

May-July 2004

Issue 3

# LLF SUNNY TIMES

NASA GRC LEWIS LITTLE FOLKS, 216.433.5264

## Special Interest Articles

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Back to School

Special Service  
Award

## Individual Highlights

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## Message from the Director's Office

*By: Maureen Sartain, Director Carmela D. Genaro, Assistant Director*

We hope you are all having an enjoyable summer with family, friends, and vacations! We got off to a great start in our new building. Thank you to all families for your patience and help during that huge transition. We are really enjoying our new building, but we have a lot of catching up to do. We are now getting our bulletin boards up to increase communication with you. Each classroom will have a communication board outside of the classroom. Please check this board each day for lesson plans, updates, reminders, etc. A medical information board is posted in each hallway. These boards will list any illnesses that are diagnosed in the classrooms. Also, we have decided to keep all sign-in sheets in your child's regular classroom at the beginning and end of each day. Please remember to sign in and out by stopping by the classroom, even if the children are not in the classroom at the moment.

It seems that we are just getting the swing of our new summer activities and routines, and now we need to begin thinking of the fall and enrollment. Our fall classrooms, including our Kindergarten program, will begin on Monday, August 30, 2004. The week before that will be a transition time for children to get used to their new classrooms and teachers if they are moving. You will be notified in the coming weeks if your child will be transitioning to a new classroom and which room that will be. Please remember that all of our teachers are trained and highly qualified to teach, so your child will be in good hands regardless of the teacher or classroom.

There will be some staffing changes for our fall classrooms. Ms. Donna will be working with Mr. Tim in our third preschool class. Mr. Tim was hired as a Puppy teacher, spent the summer in our Summer Camp program, and is now very excited to utilize his teaching skills as a Pre-K teacher. Mr. Tim has a Bachelor's degree in Education and has experience in elementary classrooms. He is eager to share his ideas with us. Ms. Maureen Becker and Ms. Sharyl will become Preschool 11 teachers as planned since Summer Camp is ending. Also, Ms. Julie, who has been substituting for us, will now work full time with Ms. Deana in the Puppy 11 classroom. Ms. Julie is working on earning her Master's Degree in Library Science. Julie knows all of our children already, is an excellent teacher, and has a lot to offer our entire center with her knowledge of books. Ms. Shawna will be returning to Ohio University. Ms. Staci will stay on as a substitute teacher. Ms. Christina will return to the floater position.

We will set our new curriculum themes in the fall and hold parent/teacher conferences soon afterwards to explain to parents our goals, curriculum plans, and get your input as to what you expect from us for your child. Please watch for more information on conferences.

I will also be working on publishing an updated Parent's Policies and Procedures Handbook in the coming month. Please also look out for this and any new information contained in this handbook.

Thank you for your prompt tuition payments to avoid late charges. As a reminder, the automatic tuition transfer can be set up anytime. See us in the office for details.

As always, our office doors are always open for your comments and suggestions. You are welcome to call, email, or stop in. We wish all of our outgoing summer campers the best of luck in the fall. We enjoyed having you with us for a very fun summer. Hope to see you back at LLF again!

## Board of Trustees

By: Gwendolyn Flowers, President

Happy New Year - at least for LLF! July 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of our new fiscal year and the 2004-2005 terms for our new board. We welcome new trustees, Nancy Rabel Hall and Melissa McGuire to the LLF Board.

We kicked off our new year with the annual membership meeting held on June 29<sup>th</sup>. At this meeting we presented an overview of the year's activities, treasurer's report and conducted the election of Trustees. Parent volunteers were also recognized and Dave McKissock received a special service award for his outstanding support of LLF. Information regarding this meeting can be found on the LLF website.

We are all extremely excited about the move to the new facility and owe many thanks to Maureen S. and staff for an outstanding job. The school is now beginning to blossom as we observe artwork and activity centers in the classroom, and brightly decorated bulletin boards and pictures in the hallway.

However, this week the old structure was torn down, and even though the new building is exciting it was hard to watch the place where most of our children started reduced to rubble. Hopefully, we will be able to salvage the handprints from the old sidewalk and place them somewhere near the current facility. We are still looking for an individual that can provide recommendations and perform this type of work, so please contact us if you know of someone.

One of the main objectives of this board will be to ensure that all of the outstanding issues related to the current facility are addressed. Lynette Westfall, who has been a member of the transition team since it's inception for LLF has agreed to continue helping LLF in reviewing all center requirements. Thanks Lynette for all of your hard work and continued support.

We will continue to have various fundraisers throughout the year and need your support. Listed below are some of the projects these fundraisers will support:

- Trees or shelters to provide additional shading in the playground area.
- Infant playground equipment
- Custom made canopies for sandboxes
- Enhancements for classrooms

Please remember Board meetings are held at LLF on the third Tuesday of each month beginning at 11:00 and are open to all members. Please feel free to contact me or any member of the Board if you have questions or concerns.

Thanks to all of the parents and families for your support throughout the past year. We look forward to the New Year with great anticipation.

Thank You,

Gwendolyn

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*"We look forward for the new year with great anticipation."*



Adabelle Narvaez-Legeza, Editor

## Back to School Safety: Simple Lessons to Teach Children at Every Age

**Riding the bus:** School bus transportation is safe. In fact, buses are safer than cars! Even so, last year, approximately 26 students were killed and another 9,000 were injured in incidents involving school buses. More often than not, these deaths and injuries didn't occur in a crash, but as the pupils were entering and exiting the bus. Remember these safety tips:

- Have a safe place to wait for your bus, away from traffic and the street.
- Stay away from the bus until it comes to a complete stop and the driver signals you to enter.
- When being dropped off, exit the bus and walk ten giant steps away from the bus. Keep a safe distance between you and the bus. Also, remember that the bus driver can see you best when you are back away from the bus.
- Use the handrail to enter and exit the bus.
- Stay away from the bus until the driver gives his/her signal that it's okay to approach.
- Be aware of the street traffic around you. Drivers *are* required to follow certain rules of the road concerning school buses, however, not all do. Protect yourself and watch out!



**Walking and Biking to School:** Even if you don't ride in a motor vehicle, you still have to protect yourself. Because of minimal supervision, young pedestrians face a wide variety of decisions making situations and dangers while walking to and from school. Here are a few basic safety tips to follow:

- Mind all traffic signals and/or the crossing guard -- never cross the street against a light, even if you don't see any traffic coming.
- Walk your bike through intersections.
- Walk to and from school in groups.
- Wear reflective material...it makes you more visible to street traffic.
- Never accept a ride without first getting permission from parents.
- Never take shortcuts. Always stick to routes selected by parents, and stay on main roads.

**Other general and important rules:** Children must be prepared as early as age four, with pro-active rules that will help keep them safe. If parents communicate this in a casual manner, the process doesn't have to be scary. Children should learn and follow these general rules:

- Leave home with money for telephone calls, or a calling card. Remind them that 911 is FREE call, even from a pay phone.
- Never advertise if they are "latch key kids", and wear their house key on a string underneath clothing.
- Have "home alone" plans for emergencies, and for phone and door answering.
- Have landmarks on school routes, like "on my way home, if I am past the church on Front Street and there is a problem, I am closer to home and should go there."
- Be aware of "safe havens" along walking routes (police stations, fire stations, retail shops), which represent the "right" strangers which to seek help in case of danger.
- Report ALL suspicious behavior and "new adult friends" to parents.
- Never leave school with anyone without checking with school officials.

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*"Children must be prepared, as early as age four, with rules that will help keep them safe."*

## Classroom News

*"Our new bunny playground provides us with great tools and equipment to help the children develop their motor skills. Children really enjoy it!"*

### **FALL Semester Classroom Numbers**

Bunny 1: 433-9179  
 Bunny 1I: 433-8612  
 Duckling: 433-9178  
 Puppy 1: 433-9182  
 Puppy 1I: 433-9184  
 Preschool 1: 433-9177  
 Pre School II: 433-9185  
 Pre School III: 433- 9183  
 Kindergarten: 433-9180  
 Multipurpose: 433- 6629  
 Main Entrance: 433- 8160  
 Long Hallway: 433- 9430  
 Staff Lounge: 433-3084  
 Kitchen: 433-9431  
 Offices: 433-5264 or 5265  
 LLF Cell Phone: 216-406-6783

*"We love spending time with the children and enjoy helping them learn as they continue to grow."*

### ***Bunny 1 Room: Miss Renee, Miss Jeanette, Miss Melanie***

We would like to welcome our newest "Bunnies", Stefan Djuric, Jack Ritter, Zachary Taylor, Emily Williams and Darcie Zudell. Happy First Birthday to Stefan on June 19<sup>th</sup> and to Jack on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

We are enjoying stroller rides inside and out in our large new hallways visiting everyone, especially brothers and sisters. We also love our very own playground just for the Bunnies. We bought a new swimming pool and have already splashed around in it with lots of safe, fun toys. Our walkers have also enjoyed the new multipurpose room on those really hot and rainy days.

We appreciate and thank you for bringing in extra clothes and the needed summer items such as sunscreen and hats.

As a courtesy reminder, please remember to fill the top portion of the daily sheets. This helps us to know when to start their first meal or bottle of the day and/or to change diapers. All of the babies have made a quick and wonderful adjustment to the new building and teachers. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of their lives!.

### ***Bunny 2 Room: Miss Melanie, Miss Tina, Miss Tara***

The Bunny 2 room would like to welcome their newest staff member to the room, Ms. Tara Steinbrenner! Along with Ms. Tara, there are some new children to the Bunny 2 room: Cooper Flowers, Jordan Fusco, Madison Herrington, Audry Jicha, Michael Logsdon and Zachery Padula.

During the summer we got to play outside, go for walks, and went for stroller rides! We got to explore new adventures outside on our new playground. The playground offers a variety of opportunities to use large motor skills. Our new room has so much to offer for our Bunnies! The size of the room has allowed us to expand our imaginations. There are large and small motor activities in our room. We also enjoy parents coming to visit their children learning and exploring!

In September, we will be celebrating the first birthdays of Madison Herrington on the 4<sup>th</sup>, Jordan Fusco on the 11<sup>th</sup>, and Fernando Gonzalez on the 25<sup>th</sup>. We wish them a very Happy First Birthday!!

In the upcoming months, we will learn about new things such as animals, colors, shapes, music, and basic concepts like books, balls and cars.

The holidays will soon be coming and we plan on having as much fun as we can and make it as smooth as possible for the children. Tina and Tara have really enjoyed working with you and your children. If you ever have any questions, do not hesitate to ask either one of us! We will be more than happy to help you. We also thank the parents for all of their help and support when transitioning to the new building! We hope you enjoy it as much as we do! Thanks again

### ***Ducklings : Miss Dacia, Miss Samantha***

The Ducklings would like to welcome Ms. Samantha to our room.

Right now, our Ducklings are working on their colors. We have a different color scheme each week. If you could find a little something that goes along with our colors that week to dress our Ducks in, that would help them learn even faster.

If any parents would like to donate disposable cameras to capture our Ducklings in action, we would appreciate it. If there are any questions, feel free to call us or just stop in. Thank you!

## Classroom News (cont.)

### **Puppy 1: Miss Janice, Miss Lisa**

We are finally in the new school. We would like to welcome all of the children in the classroom. We are enjoying helping them learn as they grow. The summer is flying by. We have had activities outside such as: chalking, painting, swimming, and dancing to music. The children really enjoy the outdoors! We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to Isabel Gonzalez (July 30<sup>th</sup>), Jason and Jocelyn Palyo (August 22<sup>nd</sup>), and Halle Moder (August 26<sup>th</sup>). Parents, please make sure you sign your child IN and OUT each day. Sign-in/out papers are in your child's classroom at all times. Children in the Puppy room and their teachers will miss Ms. Erlinda. She was a very good teacher. She will be missed. She put smiles on our faces. Feel free to come into our classroom anytime you want to see your children in action.

### **Puppy 2: Ms. Deana, Ms. Shawna**

We would like to welcome all of you to the Puppy 2 room. I would like to welcome Ms. Shawna to the room. She has been wonderful to work with. Happy Birthday to Nick Leissler (September 28<sup>th</sup>).

We would like to have some family pictures to hang up around our room. The Puppies seem to enjoy looking at them whenever they can.

The Puppy 2 class can use some donations: tin pans, old cameras, purses, shoes (dress-up for boy or girl), briefcases, ties, and dress shirts, tap shoes, ballet shoes, hats (dress-up), scrap paper, envelopes, shampoo bottles and toilet paper rolls. Please don't go out to buy these items. But, if you are cleaning or know of anyone getting rid of these items, we would appreciate it.

Starting in the fall, we will start back on our themes. We are working on fun summer things like color, transportation and nursery rhymes. If you have any questions, please stop in or call!

### **Pre School 1: Miss Cathy, Miss Anita**

Welcome! We are finally in our new building and classroom. It has taken us some time to adjust, but everyone (especially the children) has done a great job. We could not be more proud! Miss Chrissy, our student teacher, has finished her term with us. We wish her the best of luck.

We would also like to welcome some newcomers to LLF: Ryan Czaruk, who turned 3 on June 13<sup>th</sup>, and Atoosa and Mitra Kassemi, who turned 3 on June 12<sup>th</sup>. Other Birthday celebrations include Danielle Zudell (4 yrs. old), Lynsey Scheneman (4 yrs. old), and Danny Fielding (4 yrs. old).

Our class planted a sprouted sunflower seed right after we moved in. We have been watering it and watching it grow. Ask your child where it is and check it out for yourself! The sunflower should be budding in a few weeks.

If you have any different types of music or stories you would like to share, please bring it in. We like to expose our class to all types of music.

June's theme was about camping and the outdoors. In July, we learned about beaches and ocean animals. Something fishy surfaced!

If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to come in for a visit, our door is always open. Best times to talk to teachers are: Cathy-1:30-2:30, Anita-12:30-1:30. Our phone number is 433-9177. Thank you!



**Lewis Little Folks**

2003-2004  
Board of Trustees

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Vice President  
Susan Kevdzija

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/OHR/Childcare/](http://www.grc.nasa.gov/WWW/OHR/Childcare/)

**CLASSROOM NEWS (CONT.)**

*Pre School 2: Ms. Linda, Ms. Staci*

Summer fun has been abundant in our classroom. The fourth of July was a blast around here. We had our own marching band, made firecrackers, and we even enjoyed the yummy flag cake that we made.

This month we made our own bubble solution. It makes awesome bubbles! We would love to share the recipe with you. Just stop in for a copy. The children enjoyed painting outdoors (the mural is hanging in our class), creating their own T-shirts and indoor water play. The week of July 26<sup>th</sup>, the children were introduced to Karaoke singing and sang some of their favorite songs. We made homemade ice cream and s'mores along with octopus pretzels during the week of July 30<sup>th</sup>. We made flubber and the preschoolers enjoyed pounding it and letting it ooze through their fingers. We send out a warm welcome to Lauryn Simonson who joined Ms. Staci's class in July. Lauryn celebrated her 4<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 25<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday!

**Summer Camp:** *Ms. Maureen B., Ms. Sharyl, Ms. Donna, Ms. Christina, Mr. Tim*

We have had a wonderful time in Summer Camp! We have really enjoyed our field trips. We wish to thank all of the parents who have given their time to help us out. It is greatly appreciated!

We would also like to thank those parents who have given their time and talents as guest speakers this summer. We learned much about space and various cultures through multi-media presentations, dance, music and traditional dress.

We only have a few weeks left in camp. Where has the time gone?! The children are looking forward to the Berea Fair, Bay Village Science Center and the Zoo trips.

It is with heavy hearts that we say good-bye to Ms. Erlinda. The children really enjoyed having her as their teacher and the kindness she showed to them. She will be greatly missed!

**Kitchen Updates**

*By: Linda Ryan*

I wanted to remind parents some of our rules and regulations regarding the kitchen:

1. Breakfast for late-comers will always be on the table in the front hall until 9:30 am. This breakfast is cereal, milk, and juice. Please help yourself after 9:00 am.
2. There is no access to the kitchen before 7:00 am or after 3:30 pm.
3. There is a refrigerator in the staff lounge that may be used for storing the "ride home" zippy cups.
4. The medicine book and refrigerator are also located in the staff lounge. Please see the office staff or your child's teacher if your child needs medication.
5. The donation box is now located on the table in the front hall along with the Campbell Labels container.
6. The recycling dolphins are for
  - a. Plastic bottles and aluminum cans

## **FAREWELL TO MS. ERLINDA**

The staff and families of LLF said good-bye to one of our teachers this past month. Ms. Erlinda Stephens was an employee of LLF for the past 10 years. Erlinda worked with all age groups including infants, toddlers, and summer campers during her time with us. She was an excellent teacher and professional employee. We all loved Erlinda for her humor, friendship and caring attitude towards all of the children she cared for.

Erlinda along with her husband and son, Alex moved to California which is Erlinda's home state. We will truly miss Ms Erlinda and appreciate all of the love and care that she gave to the children of LLF over the years. We wish her well as she begins a new phase in her life.

## **Dave McKissock Receives Special LLF Service Award 😊**

Dave McKissock received a special service award at the annual meeting for his never ending support to LLF. Dave has served on 4 previous Boards beginning in the fall of 1999 as Treasurer. He assisted LLF in the NAEYC accreditation process and continues volunteer providing financial advice, as a guest speaker or wherever he is needed.

He also volunteers as treasurer for various other organizations and is a member of the Speakers' Bureau. Congrats and many thanks to Dave.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES – VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Listed below are the standing committees for LLF along with the corresponding chairperson. Thanks to those of you who volunteered at the "Meet and Greet" with the Board held on July 29th. It's still not too late to volunteer!!

Fundraising – Chairperson, Michelle Williamson (433-5717)

Kindergarten – Nancy Rabel Hall (433-5643)

Staff Appreciation – Chairperson, Melissa McGuire (977-7128)

Ways and Means – Chairperson, Tonyia Williams (433-8122)

### ***About LLF and this Newsletter...***

For questions about Lewis Little Folks feel free to contact Mrs. Maureen Sartain, LLF Director at 216.433.5264. Also you can visit our website.

Suggestions to improve the Newsletter? Have ideas for new articles? Want to advertise? Please contact the Sunny Times Editor, Adabelle Narvaez-Legeza at 216.433.3559.