



MudPies Matters

September, 2006

Working Together for a Great Start



From the Director

Wow, can you believe it, only 4 more months until Christmas. Yep that's right, September is here already, which means it is time to start gearing up for a new school year and all the cool fall happenings here at MudPies. September is still such a fun month because the weather is warm enough for shorts, flip-flops and weekend trips to the beach yet the smell of autumn is definitely in the air. Summer was fabulous here at MudPies. The kids went on some really cool field trips, met some new friends and said "goodbye" to many old friends and their families. Saying goodbye is always difficult for me especially when we have spent 5 years with you and your child.

September is also the time we give a "**BIG WELCOME**" to all our new friends who have joined our MudPies' family. We want to personally welcome you to MudPies. We hope you find our center to be a place where your child will grow cognitively and physically yet be safe but most importantly have fun. Your child's individuality and uniqueness will be celebrated and he/she will be given opportunities to be an active participant in their own learning.

Parents play a very **VITAL** role in the growth and development of your child. So therefore we welcome your input with open arms. Communication is an important piece of the puzzle and we will do our very best to keep the lines of communication open at all times. Please never hesitate to let us know of issues or concerns you might be experiencing. Partnerships take more than one to succeed and we encourage you to be an active partner in your child's educational journey!

A big thanks to Sarah McCollum, our 2005-2006 MudPAC Chairperson. She was very instrumental in leading our PAC in reaching their goals and obtaining new things for the children. We appreciate her commitment and dedication to the families and staff of MudPies. We welcome Leigh Anne Miller, mother of David (Space Travelers) and Christopher (Perky Penguins) as our 2006-2007 MudPAC Chairperson. She is excited about her new challenge and looks forward to working with all the 2006-2007 MudPAC class representatives.

Again a **BIG WELCOME** to our new MudPies friends and we hope you are as happy to be here as we are to have you with us. To all our continuing families and friends ... thanks for giving us the opportunity to continue to be a part of you and your child's life.

Goodbye Summer-Hello Fall!
Sandy

UPCOMING MUDPIES EVENTS:

- **September 12** – 2006-2007 MudPAC Meeting
- **October 12 & 13** – Fall Portraits – more info coming soon
- **October 20** – Picnic Friday
- **October 21** – *MudPies FALL FESTIVAL*
- **November 17** – Picnic Friday
- **December 22** – Picnic Friday

Quote of the Month:

...Kindness is the language, which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

*- Mark Twain (1835 – 1910),
American Writer*

ATTENTION PARENTS **VERY IMPORTANT!**

- We ask that you please be mindful of the parking lot. It is very important that you drive slowly as you arrive in the morning and afternoons. Little children like to dart away from their parents and we want to ensure safety for all children both in and out of the building. Also PLEASE do not park in spaces not marked for parking – (FIRE LANE, HANDICAP AREAS). This causes difficulty – especially during the "pick-up" hours between 3:00 and 6:00.
- Our hours of operation are 7:00 to 6:00. **We provide care for your children during these hours and expect ALL children to be picked up by 6:00.** Several of our families have been arriving after 6:00 to pick up your children. We love your children and are glad to be a part of their lives but we too are ready to end our day and go home at 6:00. Our center rules and policies are not put in to effect to cause difficulty for our families but to effectively run the center. It is very important that these hours be followed and you are here **BEFORE 6:00** so the lights can be shut off and the doors locked by 6:00. We understand that one's job and/or traffic can cause occasional delays but not everyday!

Your partnership with these is greatly needed and appreciated in advance!

Staff Staff

Perfect Attendance

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!

Perfect attendance for August:

Lillian Moody
Cynthia Joyner
Constance Wright
Carla Reid
Donese Gaskins
Pat Toney
Michelle Stewart
Millicent Hawkins
Adrienne Williams
Sharon Barringer
Tiffany Fuller
Cheryl Smith

Brandi Inzar
Kat Johnson
Arkisha Bennett
Tiffani Hannah
Ashley Pinkston
Sha Woodard
Linda Bertman
Kristina Morris
Stacy Marts
Peggy Conrad
Sandy Weaver
Wilson Carrillo



Happy Birthday

Linda Marshall (Baby Bears) *September 14*
Sha Woodard (Dino-Mytes) *September 24*
Arkisha Bennett (Floater) *September 25*



Happy Anniversary

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

Linda Marshall (Baby Bears)	June 2	9 years
Chrissy Choplin (Jungle Explorers)	June 11	8 years
Sha Woodard (Dino-Mytes)	June 30	2 years
Arkisha Bennett (Floater)	July 29	2 years
Sandy Weaver (Office)	August 1	13 years
Sharon Barringer (Space Travelers)	August 16	13 years
Tiffany Fuller (Office)	August 20	5 years

MudPies' Staff:

BABY BEARS	Lillian Moody Traci Edmond	Cha Wilson Linda Marshall
DANDY DUCKS	Brandi Inzar Kat Johnson Jennifer Wiley	Cynthia Joyner Arkisha Bennett
PLAYFUL PANDAS	Carla Reid Tiffani Hannah	Gina Brooks
PERKY PENGUINS	Donese Gaskins Peggy Conrad	Ashley Pinkston
CIRCUS TYKES	Millicent Gerald	Kristina Morris
DINO-MYTES	Pat Toney	Sha Woodard
OCEAN DIVERS	Linda Bertman	Michelle Stewart
JUNGLE EXPLORERS	Adrienne Williams Chrissy Choplin	
SPACE TRAVELERS	Sharon Barringer	Stacy Marts
OFFICE	Sandy Weaver Tiffany Fuller	Cheryl Smith
KITCHEN	Wilson Carrillo	

Staff Stuff (continued)

Teacher of the Quarter

Congratulations to Ms. Stacy. She is our second **2006 Teacher of the Quarter** (April - May - June) recipient. Ms. Stacy is one of the co-lead teachers with the Space Travelers. Below is an excerpt from the winning nomination:

"Before my child joined Space, I wasn't sure about the teachers because I didn't know either of them. It didn't take long before I loved them. In a manner that I completely respect, Stacy has taught the children "school" lessons as well as "life" lessons. I admire the discipline she has instilled in the children. AND the kids LOVE her. The children are much older than their mere '4-5' years reflects."

Way to go Ms. Stacy! Remember our 3rd quarter began on July 1st. Please be on the lookout for that special teacher/employee that goes above and beyond their normal expectations. You can submit your nominations to Leigh Anne Miller or the front office both via e-mail!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY MUDPIES

August 16 marked the center's 13th anniversary! We have enjoyed opening our hearts and doors to the many families we have served over the years. It continues to be a rewarding experience...one filled with many great memories! Here's to another 13 wonderful years!



PAC Particulars

Welcome to the 2006-2007 school year!

Welcome to all our new children and parents. For all those children and parents with MudPies last year, we are glad to have you back. As I begin my role as the 2006-2007 MudPAC Chairperson, I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you a little about myself. I am originally from Knoxville, Tennessee and moved here with my husband, David, in 1999. I am an attorney with Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC and have two children here at MudPies. David, age 4, is in Space Travelers and Christopher, age 2, recently joined the Perky Penguins. I was the Fundraising Chair for 2005-2006 and a member of the Facilities Committee during the 2004-2005 school year. I look forward to working with all MudPies parents to ensure that MudPies remains a great preschool facility for our children and their teachers. You can contact me at lmiller@wcsr.com with questions about MudPAC or joining one of our committees.

Leigh Anne Miller
MudPAC Chair

A Special Thank You

Sarah McCollum served as the MudPAC President during 2005-2006. MudPAC thanks Sarah for her support and dedication to the children and MudPies.

MudPAC Meetings

Please join us for MudPAC's first meeting of the 2006-2007 year on September 12th 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.

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 finally have it – the Storage Building!

Thank you to the 2005-2006 Facilities committee members for all their hard work planning for and purchasing the storage building. Our special thanks to Cindy Davis, Matt Warman, Trina Chery, Caleigh Evans and Tate Evans for making the storage building possible. If you have not yet seen the building, it is located on the older children's playground.

PAC Particulars (continued)

PAC Mission

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

Unsung Hero

Nominate a MudPies parent who goes the extra mile to better MudPies for the September Unsung Hero Award. Nominations are submitted by parents and the winner is selected at the Monthly PAC Meeting. Submit your nomination by visiting www.mudpieschilddevelopment.org. Once on the website, select the MudPAC tab and click on "Unsung Hero". The link will take you to an e-mail submission form to complete. You can also submit a nomination via e-mail to mpadmin@nwcde.org and including the words "Unsung Hero" in the subject line of the e-mail.

Teacher of the Quarter

Congratulations to Stacy Marts in Space Travelers on winning the 2nd Quarter Teacher of the Quarter for April-June, 2006. Thank you Stacy for going above and beyond what is expected for our children. Each quarter parents submit nominations for teacher of the quarter and the winner is selected at the Monthly PAC Meeting. Submit your nomination by visiting www.mudpieschilddevelopment.org. Once on the website, select the MudPAC tab and click on "Teacher of the Quarter". The link will take you to an e-mail submission form to complete. You can also submit a nomination via e-mail to mpadmin@nwcde.org and including the words "Teacher of the Quarter" in the subject line of the e-mail.

MudPAC Committees

Meet our committee chairman and join one of the teams. MudPAC has four committees that will plan and coordinate events and activities for the 2006-2007 year. All parents are encouraged to join one of the committees and support MudPAC. If you are interested in joining a committee, please let Sandy Weaver or Leigh Anne Miller know.

Events - Stephanie Hamby - Chairman
Fundraising - Jessica Thacker - Chairman
Facilities - Cynthia Davis - Chairman
Parent Involvement – Susan Boyles - Chairman

MudPAC Class Representatives

Baby Bears	Mary Penn-Joyce Jessica Thacker
Young Dandy Ducks	Jennifer Noped
Old Dandy Ducks	Michelle Sutton Cynthia Davis
Playful Pandas	Stephanie Hamby Diane O'Neill
Perky Penguins	Frances Beasley Caleigh Evans
Circus Tykes	Steve & Heather Bumgarner Teresa Armstrong
Dino-mytes	Susan Boyles Deb Halvorsen
Ocean Divers	Beth Buresh
Jungle Explorers	Renee Briley Micki Bryan
Space Travelers	Joanna Poston Kim Ashley



Campbell Labels for Education Program

MudPies 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.

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”

Studies have shown that important factors in a child's school success are sharing books with adults and being read to from a very young age. Choosing books that are appropriate in format and sharing them in age-appropriate ways creates a positive experience and fosters a love of reading

Infants

- Let reading to your infant be a warm, sharing time. A baby likes being close to you and hearing the sound of your voice. By holding your baby in your lap, you establish a bond of trust.
- Be sure that your baby can see the book. Even the youngest infants like to look at colors and patterns. Point to the images in the book, touch, and name them as you read. Encourage your baby to point also when he is able.
- Though infants may not understand specific words, they do enjoy the sounds and rhythms of language. Read in exaggerated voices, emphasizing rhythms and rhymes.
- By the middle of the first year, your child will want to reach out and grab the book. That's fine. Baby is learning how to handle a book. A babbling baby may hold the book and “babble read.” He's imitating you!

Toddlers

- A toddler is growing and asserting her independence as she discovers her place in the world. She often knows what she wants and is insistent upon getting it. This is natural. If you follow the lead of your toddler when reading, it will be a pleasant experience. She may not want to sit in your lap. This is a good age to sprawl on the bed or floor to share books. If she insists on holding the book and turning the pages, that's OK. She is learning that pages are read from left to right and books from front to back.
- What happens when your toddler wants to change books, skip around, or just look at special pages? That's alright, too. As long as he is happy and engaged, the reading experience will be a positive one.
- Whether you choose the book for reading time or your toddler chooses makes no difference. Many times a toddler will choose the same book over and over. Even though you may get bored, your toddler won't. This is the way your toddler learns!
- Encourage your toddler to “pretend read” a story to you if he wants to. He can retell the story to you or make up a different one. When reading a story about a child, it's fun to substitute your child's name for the name of one of the characters.

Find a cozy place, relax, and have fun reading together!

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Classroom Clips



Baby Bears

We would like to say goodbye to our Bear friends who graduated to the Dandy Ducks on August 28. We enjoyed watching them grow and develop. We will miss them very much but wish them well. The good part of losing children is that new ones always take their place. We welcome each of our new Baby Bears and their families with open arms. We hope their stay both at MudPies and with the Baby Bears will be fun, exciting and meaningful for them. Please feel free to visit and talk with any of us at anytime. We love teaching babies and are excited about getting to know each of you, seeing the little ones grow and most of all sharing our love with each of them.

Summer will be ending and we are looking forward to some cooler days. We will take the babies outside at least once a day (weather permitting) so please dress them accordingly. Also make sure the extra clothes are weather and size appropriate. Again thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's life and if we can assist you in any way please let us know.



Young Dandy Ducks

We would like to welcome all of our new little ducklings! As the year progresses, we will be learning many new and exciting things. Our goal is to introduce the children to new textures, assist the children with their self-help skills, and improve social skills. We look forward to working with not only your child, but your family as well. We look forward to a great new year. A few reminders:

1. Label and date your child's cup
2. Sign your child both in and out daily
3. Check your child's folder daily for important papers



Older Dandy Ducks

A new school year has begun and the Older Duck teachers would like to welcome our parents and their children to our classroom. We are planning fun, new, and rewarding experiences for you and your family. We look forward to teaching your child new and exciting things. Reminders:

1. Please label EVERYTHING
2. Have 3 complete sets of clothing changes
3. Wash your child's hands every morning, upon arrival
4. Please sign your child in and out daily
5. Please check your child's folder everyday



Playful Pandas

WELCOME to our new Panda families! We are so glad to have you in our class. We hope the transition will be a smooth one. We plan to have a fun and exciting year with your child. Don't forget to check your child's folder DAILY. This month, we will go over our class rules. We would like to thank all the parents who attended Open House. To our old Panda families, we wish you each the best of luck in your new classrooms. We will miss you all! Parents, we welcome volunteers at any time in our class. Feel free to call us at anytime if you have any questions or concerns about your child.



Perky Penguins

We welcome you and your child to our class. I hope the transition will go as smooth as possible. If you have a question or concern, please feel free to ask us. Communication is very important in our class. We are looking forward to having lots of fun, along with learning through hands on experience, such as water play, sand play, small & gross motor activities, running, jumping, puzzles, stacking cups, and many more great things! From time to time, we may ask parents to bring in helpful items to help enhance our group time or art. We will inform you by posting a note, or sending one home with you. We'd like to welcome Ms. Peggy, as a part of the Perky Penguin class. Have a great fall and we look forward to having you and your families as a part of our class!



Classroom Clips (continued)



Circus Tykes

We have gotten off to a GREAT start in the Circus Tykes room! We are going to have a wonderful time. We will not only refresh your child's memory with ABC's, shapes, colors, and counting, we will also focus on identifying the first letter of names, recognizing names, days of the week, names of the months, and much more! Please remember to gather pictures of your family to place on your child's cubby and always be aware of the information and artwork on the upper cubby in the clip. We look forward to working with you and your child!



Ocean Divers

We would like to take this opportunity again to welcome all of our new friends to the Ocean Divers. We ask an exciting year planned and look forward to getting to know each child and their family. Below are a few reminders about the class and some expectations for you. We look forward to working with you and if there are ever questions or concerns please feel free to stop by or give us a call.

- Each child needs 2 complete changes of clothes in a small plastic container (that will fit in the cubby)
- Special blankets or sleep friends are welcome for rest time only
- "Share Day" is on Friday. Toys or special items are allowed in on this day only. If toys are brought in on other days we will ask that you take it back home. This helps to keep any ownership confusion or conflicts at a minimum.
- Movie day is on Mondays (am) and Wednesday (pm). Sign up sheets are on the door and we allow only "G" rated movies. Popcorn is welcome as well.
- Field trips are taken throughout the year and we encourage parents to attend with their child. Children with parents going will ride with their parents and not on the van.



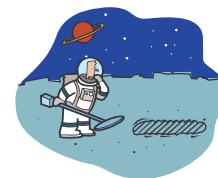
Dino-mytes

Can you believe it-summer is winding down and we are anticipating cooler weather and the beautiful fall season? We said good-bye to many of our Dino friends but welcomed many new ones. We are looking forward to this year and our excited about getting to know everyone. We will have a great time learning and playing and we want you to be a part of the fun. Parents are an important piece of the puzzle and we love volunteering hands. Please remember that your child needs 2 complete changes of clothes in a small plastic container. Also pull-ups are needed for those children not yet potty trained. Please let us know if we can assist you in any way.



Jungle Explorers

We would like to say "Welcome to the Jungle Explorers room!" We are very excited about getting to know all of our new families. We will spend the month of September getting to know all of our new friends and getting comfortable with our new room. We will begin homework towards the end of September. So please sign up in the room if this is something you are interested in. We will use the month of September to do some assessments. This will give us an idea of the goals we need to achieve with our daily activities to enhance the individual learning process. Please remember to check your child's mailbox and sign your child in/out daily. Also, if there are any reminders, signup sheets, etc.; they will all be posted on the Parent Information wall. Thanks in advance for your cooperation and participation!



Space Travelers

We welcome all our new Space Travelers and their families. We look forward to a busy and successful year. On September 22, we will have our annual Trike-a-Thon. This event is very important to us! We hope that all children will participate and that each parent will take the time to raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. As part of an incentive, we will have a pizza party for the children if we raise our goal of \$750.00. Please let us know if you have any questions. Thank you for your support!