

Oct-Dec 2004

Issue 4

LLF SUNNY TIMES

NASA GRC LEWIS LITTLE FOLKS, 216.433.5264

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Message from the Director's Office

By: *Maureen Sartain, Director* *Carmella Genaro, Assistant Director*

We all sincerely hope our LLF families had a wonderful holiday season. Here are some thoughts and suggestions for you and your children for the New Year:

Parents (and Grandparents) often find joy in making their children happy with toys. I'm just as guilty. My children have more toys than children should have. But, I would like to suggest to all of you to set aside some of these plastic toys and replace them with your time this year. Children really do want your time more than their toys.

I hope you take time to look back on what was important to you when you were a small child. Now that I'm an adult and a parent, I often look back at my childhood, which was very happy. When I think of my family and our Christmases together, I can't really tell you the toys I received or how long they lasted. But, I can definitely tell you the fun we had together and the time that my parents spent just doing things with me and my brother and sister. These are the memories that I carry with me. I'm sure that you all have the same type of memories of your families. You can create these memories for your children.

I know you're busy. I know it's hard to find time in the evenings to do something. Here are some suggestions for quick and meaningful time together:

*Let them help you. Children, as young as 1 yr. old, can take a paper towel and wipe tables. They can unload the dish washer and hand you the dishes. They can put spoons or forks on the table.

*Children love to bake. Let them pour the ingredients. Let them stir. They will be in heaven. Check out Linda Ryan's recipe cards on her bulletin board.

*Play an easy game with them. A favorite game I play with my children is "hide the mitten". We take turns hiding a mitten in one room in the house, and the others have to find it. They scream with laughter. (Puppy teachers taught us this game!)

*Go play or sled ride in the snow. You play too.

*Visit the library. Let the kids play in the play area, then check out some books, go home and read them together.

*Older children love card games with you like Uno, Go Fish, and Old Maid.

*You can also visit museums like the Children's Museum or the Natural History Museum if you have time.

*Visit your child during the day at LLF. Eat lunch with him or her, or take them out for lunch. You are always welcome here.

You'll be making memories that are way more important to your child than any toy! And now, on to some business....

We received a visit from NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) on January 3rd and 4th, 2005. As you know, we are an NAEYC Accredited center, and when we moved to our new building, we had to notify them. Because of this move, they need to come and do a "verification visit" to confirm that we are still following their requirements. The validator checked on classroom sizes, teacher/child ratios, staff interaction with the children, and staff qualifications. Our entire staff did an excellent job and we will know the results from this inspection in a few months.

Message from the Director's Office (continuation)

I have also arranged for several "volunteers" to be working at our center. We have 3 new student teachers from Cleveland State University coming in January to work in each of our preschool classrooms. Cleveland State has found our center to be a great place for student teachers to learn, so we welcome them. The student teachers will not be responsible for the care of the children, so they will not be alone with them or counted in the ratios. However, they will be interacting with the children and conducting their lesson plans occasionally, all under the supervision of our own LLF teachers.

We also have "volunteers" to interact with the children and help with the staff in all rooms. Jennifer and Amanda Lynch (daughters of Bunny 2 teacher, Tina Lynch) will be periodically helping out. State licensing allows for volunteers over 15 years of age. Again, they will not be responsible for the children or counted in ratios, but will always be under supervision of our LLF teachers, and just here to help and play! I will be seeking out more volunteers from area communities in the coming year. Please welcome all of our helpers!

We will be taking a break this winter from our physical education classes, and resume them in the spring. This way, all classrooms can use our multi-purpose room more often, and teachers will still be incorporating physical activities into their lesson plans. We will begin Spanish classes for all Bears, Tigers, and Kindergartners. Ms. Dina Santiago (mother of Gabriela Santiago in Preschool 3) will be teaching these classes. They will be held once a week starting Wednesday, January 19th, 2005. Ms. Santiago is fluent in Spanish and is a degreed teacher. We're very excited to have these classes!

We will also be planning some special winter events to help us through the winter blahs... Look for information about a "Winter Carnival" in February. Parents will be invited to participate. Of course, we'll have our annual Valentine's parties too. More information will be coming.

I have some requests for you. Please let us know if your child was diagnosed with a specific virus or communicable disease when they are out. We really try to keep track of what is going around so we can try to stop the spread of outbreaks, and we need to notify parents in your child's group. Of course, names are confidential. Thank you for your help with this. Also, please be very careful about parking lot safety. The main entrance to our parking lot can be tricky. When there is another car coming out of our parking lot, please plan to go straight into the parking lot near the fitness center, and then turn left towards our center at that stop sign. Several parents have notified us of near accidents because of some cars making immediate lefts at the entrance of the lot while others are trying to exit.

Also, please NEVER leave other children in your car alone in our parking lot while you drop off another child. Also, please DO NOT leave your car running unattended in our parking lot. This is a serious safety hazard! I know you feel safe because we are within NASA gates, but we really should not take that safe feeling for granted. Strangers have a way of getting on lab, and it is never, ever safe to leave children alone in cars. We care about all children and would never want a tragedy to happen. One more request...if you are badged, please plan to bring your badge into LLF to open the front doors. There are many times that someone is not at the front office to buzz you in. We are hoping to set up a phone in the entrance way in the near future for un-badged parents who cannot get in, but badged parents should really count on using your badge to swipe in. This would really help us out a lot, and prevent you from possibly standing in the doorway for a period of time.

Reminder: we are a peanut-free and nut-free school. Please do not send any peanut products or other nuts to school. We have children with life-threatening allergies. Thanks to all of you for being such great and caring parents and for all you do to help us out! Have a very happy New Year!

"Please never leave children alone in our parking lot."

Lewis Little Folks 2003-2004 Board of Trustees

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Board of Trustees

By: Gwendolyn Flowers, President

Happy New Year! We trust that all of you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season.

For the Board of Trustees the New Year begins the second half of our tenure. Getting the new facility in "tip top" shape is still one of our main priorities. We are continuously working with the LLF Project Manager and LLF Building Manager to ensure final issues regarding the new facility are resolved. We have made quite a bit of progress on most issues, however some still require follow-up.

The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on October 18th was a huge success, thanks to the Kindergarten class who greeted Mayor Campbell of Cleveland with a warm rendition of "Zip-A-Dee-Do-Dah". They made such an impression that she stated her visit to LLF was the best part her Glenn excursion. We are truly proud of their performance and they were the perfect hosts for our visitors.

Prior to the arrival of the Mayor Campbell, Center Director, Dr. Julian Earls and other guests, LLF had a small ceremony where we recognized many of the individuals who were instrumental in the design, planning and other phases of the new facility. Many thanks to our Parent Committee Representative, Lynette Westfall, who served on the project for 4 years and led the charge for LLF. We also recognized the following individuals.

Maureen Sartain – Center Director
 Carmella Genaro – Assistant Center Director
 Gayle DiBiasio – Parent Committee Member
 Linda Ryan – Kitchen Manager
 Barb Esker – Past LLF Board President
 Jennifer Steuber – Past LLF Board President
 Joe Begani – LLF Glenn Project Manager

Additionally, we thanked the entire LLF Staff and volunteer parents who provided their talents and support to this effort.

We recently instituted the Sibling Care Program which provides a much needed service to our families. Many parents have commented on how great it has been for their children to visit a familiar place during their days off from school in a structured and loving environment. It has allowed many parents the ability to reserve leave time, assist those who may be without leave, or with no other options for child care.

As noted in the Director's Message we are very excited about offering Spanish classes beginning this month. We feel this will be a great addition to the curriculum and provide our kids a jump start in learning another language. Foreign language is already being incorporated into some elementary school curriculums in the area. I hope that you will join us in welcoming the new Spanish teacher, Ms. Dina Santiago to our staff.

Special thanks to Alan Hewston, other parents and friends of LLF who donated their time and talents for the character visits during the month of December. We are lucky to have parents and friends like you.

Please note that the Board meetings are open to all members and meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 11:00.

We look forward to your continued support in 2005.

"The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on October 18th was a huge success thanks to the Kindergarten class."

Classroom Numbers

Bunny 1: 433-9179
 Bunny 2: 433-8612
 Duckling: 433-9178
 Puppy 1: 433-9182
 Puppy 2: 433-9184
 Preschool 1: 433-9177
 Pre School 2: 433-9185
 Pre School 3: 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 are very excited about offering Spanish classes."

Classroom News

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

Winter has arrived and the snow is falling! It's a festive and busy time of the year with the Christmas holidays and Valentine's Day. We have been very busy doing season appropriate artwork and our older babies really seem to enjoy working with the different mediums such as paint, play dough, markers, chalk and finger-paint! During the winter season, we will discover the snow by bringing it indoors and putting it in our water table and using our shovels and buckets.

We would like to welcome our two newest bunnies: Mosi Gibson, who celebrated his first birthday on December 17th, and our youngest bunny, Kyle Adkins, born on September 7, 2004 and who is younger brother of Scott Adkins.

Congratulations and goodbye to Stefan Djuric and Jack Ritter who graduated to the Duckling room. They have made a good adjustment, but we will miss them.

Happy First Birthday to Darcie Zudell on February 1st and to Hannah Jones on March 12th.

Please be sure to check you child's bin for warmer clothes and don't forget to check the sizes too...we are growing fast!

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

First off, we would like to say goodbye to Tommy Simonson. He moved up to the Ducks in November. We wish him the best of luck! Welcome to Jaida Malone to the Bunny 2 room! She has fit in nicely with all the other Bunnies.

We would like to thank all of our parents for their many donations, such as cameras and other classroom supplies. Also, we appreciate the great comments you gave us! Bunny 2 will always have open arms to any donations you want to give!

Congratulations to Fernando Gonzalez, Jordan Fusco, Madison Herington and Cooper Flowers for starting to walk. Also, Julia Groff has learned how to crawl. Good luck with this new step in life!

Throughout the holiday seasons we have been talking about families, weather and how to treat our friends! We will also be learning about the snow. Bunny 2 would like to ask the parents and siblings to not walk in the play area with wet shoes. The Bunnies could slip and hurt themselves.

If February, Julia Groff will be celebrating her first Birthday on the 4th. Happy First Birthday, Julia! Also, Happy Birthday to Ms. Tina on January 20th. If any of you have any questions, just ask Tina, Tara, or Melanie. We love having all of your children in the Bunny 2 room! Thanks again to all of you great parents!



CLASSROOM NEWS (CONT.)

Ducklings : Miss Dacia, Miss Samantha

Hello again from the Duckling room! Boy, is it getting cold! We want to start off by reminding you to make sure your child is warm all winter. Please check your child's clothes box and make sure there is a good supply of warm clothing. If the temperature outside is 32 degrees and above we will probably play outside, so please make sure your child is dressed for the occasion (boots, mittens/gloves, warm coat, hats, scarves, snow pants, etc.). We would like to thank you all for your donations to our holiday parties and for joining us in celebration. It really makes a difference when our parents participate, so thanks again.

We would like to thank Ms. Shawna for helping out while Ms. Dacia is on maternity leave. Ms. Dacia gave birth to a baby boy, Nick, on December 13th, 2004.

In the upcoming three months, we will be doing a variety of activities. We will be learning about the New Year, Valentine's Day, Martin Luther King Jr., St. Patrick's Day, and more. Feel free to give us ideas on what you think we could do with/for your child. Your opinion is always welcome. We would like to say Happy Birthday to: Abby Williamson (Feb. 15th) and Zachery Padula (March 29th).

Once again, thank you for letting us be a part of your child's life.

Puppy 1: Miss Janice, Miss Lisa

Winter is here. We will be going outside as long as the temperature is 32 degrees. Please bring in boots, coat, hat, and snow pants or extra clothes each day. When your child is dressed for the outdoors during winter, it will make it more fun for your child to enjoy the outdoors.

We have been working on sharing/working together, colors, counting, following directions, shapes, and using scissors. In our lesson plans we have different activities for the children to learn these things. At home you could help your child with what we are learning here at school by reading stories, asking them to give you objects of a certain color, working together on counting, finding shapes, etc. In January we will be having the main theme "Snow and Ice". We will have plenty of snow the winter!

Lisa and Janice would like to thank all the parents for the help bringing in the snacks for the holiday party. The children really enjoyed them. Thank you for participating in singing with your child and doing an art project together. We know it meant a lot to your child.

We hope you enjoyed your holiday with your family. Family is number one. Enjoy it while you can.

Puppy 2: Miss Deana, Miss Julie

As the holidays are coming up very quickly, we would like to remind P2 parents to bring in boots, waterproof gloves, hats, and snow pants because we will go outside if we can. Also, please label everything.

We have been reading up a storm in our room. The P2 children love the "No David" story by David Shannon. Miss Julie chooses special stories for our room and the children love each story she tells. If you would like to be a guest reader in the P2 room, please let us know. Come share a special story with us!

We still need some family pictures for the room. Please remember we still need donations. If you need a list, let us know. Also, if your child has been given medicine or is going to be out, call us at 3-9184.

We have some birthdays ahead: Marcus Steele (Dec. 10), Michelle LeGallee (Dec. 15), Dougie and Allison Sartain (Feb. 1), Nichaela Noebe (March 12). Happy Birthday! Thank you.

CLASSROOM NEWS (CONT.)

Pre School 1: Miss Cathy, Miss Anita

We've had a lot of seasonal festivity and fun in the classroom the last few weeks! And we have some fun, exciting projects and learning projects in store for your child during the coming weeks. All are planned to complement and enrich your child's interest and learning needs. Please take the time to discuss these activities with your child.

The Preschool 1 class said a sad good-bye to our student teacher, Miss Jacqui. We wish her the best of luck as she continues her degree in Education K-3. We will be gaining another student teacher in the middle of January.

One of the activities the class is working on for the New Year is a time capsule that will contain a few items about the child's life at LLF in the year 2004-05. These will be sealed closed and hopefully will not be opened until the children graduate from high school, which we are sure will be a hit at a party.

One of the biggest goals in preschool is preparing for your child's further education. We would like to work on following directions and learning to work together. These are goals that they should reach before they enter Kindergarten. One of the best ways you can help us with this is to have a family game night. Turn off the TV, the computer, and the music and play a game together one night of the week! The class has been enjoying playing Candyland and the Memory Game. You just might learn a thing or two from your child!

What will Family Game night do for you??

- *Give you quality fun time with your child
- *Give you an opportunity to share a laugh together
- *Help you foster a positive family-child relationship
- *Make wonderful memories

What will it teach your child?

- Cooperation/teamwork
- Responsibility
- Perseverance /patience
- Honesty
- Understanding/Accepting
- Making choices
- Math skills
- Colors
- Eye-hand skills
- Attention span

We would like to say "Thank You" for signing up to bring in treats for the holiday party and letter snacks and for joining "our family" for the Thanksgiving meal. It was nice for us to sit down and talk with you without the morning or evening rush. We have many more family activities in the coming month. We hope you'll be able to joins us.

Miss Anita finished her biology class and will have a short break until Jan. 31. We will keep you updated on her schedule when the time comes. As always, you're more then welcome to come and have lunch with us. Feel free to share some CD's or your favorite book.

CLASSROOM NEWS (CONT.)

Pre School 2: *Miss Maureen, Miss Sharyl*

The Preschool 2 room was very busy learning the letters K-M during the month of December. We had fun guessing words that begin with each letter and sharing our toys from home that start with each letter. We also learned about holidays around the world, winter sports, and New Year's around the world.

Beginning in January, we will be working on the letters N-Q, and studying penguins, dinosaurs, manners, and fairy tales.

Our birthdays for December were: Ethan Curry (Dec. 3), Nathaniel Van Drei (Dec. 14). Our January birthdays are: Heather Williamson (Jan. 16), Zackary Van Zante (Jan. 18), Andrew Schaefer (Jan. 20), Michael Dowell (Jan. 28), Ms. Sharyl (Jan. 14).

Preschool 3: *Miss Donna, Mr. Tim*

We trust you had a wonderful Christmas with your family and friends. We enjoyed celebrating with you at our Christmas party. We would also like to thank you for our gifts and your kind words during this holiday season.

We enjoyed learning about the different ways people celebrate Christmas around the world and enjoyed having Nomar's dad and Gabriela's parents play the guitar and sing for us.

The snow has arrived just in time for us to learn about snow and ice. We will be exploring how snow freezes and melts using different experiments. We will also be talking about our presidents and Martin Luther King, Jr. In February, we'll be discussing caring for others including talking about community helpers. We will also be having a Valentine's party and be exchanging Valentine's cards with each other.

As you know, we have been learning about the alphabet. Every week we learn about a different letter. The Tigers and Bears enjoy bringing in a show-n-share about the letter of the week. We are half way through the alphabet and the kids are doing a good job recognizing upper and lower case letters. The Tigers and Bears will be learning how to write their names.

Happy Birthday to Nomar Lebron on December 15th.

CLASSROOM NEWS (CONT.)

Kindergarten: *Miss Foster, Miss. Ammons*

'Twas the week before Christmas, and all through the school
 Not a teacher was stirring or even a pupil.
 Christmas projects were hung on the walls with care
 In hopes that their parents would give them a stare.
 Then down the hall there rose such a clatter
 We ran to the door to see what was the matter.
 Then to our perky ears should we hear?
 Ms. Maureen and Ms. Carm singing Christmas carols about Santa and a deer.
 Not a note out of tune they continued to work

Then they turned to us all and sang like clockwork:
 "You better watch out, you better not sigh, you better get your work done because
 we're telling you why...Santa Claus is coming next week."

By: Ms. Foster

We hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We have birthday wishes to send out: November: Caleb Prante; December: Carol Hall, Alex Rogers; February: Alex Winter, Alexis Smith, Ryan Mongalier, Samantha Wong.

The Kindergartners have wishes for their parents. I hope Santa reads this:

I wish....

Alexis:	my mom a dolphin clock, my dad a new suit
David:	a camera for my mom, a new tie for my dad
Caleb:	my mom and dad to have 2 dictionaries
Alex W.:	my mom a new dress, my dad a new tool
Allison:	my mom a kitchen with lots of wheels to move things, my dad new shoes
Mark:	my dad a basketball trophy, my mom jewelry
Samantha:	my mom a bow for her hair, my dad a helmet to be safe to build
Ryan:	my mom new clothes, my dad a new house
Joshua:	my dad a new car, my mom a shirt
Jacob:	my dad a new guitar, my mom a new bracelet that says "Jacob & Erin"
Carol:	my mom a new ring, my dad new shoes because the dog chews his
Monica:	my mom a new dress, my dad a tie
Michael:	my dad a new lighthouse and a beach by his house, my mom a new diamond ring
Alex R.:	my mom a diamond ring and a red dress, my dad a new tool
Edwin:	my dad a new car, my mom a new necklace
Rachel:	my mom make up, my dad a hat

Staff Member of the Quarter !

By: Maureen Sartain

Christina Burnley is the LLF Staff Member of the Quarter. Christina has been an employee of LLF since February 2001.

Christina does everything at LLF. She is a “floater” and is willing and able to help out in each classroom. She assists teachers, spends time with the children, helps with activities, and replaces teachers in any classroom when they are absent. She even helps in the kitchen (and is a great cook) and in the office. As most of you probably already know, the children of LLF just love Christina. She is a friend to all of our children. They find that Christina is great fun and very loving.

Christina does each job at LLF with a smile. She is dependable, hard working, and very professional. She works well with all other staff members and is courteous to all parents. She is a very valuable staff member to all of us and we appreciate all that she does for the staff, parents, and children of LLF! Thank you, Christina!!

Board of Trustees – Committee Reports

Kindergarten Committee

By: Nancy Hall

We organized a collection to get a birthday gift for Ms. Foster. We submitted comments to Maureen about the Kindergarten Admission Policy.

Jerry Konyk Science and Adventure Fund

By: Nancy Hall

The members of this committee have been communicating using emails. A spreadsheet was created that shows a breakdown of the key areas at GRC. Some of the toys and activities that we brainstormed at our last meeting was put under these key areas. Each committee person has signed up for a key area or listed other ways they could help. One goal we have is that whatever toy/activity we get, we want to make sure 1) it will be educational 2) we can tie it to something NASA does and 3) the teachers buy into it or at least can incorporate it into their curriculum.

Board of Trustees – Committee Reports (cont.)

Staff Appreciation Committee

By: Melissa McGuire

This fall/winter the Staff Appreciation Committee started with the small things. We've set up signs and given small gifts to each staff member on their birthday. Look for the month's birthdays to be written on the new calendar set up in the entrance to LLF. We surprised our staff member of the quarter with a sign in the hall, as well as a monogrammed LLF tote bag. For our Halloween treat, we gave each of the staff members a small pumpkin necklace to help spread the trick or treating cheer. For Thanksgiving, the members of the Staff Appreciation Committee brought in baked goods as a sweet "help yourself" treat for the staff to show our thanks for all their hard work. For Christmas, at the request of the staff members, we went without a holiday luncheon and instead splurged on gift certificates from Target for each and every one of the staff. We hope that the small token will show the love and respect we have for all who take care of our kids. We look forward to continuing this tradition of spoiling the staff well into the New Year. Happy New Year!

Fundraising Committee

By: Michelle Williamson

We would like to send a big thank to all the parents, teachers and friends that supported our very successful fall fundraising efforts. A special thank is in order for Barb Holz who chaired Westfield Works Wonders. This year we earned over \$300. The Constructive Playthings fundraiser brought in an additional \$372. Susan Kevdzija was instrumental in organizing the order once it had been delivered. Thank you! Lifetouch, the school picture company, sent a rebate of \$443.81. Finally, the Current fundraiser earned LLF \$1026.25. Thanks again for all of your hard work and continuing support.

Because of your generosity, we are able to move forward with plans to have shade covers built for the sandboxes on the playground. We are also looking into some fun and unique programming ideas. The spring will bring our Malleys candy sale and of course our annual LLF golf outing. We will be setting up committees to help with these fundraisers. Information about the meeting times will be e-mailed to all the parents. If you are interested in helping out or have any ideas to share, please contact Michelle Williamson at 440-546-0434 or e-mail Micander68@aol.com. Thanks again and have a happy and safe new year!

Special News

Miss Kathy Turnick, our own staff member has just released her own CD entitled "In2theSon". This CD is wonderful and features her own musical talents and her husband and son. This CD features contemporary Christian music and can be purchased for \$10.00.

KITCHEN NEWS

By: Linda Ryan

Recipe cards are located on the kitchen bulletin board. Please feel free to make a copy of any of these recipes. They are simple recipes that are designed for children. They are part of a series called "Little People Explore the World of Food".

Thank you so very much for your participation in the Hunger Network Food Drive. It was a grand success! Your kindness and generosity will help keep many families from being hungry; hopefully a tragedy none of us will ever have to endure.

Our Giving Tree to benefit Laura's Home was just as successful. Your wonderful gift donations were delivered to Laura's Home in time for their holiday party and they were very, very thankful!

I take great pride to work amongst the caring, generous, and loving folks that make up Lewis Little Folks. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Happy Holidays and warm wishes for a great New Year.



KIDS ART CORNER – PICTURE HOLDER



Main supplies:

- Pacon® SunWorks™ construction paper - white, pink, orange, turquoise, green
- Fiskars® Hand punches and Softouch® craft snips
- 5 Spring clothespins
- 18 Gauge wire
- Double sided tape

Optional supplies: Gemstones

Basics supplies:

- Black marker
- Pencil
- Scissors

Instructions:

1. Trace and cut five butterflies from assorted colors of construction paper.
2. Use a black marker to draw designs on each butterfly. Punch out designs along edges of the butterfly wings with hand punches.
3. Apply double sided tape along center back of each butterfly. Adhere to a piece of white paper. Trim edges of white paper around each butterfly leaving a 1/8" border around the edges.
4. Glue each butterfly to the top, flat side of each clothespin. Let dry.
5. Cut a 36" length of 18 gauge wire. Bend a loop for hanging on either end, twisting ends to secure. Clip clothespin butterflies along length of wire and attach photos of friends and family.

Optional: Glue a gemstone to the center of each butterfly.