>Spring Portraits</i> Group and GRADUATION
May 20	SPRING FLING



Quote of the Month:

... From the very beginning of his education, the child should experience the joy of discovery.

ALFRED NORTH WHITEHEAD (1861-1947)
British Mathematician, Philosopher

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 February:

Lillian Moody

Sally Bender

Linda Marshall

Constance Wright

Jennifer Wiley

Cynthia Joyner

Kat Johnson

Angel Johnston

Donese Gaskins

Sha Woodard

Pat Toney

Chrissy Choplin

Sharon Barringer

Stacy Marts

Michelle Stewart

Tiffany Fuller

Sandy Weaver

Cheryl Smith

Wilson Carrillo

Peggy Conrad

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 . . .



- Brandi Inzar – (*Ducks*) – March 1
- Carla Reid – (*Pandas*) – March 6
- Sally Bender – (*Bears*) – March 9
- Cha Wilson – (*Bears*) – March 23

Teacher of the Quarter

Our first quarter of the 2006 year is coming to an end! Have you seen one of our teachers going that extra mile, above and beyond the call of normal job expectations? If so, it would be a great joy for one of our teachers to receive this honor! Remember nominations can be submitted via e-mail to Sarah McCollum, our MudPAC chairperson, at Sarah.McCollum@bankofamerica.com or directly to the MudPies office at mpadmin@nwcde.org.

Little Eyes

There are little eyes upon you
And they're watching night and day.
There are little ears that quickly
Take in every word you say.

There are little hands all eager
To do anything you do;
And little children dreaming
Of the day they'll be like you.

They believe in you devoutly
Hold all you say and do,
They will say and do, in your way
When they're grown up, just like you.

There's a wide-eyed little student
Who believes you're always right;
And their eyes are always open,
And they watch you day and night.

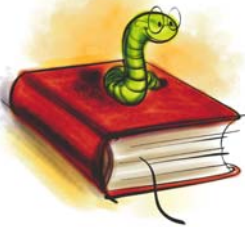
You are setting an example
Every day in all you do;
For the little child who's waiting
To grow up to be like you.

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.

CAMP READ A LOT BOOK FAIR LET THE BOOK BUGS BITE



Our 2nd Annual Book Fair raised more than \$1400.00 in free books. Wow and thanks to all the parents who purchased books for the center and their children. What a great way to prepare for March Reading Month!

Kudos to Tiffany, Chery and Sandy for their support of the book fair. All three ladies supported our efforts and made this year's fair a huge success. A "Grand" thank you to all the volunteers who worked the book fair:

Ashley Robbins
Teresa Beam
Stephanie Hamby
Jessica Shadley
Julie Brogden
Claressa Davis
Jennifer Noped
Japreis Evans
Lisa Bush
Romaine Hudson
Frances Bealsey
Deidre Hobbs
Beverly Coleman
Micki Bryan

Sarah McCollum
Chairman

January 2006 Unsung Hero

Congratulations to **Cindy Davis**- Our January Unsung Hero. Cindy was nominated for her efforts in researching the storage building for our facilities.

Submit your nomination for the February Unsung Hero by Monday March 13th by visiting [www.mudpieschilddevelopment.org:MudPAC:Unsung Hero](http://www.mudpieschilddevelopment.org:MudPAC:Unsung%20Hero) or sending an email to mpadmin@nwcdc.org

March MudPAC Meeting

MudPAC's seventh meeting for the 2005-2006 year is Tuesday March 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.



We Want You To Receive MudPies Email

Join the MudPies email distribution list

1. Send an email to mudpiesparents-subscribe@yahoo.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@yahoo.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	Y Ducks
Stephanie Hamby	Y Ducks
Leigh Anne Miller	O Ducks
Teresa Armstrong	Pandas
Susan Boyles	Penguins
Heather Bumgarner	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

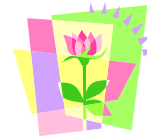
Events Committee

Thank you Dandy Ducks for our February Snack Day! Our teachers enjoy this special day. Teacher's Snack Day schedule:

March 28	Baby Bears
April 25	Dino-Mytes
May 23	Ocean Divers
June 27	Circus Tykes

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

The Events Committee is supporting the efforts of the other committees at this time. We will keep you informed of any new events that are scheduled.

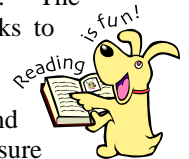


Save the Date! – May 20th MudPies Annual Spring Fling

Sharon

Parent Involvement Committee

March is here and that means Reading Month at MudPies. We want a volunteer to read in every class every day in March. A calendar with the teachers' preferred reading times is posted outside each classroom. Sign up on the calendar to reserve your special time with the class. You may bring books from home or use the ones in the classroom. The children love having guests read new books to them!!



Most time slots are only 10-15 minutes and the times vary throughout the day. You are sure to find a time that works for you. If you can't read in your child's class, please sign up to read in another class. (All the classes except Baby Bears are participating.) When you finish, please record your time in the Parent Volunteer Log. Time may be recorded in the log for your child's class, even if you read to another class.

The Book Fair was a success again this year. Thanks to all the volunteers who donated their time to set up, staff, and clean up after the Book Fair. Deb Halvorsen and Sarah McCollum went above and beyond the call of duty by doing a fantastic job as this year's co-chairs for the event. We truly appreciate everyone who supported the Book Fair, whether by helping out or by buying books. We'll have the final numbers to report next month, but once again, we will be taking our profits in books. Look for new books to show up in your child's classroom soon.

Thanks for all you do.

Susan

MudPAC (continued)

Facilities Committee

Can you guess which handprint belongs to your child in the stairwell? Check it out. The Facilities Committee completed the painting of the stairwell by adding our children's handprints. Caleigh Evans did an outstanding job of chairing this project and we appreciate all the parents who "lent a hand."



Please support the March raffle to raise funds for our storage building. The research is complete and we're ready to purchase the storage building needed for our outside toys. Thanks, Cindy, for your hard work researching our options.

Matt

Fund Raising Committee

The Fundraising Committee is working on several projects:

(1) **Art to Remember** - As you recall from last year, ATR transforms our children's artwork into keepsake items, such as magnets or mugs. The children will be creating their artwork sometime between March 6 and March 16, depending on classroom schedules. We need volunteers to help the teachers and children. If you would like to help out (and earn those MudPAC volunteer hours), please let your teacher know or contact Frances Beasley (mother of Gracie in Older Ducks). We expect the completed items to be back by the end of April - just in time for Mother's Day.



(2) **Raffle** - On March 13, the Fundraising Committee will give each family 25 raffle tickets to sell to raise money to benefit Mud Pies. We hope that you will choose to participate in this fundraiser, but if you do not wish to participate, we request that you turn in your tickets to the front desk so that others may sell them. The drawing will be held on March 30 and the prizes are CASH. You will receive more details on the raffle in your child's cubby.



(3) **Campbell Labels for Education** - Thank you to everyone for bringing in your labels. Please continue to save and bring in your labels since every label counts towards classroom supplies Mud Pies will receive from Campbell's.

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 During Sand & Water Play?

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 Is Sand & Water Play? Children are naturally attracted to experimenting with sand and water, which provide the ultimate unstructured media for young children. Sand and water lend themselves to many imaginative activities and, best of all, they give children a sense of being in control. Shaping sand and pouring water allow self-expression without fear of making mistakes. Sand and water activities may be found both in the classroom, using a sand and water table, or outside. A variety of props and accessories for sand and water play helps extend children's opportunities for exploration and discovery.

What Is My Child Learning? Young children are natural investigative scientists, learning from sand and water play as they delight in it. As children explore and follow their natural curiosity and interests, they direct and construct much learning and internalize many basic concepts. Activities with sand and water can be ideal “learn through play” experiences, encompassing the senses, language skills, problem-solving skills, critical-thinking skills, social development, and creative expression. Children make basic discoveries that deepen their understanding of the world around them. Children also find questions that they “own” and want to explore – questions to which they want to find answers.

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Classroom Clips



Baby Bears

Spring is just around the corner. Winter is almost behind us. The last couple of months were busy. We want to thank all the parents for labeling their bottles and dating them, and for getting all the paperwork turned back in. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Also, we thank all parents who have completed their child's family tree for the classroom. If you notice, the Younger Bears have their poster made. Again, thanks for helping us get this project completed. Also, we have new, larger pictures for the babies to help them develop their cognitive skills.

We welcome all our new parents and give Caroline Cates a big welcome back. We are so glad she is back with us. Way to go Caroline! You are truly a champion.

Lillian, Sally, Traci, Cha, and Linda



Young Dandy Ducks

We would like to thank the parents for all their help in making our Valentine's Day party a success. Everyone had a great time. Also thanks to those parents who participated in Snack Day. As a few reminders, we are asking that each parent check their child's cubby for weather and size appropriate clothing. We are also asking that each parent check for nails that need to be clipped. Thanks to each parent who brought in family pictures and we hope that those who haven't will do so. Please make sure that your child's cups are labeled with their name and the correct date. Happy March to all of you!

Constance, Brandi, Jennifer and Arkisha



Perky Penguins

What a mild winter! The Penguins are really ready for spring! We really did enjoy our Valentine's Day party hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Robbins. We are looking forward to our March Read-a-thon where our parents really get involved in our class reading an assortment of books. You may bring a book of your choice or use what we have here.

Thanks for helping your child dress for Spirit Week. They enjoyed it a great deal, especially Pajama Day. Have a great spring! Enjoy the warmer weather. Thanks for all you do.

Donese, Sha, and Ashley



Older Dandy Ducks

Well the month of February is over. We had a lot going on this month. The Valentine's Day party turned out great. We thank each and every one who brought in items for the party and goodies for us. We'd also like to give a big thanks to Tracy Yohannes for helping us with the party. She helped clean up and played with the children for a while. She displayed great volunteer time! We thank all the parents for bringing in your pictures to put up around the room. The bulletin board outside the room is going great. Keep up the good work. Communication is a big factor so if there are any concerns about what we do throughout the day, please talk to one of us at any time.

We would like for you to continue working with your child on using spoons at home. Most of them are drinking from an open cup and are doing great! Please take the time to read to your child everyday. Reading is very important to a child, even at this age. Speaking of reading, the book fair was a success. We had a lot of books on our wishlist and we received some, so thanks and big hats off to you for the purchases and for volunteering your time with the book fair. BIG thanks to the Beasley family, Parro family, Gullette family, Yohannes family, Miller family, and Torrance family for purchasing books for the room.

Just a few reminders:

1. Label and date everything
2. Provide 2 sets of changes of clothes
3. Wash your child's hands upon arrival
4. Use open cups and spoons at home
5. Sign your child in and out everyday
6. Check your child's folder everyday

Cynthia, Kat, Jennifer and Arkisha



Playful Pandas

February was an exciting month for the Playful Pandas. We enjoyed our Valentine's Day Party. Thanks to all of you who helped us make it a great success either by bringing something special or lending a helping hand at the party. We have been talking about love, hearts, and flowers. We were able to decorate our room with lovely artwork for the party. We have also discussed the circus. We discussed circus animals and circus people. We had to say a sad goodbye to Ben Williard who joined the Penguin class. We are able to say an exciting hello to Kendall Brogden. As we say goodbye to February, we welcome March and the warmer weather that comes in spring.

Angel, Gina, and Carla

Classroom Clips (continued)



Circus Tykes

A very special thank you to all of our parents for your support while I was our recuperating from surgery. I appreciate your cards and kind thoughts.

Just a reminder that March is designated as Reading Month. We are asking that you please sign up to share a special story with us at a time that is convenient for you. Your volunteering means a lot to us.

Also, we extend a Happy Birthday to Jasaiah Gathings-Rice on March 2 and Leila N'diaye on March 23.

Please be reminded that each child is required to have at least two changes of clothes in their cubby.

Carlatta and Millicent



Dino-Mytes

We are really moving right on through Winter and patiently awaiting the arrival of Spring! The Dinos are doing great with learning the "Hand Washing Routine" and also with their manners. We are really focusing on these two areas and we are impressed by our Dinos with the great effort they are making. Thanks for working with your Dino at home. We need all of our parents to reinforce our expected behaviors in the classroom at home also. We would appreciate it greatly. We would like to thank all of our parents who volunteered on our field trips on the Trolley ride and to the Transportation Museum. We had a great time and our Dinos really enjoyed the field trips. The parents who volunteered are: Caila, Phylcia, Sarita, Kathryn, Emma, and Mercer's moms, Emma and Asia's dads, and Cameron's grandparents. We also need to thank Riley's mother for going on our field trip to Build-a-Bear last month! Without the help from our parents, we would not be able to go on as many field trips as we like to so we really appreciate the help you give us by volunteering on field trips! For the month of March, we are looking forward to our Story Times with the MudPies parents. We hope that all of our Dino parents will be able to read to a class this month. Please be aware of your child's changes of clothing in their cubby. Some of our Dinos do not have any changes or not enough changes of clothing in their cubby. If your child does not have an allergy to a type of food, please do not allow them to bring in a snack to eat unless we ask for it on the Activity Plan. The only way your child may bring in a snack otherwise is if they bring in enough to share with all of the Dinos (16) and it has to be store-bought.

Pat and Chrissy



Ocean Divers

We would like to thank Sahana Peoples for visiting and showing us how to take care of our teeth. Also a big thank you to all the parents who bought books for our class during the book fair. We welcome Joshua McCravey to the Ocean Divers class. Thanks to all the parents who went on the field trip to the Transportation Museum. We will be going on more field trips in the future. If you didn't get to come on the Transportation field trip, then maybe you can come on another one in the future. Please make sure that your child has two changes of clothes in their cubby. Fridays are our 'Share Day' and the children can bring in a toy from home to share with their friends. Thanks again for all that you do.

Linda and Michelle



Space Travelers

We would like to say a big THANK YOU!! to all the parents who purchased books off our wish list. We would also like to say thanks for the classroom donations. It is helpful to purchase items that are in constant need.

With graduation approaching and our time with these wonderful children coming to an end, we would like to say that we have enjoyed working with each and every one of them. Please be aware that we are in need of parent volunteers to come in and read for the month of March. It is very important that if at all possible, we fill up all our time slots. The sign up sheet is located outside the Space Travelers' door. Thank you!

Sharon and Stacy



Jungle Explorers

First we would like to thank all the Jungle Parents for making our Valentine's Day party fun and enjoyable. We had the pleasure of welcoming a new teacher to the Jungle room and her name is Ms. Adrienne. She has worked with kids for over 20 years and with her experience, she will be a positive addition for the group. The Jungle Room went on two field trips to Sciworks for Black History week and Dr. Peoples' dentist office for Dental week. Both were huge successes. Once again, thank you to all the parents for a joyful month of February.

Dashan and Adrienne