

July 2010



# The Village News Summer 2010



The University Child Care Center

Visit our website at  
[www.victoryvillage.org](http://www.victoryvillage.org)

## Transitions!

by Jeanne Wakefield, Executive Director

The beginning of September is the start of the new school year at the center. Between now and September 1st, children begin their transitions into their new classrooms, and start to get used to their new environments and routines. Everyone will be transitioned to their assigned classrooms for the upcoming school year no later than September 1st. This is an exciting time! New teachers, new things to play with, new playgrounds and new friends can be interesting and fun. It can also feel a little stressful to children and parents, just like any other change.

You will be given a written Transition Plan when it is time for your child to begin their transition to a new classroom. Once you receive notification that your child will be moving up, you can help make their transition more successful by talking to them about the move and about the exciting prospect of a new learning environment. You might say something like (for example): "Wow, you are getting so big! You are going to be a Toucan now! I think you will have so much fun in the Toucan's room".

You might want to take a walk over to your child's new room with them and chat with the teacher. Your reassurance will go a long way to helping your child feel good about the move.

While some children make the change with no problem at all, for others there may be an adjustment period and even a few tears,. But don't despair! The classroom teachers are skilled at helping children to adjust to a new environment. Usually within a couple of weeks, all of the children will have adjusted marvelously and you will find that your child has settled comfortably into their new classroom. Now they are ready for all of the age-appropriate activities and learning that will go on in their new room!!

## Spanish For Kids

Children have an amazing capacity for learning language, and our Spanish class can help introduce your child to the Spanish language. Children meet in small groups of 5—8 children. They start by learning basic language skills, learning new nouns, the colors and numbers. Ms. Claudia teaches the class. She reads books, sings songs and plays games with the children. The class meets once a week for approximately 30 minutes each session and the cost is \$20 per month for this optional activity. Please see the front desk for enrollment information.



### Dates to Remember:

- Monday, July 26th, 11:30 a.m. Board Meeting
- Friday, August 13th, 6:00 p.m. Graduation
- Thursday, August 26th, 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting
- Monday, August 30th, Teacher Workday

*If you are not yet on our Listserv, please give us your email address so we can send you quarterly newsletters, weekly menus, and important announcements. This is a good way to keep in touch with what is happening at the Center!!*



## STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

The following Staff have anniversaries this Summer:

JUNE: 16th—Carla—7 years!!!

26th—Zenia— 10 years!!!

AUGUST: 9th—Dawn—11 years!!!!


26th—Jackie—8 years!!!

Aren't those numbers impressive?! They speak well for the center's low staff turnover, and continuity of care.



## Birthdays

The following staff have birthdays this summer:

June 6—Zenia	HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
7—Jocelynn	
21—Zeina	
21—Latee	
21—Rachel M.	
July 2—Heather	
22—Sandra	
28—Kim	
Aug 6—Carla	
10—Laura	
23—Germaine	
29—Rachel F	
31—Ana	
31—Robin	

## Graduation Ceremonies

Our rising kindergarteners will participate in a cap and gown graduation ceremony to celebrate their accomplishments in preschool and mark their transition to kindergarten! The ceremonies will take place on

Friday, August 13th

at 6:00 p.m.

at the Friday Center

A reception will follow at the center in the multipurpose room.

**Congratulations Class of 2010!!**

## Quarterly Themes

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:**

<b>Summer Fun</b>	<b>/ Beach</b>	<b>Water</b>	<b>Sea Life</b>
<b>Zoo Animals</b>	<b>Camping</b>		



## From the Kitchen

We are very fortunate to have a great kitchen staff and we're proud of our high quality food service at the Center! Our chef, Ms. Marina, ran a restaurant in Durham serving Mediterranean cuisine for a number of years. She and Ms. Silvia now cook many delicious meals for us at the center! We use lots of fresh, local produce provided by Ford's Produce, based at the Raleigh Farmer's Market. Our dishes are prepared from scratch—so, for example, when the menu says “Marina's Chicken Nuggets” the nuggets are made from fresh chicken breast coated in homemade bread crumbs and baked in the oven! Marina's pizzas and cinnamon rolls are hand-made using fresh yeast dough. We are very careful to restrict salt, sugar and fat in all of our menus. Recently the CACFP Food Program in Raleigh that manages the USDA food program in child care centers across the State, used our menus for training purposes for other programs as examples of healthy, well-balanced menus! We hope your child enjoys the wholesome and delicious meals at our program!

## Welcome New Families!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new families to the center. If you have recently joined the program, we are glad that you are now part of The University Child Care Center! We are here to support and serve your family, and we'll work hard to develop and maintain a relationship of trust and open communication. If you have any questions, concerns or comments, we want to hear them! Depending upon the nature of your question or concern, you may talk to your child's classroom teacher or to Jeanne in the Director's office. Jeanne's door is open from 9 a.m.—6:00 p.m. for parents to drop by, or if those hours are not convenient for you, you may request an appointment at a more convenient time. You can also email us at [victoryvillage@mindspring.com](mailto:victoryvillage@mindspring.com), or [jeannewakefield@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannewakefield@hotmail.com).

## SUMMER SPECIALS SCHEDULE

**Tuesday:**     *Music*  
**Wednesday:**   *Spanish*  
**Thursday:**     *Soccer*  
**Friday:**        *Tumbling*

## About the Board

Victory Village has a Board of Directors that is made up of University appointees, Hospital appointees, and parent representatives. The Board sets policy for the center and provides general oversight of and advice on operations. The center's Director reports to the Board. Board members are also available to parents and teachers who have questions or concerns they wish to share. You may contact the Board at [vvboard@mindspring.com](mailto:vvboard@mindspring.com), or by using the contact list found on our website at [www.victoryvillage.org](http://www.victoryvillage.org).

The Board consists of three parent representatives, five university appointees, and five hospital appointees. Any parent is eligible to serve as a parent representative and need not be employed by the university or hospital. University and hospital appointees may be parents and must be employees. Board terms are effective September 1st of each year.

The Board meets at the center alternating between the fourth Monday of the month at 11:30 a.m. and the fourth Thursday of the next month at 6:00 p.m. You are invited to attend!

Also watch for upcoming announcements regarding Board positions that will be vacating this fall, and opportunities to serve on the Board.

Victory Village Day Care Center  
Holiday Closing Schedule  
2011

Friday December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2010	New Year's Day Holiday
Monday January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday February 21 <sup>st</sup>	Teacher Work Day
Friday April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Spring Holiday
Monday May 30 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Day
Friday June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Work Day
Monday July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Independence Day Holiday
Monday August 29 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Work Day
Monday September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Labor Day
Friday October 14 <sup>th</sup>	Teacher Work Day
Thursday & Friday November 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving Holiday
Friday & Monday December 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Holiday