



MudPies Matters

November, 2006

Working Together for a Great Start



From the Director's Chair

One of my most favorite holidays is fast approaching. I really enjoy spending time with my family, relaxing, having time off from work, Christmas shopping and most importantly eating, eating, eating. Unfortunately the eating continues way past Thanksgiving Day, which of course is not a good thing.

I know that with the holidays right around the corner your personal calendars are starting to fill up with family plans but please keep some dates open for all the wonderful MudPies' events coming your way. Please keep your eyes and ears open for notices and fliers posted around the building and in your child's classroom. Our goal is not to overwhelm you but we want to make sure you do not miss out on any of the fun and exciting events coming up!

I hope all of you that were able to make it to the Fall Festival had as much fun as I did. We had beautiful weather and temperatures. I saw many excited faces and happy children throughout the evening. A **BIG** thanks to all the parents who gave donations and helped with setting up Friday night. But most of all thank you to the support and for spending your Friday evening with us. But most of all I would like to extend a **VERY, VERY, VERY BIG THANK YOU** to the fantastic group of teachers who were here all day (11-13 hours) and still had smiles for everyone! What a great group of individuals! Our festival would not have been a success without the teamwork of everyone allowed. Thanks again to everyone!!

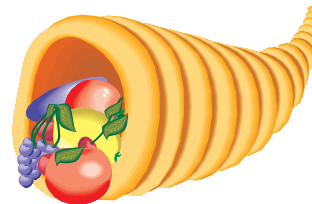
Also a thank you to Jessica Thacker and the fundraiser committee for their hard work organizing the cookie dough sale. All the details of the sale are in the MudPAC section. Thanks to the parents who sold and those who have cookie dough in their refrigerator waiting to be baked. We greatly appreciate your support with this fundraising event!

I hope that each of you have a blessed holiday. For those traveling, have a safe trip. Happy **TURKEY DAY** to you all and God Bless!

Sandy ©

November Dates to Remember

Oct 30 – Nov 17	<u>Food Drive</u> Collecting for Second Harvest Food Bank
Nov 14	<u>MudPAC meeting</u> 12:00noon – 1:00pm, GMAC
Nov 17	<u>Parent Date Night</u> 6:30pm – 11:00pm
Nov 23-24	<u>MudPies Closed</u> Thanksgiving Holiday
Nov 1 – Dec 1	<u>Samaritan Ministries</u> <u>Penny Campaign</u>
Dec 8	<u>Parent Date Night</u> 6:30pm – 11:00pm
Dec 12	<u>Christmas Family Fun</u> <u>Night</u> More info to come!



Quote of the Month:

... Blessed is the influence of one true, loving human soul on another.

GEORGE ELIOT (1819-1880) British novelist

STAFF STUFF

Perfect Attendance

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

<i>Kristina Morris</i>	<i>Kat Johnson</i>
<i>Linda Marshall</i>	<i>Brandi Inzar</i>
<i>Cynthia Joyner</i>	<i>Gloria Broadway</i>
<i>Arkisha Bennett</i>	<i>Carla Reid</i>
<i>Donese Gaskins</i>	<i>Peggy Conrad</i>
<i>Pat Toney</i>	<i>Sha Woodard</i>
<i>Michelle Stewart</i>	<i>Linda Bertman</i>
<i>Adrienne Williams</i>	<i>Chrissy Choplin</i>
<i>Sharon Barringer</i>	<i>Tiffany Fuller</i>
<i>Sandy Weaver</i>	<i>Cheryl Smith</i>
<i>Wilson Carrillo</i>	

Happy Anniversary

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

Ashley Pinkston (Penguins)	1 year (10/28)
Lillian Moody (Bears)	13 years (11/22)
Donese Gaskins (Penguins)	9 years (11/03)
Wilson Carrillo (Kitchen)	7 years (11/09)
Michelle Stewart (Ocean)	3 years (11/19)
Cynthia Joyner (Ducks)	1 year (11/21)



Happy Birthday

Wilson Carrillo (kitchen) Nov. 2



HO! HO! HO! Christmas bells are ringing ... even though there are 54 days shopping days left! We are working on our staff schedules already so that they too may enjoy extra time off with their families. Surveys will be posted on December 4th so that you can let us know when your child will be here on the following days - December 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29. Having an exact count of the number of children present will hopefully give us that opportunity to give our staff extra time off. Please take a few minutes at arrival or pick-up to fill this survey out no later than December 18. Thanks!

Teacher of the Quarter

Congratulations to Traci Edmond, 3rd quarter Teacher of the Quarter winner. Traci is one of our Baby Bear teachers with the older infants. She has been a part of our team for 5 years. Below is an excerpt from her winning nomination:

Ms. Traci is so friendly and outgoing. She has a special way with the infants. She not only takes excellent care of the children while they are in her room but also makes a point to go out of way to say hello and check on them when they move to a new room. She is excellent at establishing ongoing relationships with her parents and keeping them.

Way to go Ms. Traci. Congratulations also to Ms Sharon who received a 3rd quarter nomination. December 30 ends our 4th quarter. If you want to nominate a teacher who has gone above and beyond their normal expectations, you can submit a nomination for them via e-mail to Leigh Anne Miller or drop it off directly to the office.

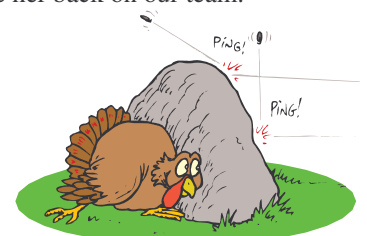
Welcome....New Staff

MudPies would like to take this opportunity to WELCOME the following new staff to our team:

Gloria Broadway joined the MudPies' team on October 9 with the Dandy Ducks. She joined us with 25 years of experience with young children, she has her certificate in early childhood and plans to work towards obtaining her degree as well. She is very excited about her new adventure and is enjoying getting to know all the children and their families.

Julie Hairston joined the Panda team on October 16. She has had limited previous experience but is very excited about learning more so she can be an effective early childhood teacher. She will be returning to Forsyth Community College to get her NC Credentials. She is enjoying getting to know everyone and learning all she can about the early childhood field.

Dawn Redd re-joined our team on October 23 with the Circus Tykes. Dawn was employed with us from 1993-1997 prior to relocating to Charlotte. She has recently moved back and is excited about getting back on our team. She has her Associates Degree in early childhood and many experiences with young children. We are glad to have her back on our team.



PAC Particulars

It's hard to believe that cooler weather is already here and the holidays are just around the corner. MudPAC has had a productive year so far and I want to personally thank all the classroom representatives and committee members for their commitment to MudPAC and our children. Each committee has fun and exciting news to report on and I encourage all parents to carefully read each committee report.

We welcome input from all parents on things the MudPAC can do to make MudPies a better place for our children. If you have suggestions or comments, please contact me at lmiller@wcsr.com.

Leigh Anne Miller
MudPAC President

MudPAC Meetings

Please join us for MudPAC's third meeting of the 2006-2007 year on November 14 at 12:00 p.m. The meetings are held in the 6th floor room off the cafeteria at GMAC. Check in with the security guard who will issue you a guest pass. Don't forget you can stop by the 6th floor cafeteria and bring your lunch to the meeting. You can park at MudPies for free and walk to the GMAC building

PAC Mission

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

Committee Reports

Facilities:

The committee did the research and shopping for orange traffic cones for the MudPies parking lot. Sandy has put in a request for a check for us to purchase 7 cones and reflective tape to go on each for a total of \$113.16. They have them in the store so we do not have to pay shipping. That saved us \$30.00. The next activity for the facilities staff will be painting the chair rail in the multi-purpose room. Look for requests asking for volunteers in your email boxes and cubbies coming soon.

Cindy Davis, Chair

Events:

November is an exciting month for the Events committee. The Second Harvest Food drive runs the first half of the month and the Samaritan Ministries Penny Campaign runs through the entire month. These campaigns provide a great opportunity to teach our kids about giving back & being part of the community we live in. The classroom that collects the most food will also win a class party. Thanks for contributing, and watch for information in December about the Angel Tree.

Stephanie Hamby, Chair

Parent Involvement:

THANKS SO MUCH to all the parents who helped out at MudPies during October. The upstairs classes had wonderful parent participation during their field trips to the Pumpkin Patch. The downstairs parents were also busy with projects to help the teachers. November brings more opportunities to get involved. Many classes will be doing special Thanksgiving arts and crafts projects and/or hosting a Thanksgiving dinner for the children. Talk to your child's teacher to see what you can do to help.

Christmas is just around the corner, so don't forget about the Holiday Gift Fund. It's the perfect way to shop for all the special people at MudPies without going to the mall! Look for more details in this newsletter. The Fund is now open and accepting contributions.

Keep up the volunteer work!! It makes a positive difference in your child's world.

Susan Boyles, Chair

Fundraising:

Many thanks to all of you who participated in the Cookie Dough Sale! Because of your hard work, we have raised over \$3,300 for MudPies (including the cash donations)!

Congratulations to the Prize Winners:

Top Seller:

- Maurice Wilson: Wins a free tub of dough, \$15 gift card, a mini-fridge/warmer, and a free week of daycare!
- Seth Rosendary was a **close** second place, and wins a free tub of dough, \$15 gift card, a mini-fridge/warmer!

Top Classroom: Dino-mytes (Win an ice cream or pizza party!)

Top Staff Seller: Tiffani Hannah (Wins a \$50 gift card!)

Out of 60 total sellers:

- We had a total of 5 participants who sold over 20 tubs of cookie dough, and win \$15 gift cards, as well as a free tub!
- We had a total of 29 participants who sold over 10 tubs and win a free tub!

The cookie dough will be delivered before Thanksgiving. The specific delivery information will be posted soon.

Jessica Thacker, Chair



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 MUDDIES!**

- 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”

CHOOSING BOOKS FOR BABIES

The first year with your baby is a close, sharing time, and reading with your infant is an important activity. Your little one enjoys being held and hearing the sound of your voice. Even the youngest infant benefits from sharing books with a special adult. Your baby will begin to associate books and stories with positive feelings. These sharing experiences will build a good foundation for learning book skills – looking, focusing, giving attention, and recognizing symbols. Your baby may not understand the words you say, but he will enjoy the sounds and rhythms of language. By sharing books and reading, you are helping your infant become familiar with the patterns of your language.

Tips for selecting books for your baby

- Select books with short, simple texts that feature a lot of rhyme and rhythm. Your baby will hear the patterns and sounds of the language more than individual words.
- Your baby is a visual learner. Choose books with bright colors and sharp contrasting patterns. Books with large, clear illustrations are good for visual discrimination. Interesting patterns are great for visual stimulation.
- Add variety, and select books with bright, realistic illustrations. Your infant will enjoy looking at the pictures even if he doesn't understand that they are symbols for real objects.
- Your baby likes pictures that are actual photos. He really delights in looking at faces of people – especially other babies!
- For older infants who are beginning to understand some words, choose simple wordless books. Or offer books with pictures of familiar objects on an uncluttered background labeled with only one or two words. Be sure to point to the words as you read or say the names of the objects.
- Reading is also a sensory experience for babies, so select some books that have textures to explore.
- By the middle of the first year, your baby may be able to grasp and hold a book. Choose books that are easy to hold and manipulate such as soft, washable vinyl books or machine-wash-and-dry cloth books. These books are also very easy to clean. That's important because as your baby holds a book, he may also want to put it into his mouth.

A Publication of the Environments Professional Group

The Environments Professional Group is a team of educators and designers who come together to make the connection between the needs of early childhood programs and the developmentally-appropriate products that meet these needs.
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Classroom Clips



Baby Bears

We would like to welcome our 2 new teachers to the Baby Bears – Ms. Kat and Ms. Kristina. We would also like to welcome Ryleigh Mock, Parker Barron, Rebekah Self, and Ivey Demaria to our group. A sad goodbye goes out to Abby Hobson and Dion Wright. They are now both big Dandy Ducks. Cooler weather is here so please make sure your child's changes of clothes are weather/season appropriate. Don't forget a jacket and hat because we will take them outside n sunny days. Thanks for coming out and making the fall Festival a success. We enjoyed seeing the smiles on each child's face as they were challenged with the different activities.



Young Dandy Ducks

During October the young Ducks introduced a number of things such as the color yellow, changes in the weather from warm to cold and the falling leaves. We have also talked about different fruit and vegetables and even go to taste them. We continue to work on developing our fine and large motor skills. Examples of specific skills are using spoons, sitting correctly in chairs and walking. We are using a lot of words with the children and encouraging them to use their words as well also. We would like to thank all the parents who contributed toward our Halloween party. The children had fun and enjoyed the snacks. We are really enjoying teaching your children and having them in our group. If you have questions or concerns please see Brandi or Vonda.



Playful Pandas

Well the cold weather is finally here. Please make sure that your child has full sets of clothes in their cubby that is weather/season appropriate. Also please make sure that your child's coat is labeled.

We would like to thank all the parents that supported and donated to our parade and Trick-or-Treating. We would like to welcome Ms. Julie to our group. Also a "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to Trenton Harper – Nov. 1, Abigail Demaria – Nov. 16 and Page Hamby – Nov. 24. Don't forget to wash hands upon arrival. Remember we are always here to listen if there are questions or concerns.



Older Dandy Ducks

Thanks parents for working the first 2 months successful for your children & their new teachers. Continue to work with us to help make this a great toddler experience for your child. We would like to thank all the parents who brought in treats for the Fall Festival and especially Cindy Davis and Michelle Sutton who helped with the parade. We would like to give a big Duck welcome to Ave Redding and Cun Zhuang Zhao. Please remember:

- children's hands must be washed upon arrival
- each child must have 3 sets of clothes in their cubby

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!



Perky Penguins

Happy fall from the Perky Penguins! Thanks for attending our Fall Festival, it was lots of fun – the rides, the games and of course the food! We are busy working on our colors, numbers 1-5 and hands on learning with sand and water play. We are also enjoying watching the leaves fall to the ground. It won't be long now and Turkey day and Christmas will soon be here. We will be sending home notes and posting a letter in regards to our parties and what will be needed. Please check your child's cubby to make sure they have warm weather clothes and a jacket for outside play on these cool crisp fall days. Thanks to each of you who brought in treats, helped out in our class with the parade or however you contributed. It was a great help.

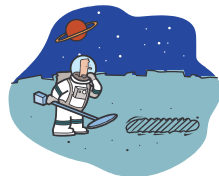




Circus Tykes

During the month of October the Circus Tykes have been really busy getting use to the daily routines of getting better acquainted with the centers, circle time, and the reinforcement of handwashing (these times include – time of arrival, before and after eating, after outside play and especially after bathroom breaks. The last couple of weeks we had a thematic unit on manners, which is incorporated everyday in our classroom life. Presently we have introduced the Circus Tykes to fall. We have discussed the colors that correspond with fall, similarities and differences, appropriate clothing for fall and how the weather has changed. During circle time we have been reviewing colors, days of the week, shapes and counting by repetition.

The Circus Tykes teachers would like to give “Thank You” to the following parents for volunteering during October- Ms. Hairston, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. Scott. Another “Thank You” goes out to Mr. & Mrs. Mussomeli for their sand contribution for our new sand table. October has not only brought changes to the weather but also in our classroom dealing with the transitioning of teachers, which brings us to say that Ms. Kristina will be greatly missed but we wish her well in the Baby Bears room. In contrast we have welcomed Ms. Dawn with open arms and smiles. We are looking forward to her contribution in our room.



Space Travelers

Well the cold weather is finally here. Please make sure your child’s extra set of clothes is weather/season appropriate. Accidents do happen from time to time and we want to be prepared. The Space Travelers are continuing to work on their letters. Homework is going well and the children are doing a great job. In the month of November we will discuss what “being thankful” is all about. As educators, Stacy and I are hoping to instill a sense of gratitude and being grateful for the many gifts they are given. On November 17 we will be joining the Jungle Explorers for a Family Thanksgiving Luncheon. We hope that you will be able to attend. The sign up sheet will be on the door for needed items. This will be a great opportunity to come together as a class. A big thanks to all the parents who order SeeSaw and Firefly books. We collect points as a class and this helps us to get materials and books for the room.



Jungle Explorers

Fall weather has finally arrived! With that in mind check your child’s cubby to make sure they have weather appropriate clothes. We want to thank all of the parents who joined us on the Pumpkin Patch fieldtrip, the trick-or-treating @ GMAC and those who have contributed to our classroom and the center’s activities. Also a BIG thanks to the parents who brought in all of the yummy items for Teacher Snack day and Reese’s mom and fiend, Sonia, who did a Halloween activity with the class. We are looking forward to the upcoming festivities. Please keep November 17 open on your calendars – this is our Cystic Fibrosis WALK-a-THON and our Family Thanksgiving luncheon (with the Space Travelers). We ant you all to know we appreciate everything you have done thus far to help us in any way. Your help is greatly appreciated.



Ocean Divers

We would like to thank all the parents who have donated their time and other items for the class. Everything is greatly appreciated. A BIG thanks also to those parents who accompanied us to the Pumpkin Patch. We had a great time thanks to all the volunteers. We have been busy working on a lot of different skills- recognizing the first letter of our names, counting, matching, and recognizing different colors. Happy Birthday to Katie Myers and Morgan Eastling. Now that the weather is getting colder, it is important that your child has appropriate outerwear. We do go out twice a day weather permitting and we want our little ones warm and cozy. Also check the clothes in their cubby. Thanks again for all you do. If there are questions please feel free to ask one of us.



Dino-mytes

Can you believe it, October has come and gone already. We had fun at the Pumpkin Patch with the Ocean Divers. A big thank you to all the parents who joined us on the trip and also thanks to Deb Halvorsen and crew for the decorating our room for our Halloween party. We are busy learning new skills and staying busy with fall activities. There are lots of things you can do with your child to help with specific skills – when riding home in the evenings ask questions - talk about the things you see and colors – have them name letters on street signs – make up counting songs and name games. We would like to give a big Dino welcome to James Delgado and Tiarra Nichols. Reminders:

- you may volunteer at any time and your help is greatly appreciated
- your child must have at least 2 sets of clothes in their cubby at all times

Happy Thanksgiving to All!

THE WINNERS ARE. . . SPACE TRAVELERS & CIRCUS TYKES!!



CONGRATULATIONS TO SPACE TRAVELERS AND CIRCUS TYKES!! The Volunteer Award for this period (April – September) goes these classes because they had the most volunteer hours per child. Each class will get \$25 to buy new books for the class.

Space parents logged an incredible 7.84 hours per child. (Yes, they had lots of field trips during the summer!!) Circus parents had 4.98 volunteer hours per child. Way to go, Space and Circus!

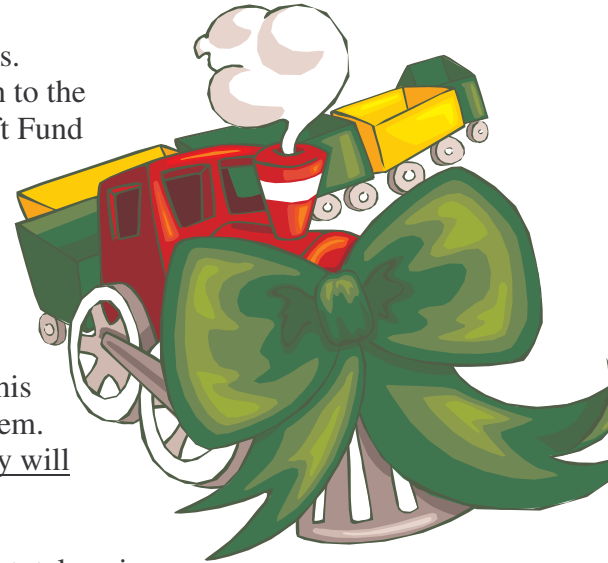
Other classes that deserve an honorable mention are: Young Ducks (4.06 hours/child); Older Ducks (3.64 hours/child); and Pandas (3.56 hours/child).

A new quarter started on October 1. All classes have a lot of opportunities for you to volunteer -- whether it's going on a field trip, hosting a birthday party, or cutting out items at home for a bulletin board. Participating in Parent Advisory Council activities also counts. Talk to your child's teacher about ways you can help – or offer your own suggestions for activities. Don't forget to write down your hours in the Parent Volunteer Log located in each classroom. The hours can't be counted unless they're recorded.

The Parent Involvement Committee

GET YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING DONE EARLY!!!

It's November, and many of you are already shopping for Christmas gifts. Before you shop for your child's teacher, consider making a contribution to the Holiday Gift Fund. Each year, the MudPAC establishes the Holiday Gift Fund to help you with one-stop shopping for all the special people who play a role in your child's day. Write a check to MudPies, note on the "memo" line that it's for the Holiday Gift Fund, and put it in the money box at the front desk. All funds collected will be distributed equally among teachers and other staff (including Mr. Wilson and the administrative staff) shortly before Christmas. A card listing the names of all families who contributed to the Fund will accompany each gift. This is a GREAT way for us to let the staff know how much we appreciate them. (Who *doesn't* appreciate cash??) This is the only "Christmas bonus" they will get.



Last year, each of the staff members got \$92.00. If we want to meet that total again, we need to raise \$2,944.00. That comes out to an average contribution of \$19.00 per child. In the past, contributions have ranged from \$5 to several hundred dollars per family. Any amount is appreciated.

Please remember the Holiday Gift Fund as you plan your Christmas shopping. No trips to the mall or wrapping required. Contributions can be made at any time between now and December 15.

The Parent Involvement Committee