



Playground Shade Project!!



We made some great progress this month on our playground shade project, with the Toddler playground getting full shade covering. The Infant play yard was covered last year, and we eventually plan to get large blocks of shaded area on each of the playgrounds. The shade covering protects the children from the harmful rays of the sun and is part of both our recent initiatives and our overall commitment to protect the health and well-being of the children at the Center. This project was initiated by the Building and Grounds Committee, funding approved by the Board from the general budget, plus some parent donations to buy materials, and labor provided largely by parent volunteers. A special THANK YOU to Mattias Jonsson for leading this project, and to both Mattias and to Keith Barnhouse for many hours of hard work (in the heat!) to bring the project to fruition. If you would like to participate or volunteer for upcoming shade and playground improvement projects, please email us at victoryvillage@mindspring.com and someone from our Building and Grounds committee will contact you.



PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES



Since our Spring newsletter, we finished the preschool playground resurfacing project. The playground looks fabulous and the children are really enjoying it! The bike trail is a big hit, and we've found that it truly promotes fitness, since the children go around, and around, and around the path— either on bikes, running, walking or pushing wagons and carts. A HUGE thank you to the many families who generously donated time and money to make the project a success!

WHAT'S NEXT?????

PHASE TWO (the following is planned for the next phase of the playgrounds, once the funds are raised):

PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUND #2 (Large Sandbox Playground):

- Resilient Surfacing under the slide
- Elimination of all mulch
- Eliminate the “drop” between surface areas for safety
- Add an outdoor music area

TODDLER PLAYGROUND:

- Resilient Surfacing added
- Elimination of all mulch
- Eliminate the “drop” between surface areas for safety
- Upgrade grassy area
- Add a climbing element for the toddlers to add interest



dynamic • nurturing • diverse • dedicated • fun!

PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES



A conceptual picture of what the music area might look like

What Can You Do To Help Make It Happen??

- Make a tax deductible donation to the Playground Fund in any amount (donations are matched from the Reserves Account)
- Volunteer your time and skills
- Participate in Center fundraising activities
- Donate a piece of landscaping (watch for announced requests)
- Donate a piece of equipment (see below)
- Join the Building and Grounds Committee
- Join the Fundraising Committee

You can make a donation and designate for it to go towards a particular piece of equipment:

Preschool Playground:



GLOCKENSPIEL: \$459



DRUM SET: \$954.00



INDIVIDUAL DRUM: \$317.00

Our (optimistic) goal is to finish Phase II this fall and Phase III (the Two's playgrounds) next spring. We will need to raise approximately another \$7000 for Phase II. All of our current fundraising activities are designated to go towards the playground improvements including:

- Logo Item Sales
- Take Home Dinners
- Portrait Sales
- Harris Teeter Together in Education

Donations and/or fundraising proceeds are matched with funds from the Reserves Account!! (\$7000 = amount needed to be matched)



dynamic • nurturing • diverse • dedicated • fun!

Creative Curriculum—The Gold Standard Coming in August!

We're pleased to tell you that the new version of the Center's curriculum, called "Creative Curriculum—Gold Standard", will be implemented at our Center as of August of this year.

Your child's creativecurriculum.net account will remain the same, including the same access information and passwords, etc. Your child's records will be seamlessly carried forward into the new version.

You may notice some format changes, such as the look of the weekly lesson plans and/or newsletters. The teachers are and will be working hard to hone their skills on the new version with the support of Kim, our Curriculum Coordinator.

"Behind the scenes" in the Gold Standard version are some important changes that you may not see. One of those is an enhanced child assessment system and an ability to plan activities with a direct correlation to individual children's learning needs. The Gold Standard takes information gleaned from the child assessments and checkpoints that the teachers do on each child, and suggests activities for them to include in the lesson plans to support the children's learning. This makes activity planning more purposeful, with the specific goal of providing activities to meet individual learning needs.

The teachers in our program have grown very proficient over the past three years in using the Creative Curriculum and creativecurriculum.net. The new Gold Standard version of this important tool will help to make them even more effective educators of young children. I am proud of this next phase in our program as we continuously strive to provide the best possible care for your children.



dynamic • nurturing • diverse • dedicated • fun!

In conjunction with the Creative Curriculum, we use center-wide quarterly thematic units to enhance our program of activities. These broad topics provide a framework for activity planning. The themes and timeframes are very flexible, so that teachers can branch off into areas of learning that are of special interest to the children in their groups. Books and special materials enhance the thematic units.

Themes for June-July-August are:

Summer Fun/Beach/Water

Sea Life

Camping

Zoo Animals



Please join us in congratulating the following staff members who have anniversaries of employment at the Center:

Ms. Carla—Jun 16th—8 yrs

Ms. Zenia—Jun 26th—11 yrs

Ms. Jackie—Aug 26—9 yrs

CONGRATULATIONS!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SERVICE!

Happy Birthday to the following staff this quarter:

June:

6— Ms. Zenia

7—Ms. Jocelynn

21—Ms. Latee

21— Ms. Rachel M.

July:

2— Ms. Heather

22—Ms. Sandy

28—Ms. Kim

August:

6—Ms. Carla

10—Ms. Laura

23—Ms. Germaine

29—Ms. Rachel F.

31—Ms. Robin



dynamic • nurturing • diverse • dedicated • fun!