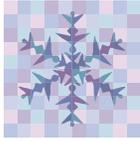
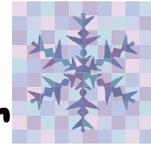


# Lewis Little Folks



## Winter 2006 Newsletter



### Office News:

*Ms. Maureen Sartain, Ms. Carmella Genaro*

We hope all of our LLF families had a nice holiday season. Now that the hustle and bustle of the holidays is behind us, it's time to try to enjoy the wonders of cold and snow.

We are keeping the children busy at LLF with plenty of indoor activities, but we also do go outside to play on days that it is above 32 degrees. Limited winter outdoor play is really good for the children and offers fresh air away from germs. It's great for their muscles to get exercise outdoors too. Please make sure your child has a hat and gloves every day in case we go outside. It may be helpful to keep a set at school in case you forget. Boots and snow pants are very helpful too. And don't forget to stock up on extra clothes in their bins (Kindergartners too!).

Although it's cold outside and summer seems far off, it's time for us to begin the process of coordinating summer camp and next year's Kindergarten class. Our summer camp program is for children who will enter Kindergarten through third grade in the fall. We offer this program to currently enrolled children and siblings of currently enrolled children first. This is a great program filled with field trips, swim lessons, incoming visitors, and lots of summer fun before going back to school. Speaking of school, we are planning our Kindergarten registration for the 2006/07 school year. Parents of Kindergarten-eligible children will be informed of the registration process. We will hold this registration sometime in March.

Reminder: Year-end statements are available in the office for tax purposes. Stop by to request one if you would like.

### Curriculum Information

All teachers at LLF create lesson plans (even infant teachers), and every classroom has goals that we work toward to meet the developmental needs of the children. The teachers plan activities using themes. Themes help the children relate to the curriculum we plan for them by making it interesting and fun for them. Older classrooms set up "centers" and the teachers plan hand-on activities in these

centers for the children to explore and learn. The activities are planned to help the children meet the social/emotional, gross motor, fine motor, reading readiness, and math readiness goals that we have for them. We are firm believers that children learn through play. They think they are simply playing and having fun. We know that they are learning.

Some of our themes for February are presidents, black history, dental health, shadows and groundhogs. Some themes for March will include nursery rhymes, imagination, Dr. Seuss, and St. Patrick's Day. Mark your calendar...on March 31<sup>st</sup> all children will be invited to dress up as their favorite nursery rhyme character.

Each classroom has weekly lesson plans posted on their bulletin boards. Please feel free to ask the teachers any questions regarding lesson plans and learning.

We are continuing our music classes for all ages. Ms. Alane comes each Tuesday for music class. As you may have noticed, Ms. Alane will be giving birth to her second daughter in April, but another music therapist will take Alane's place during her maternity leave, so music class will not be interrupted. We wish Alane well during this special time.

The LLF Board of Directors has approved another session of Spanish class for all pre-K (Tigers) and Kindergartners. Ms. Dina Narvaez-Santiago teaches these classes each Wednesday, and classes will continue through March.

### Earth Week

Earth Week will be coming in April and LLF will be doing special activities that week. We like to provide activities that teach the children about recycling, plant and tree life, and keeping our environment clean. NASA will be coordinating activities with us that week by providing their "Aero bus" and by having a coloring contest. More details will come in March.

### Staff Information

We've had some staffing changes over the past few months. Ms. Jill from the Bunny 1 room resigned, and was replaced by Ms. Paulette from the Puppy 2 room. Then, Ms. Tara from the Bunny 2 room replaced Ms. Paulette in the Puppy room. Then, Ms. Melanie who was the part time Bunny teacher, replaced Ms. Tara in the full time Bunny 2 room. We are going to welcome a new Bunny room part time teacher, Ms. Ashlee, beginning on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>. Also, Ms. Samantha is no longer a teacher at LLF, but Ms. Aurea (former summer Preschool teacher) is the new Duckling teacher. We are in the process of hiring a teacher to work with her.

All of these teachers are doing a fabulous job in their new positions! We are lucky to have them.

Speaking of LLF being lucky...did you know that Ms. Cathy McDonnell, Preschool 1 teacher, has been an LLF employee for 20 years? Please congratulate Cathy for so many years of dedicated service to LLF. We are very lucky to have her here.

Ms. Cathy has another honor worth mentioning. Cathy is a soon-to-be published author. Cathy submitted a learning activity plan to Mailbox Magazine, which is a magazine we get here at LLF. It is an excellent national magazine that provides unique curriculum ideas to teachers. Cathy's lesson was accepted and will be published soon.

Great job, Cathy!

#### Winter Beach Party:

We're going to try to liven things up around here! We will hold our own indoor beach party on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. The teachers will plan an afternoon of pure fun for the children in each class. Some activities may include indoor water table, sand play, dancing, limbo, flower crafts, etc. Children will be able to change their clothes into shorts/T-shirts or swim suits. This will all happen after nap time. More details will be coming to you as the party approaches. Parents will be invited to participate.

#### Thank you!!

There are several parents who have really helped us out. Ken Weilend has fixed numerous broken bikes, bulletin boards, shelves, and our Christmas tree, among other things. Ken is our honorary "fix-it" man, and we truly appreciate all of his help.

We would also like to thank Judy VanZante for helping to format our Employee Handbook, Jim Birchenough for welding our bikes back together when they break, and Aimee DeChant for her help in copying several items for us.

Thank you also to Karl Vaden for donating and fixing a printer for the staff to use in our staff lounge.

Have you noticed a new box hanging on our wall next to the tuition box? This is our new "fundraising" box and will soon be labeled. With this box, we can collect all of our fundraising orders in one location. Thank you very much to Tina Jica's father, Chuck Lokar for making this box and hanging it on our wall.

### Box Tops for Education

LLF continually collects "Box Tops for Education." These are labels on the tops of many food products that families typically buy. Please look for this on your food product packages, clip them out, and bring them to LLF. There is a collection box in our main entrance way or you can bring them to the office. LLF can earn cash for box tops collected. You can visit their website at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) for more information and online coupons.

\*\*If you currently have box tops to donate, we need to have them at LLF by this coming Monday, Feb. 13, 2006. The deadline has changed so that we can receive the money we earn before the end of the school year. Thank you!!

## **LLF COMMITTEE NEWS:**

### Fundraising Committee:

*By Tina Jicha*

Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone for all of your support during a very busy fall season!

**Thank you** for your patience as we experimented with the gift card program. We have had a lot of success with the program and will continue to sell the cards throughout the year! Thank you to Gwen Anderson and Brian & Kathy Kachmar for their help in kicking off the program.

Remember the following gift cards can be purchased in the office: **Giant Eagle, Tops, Speedway, Shell, Bath N Body, Blockbuster, Best Buy, Home Depot, Panera, Borders, Regal Cinema and Applebee's.** Other gifts cards can be ordered - **submit your order today!**

This spring we will have our annual Malley's and Tupperware fund raisers but the committee is hard at work planning two big events.

The **6<sup>th</sup> annual Golf Outing** will be held at Springvale Golf Course on **Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006.** We are looking for additional volunteers to help support this event especially the day of the event. Please join us for the next Golf Outing meeting, Wednesday February 8<sup>th</sup> at LLF at 9:15 am. Please contact Tina Jicha (3-3827) or Andy Scheneman (440) 225-4042 for additional information.

**SAVE THE DATE!** The 1<sup>st</sup> annual **Kid's Fair** will be **Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> from 3:30 - 7:00 pm.** There will be food, entertainment, games, prizes and much, much more. The fair will be fun for the entire family! Remember to invite grandparents and other family members. We are still in need of volunteers to work on the following subcommittees, especially the day of the event. If you are interested please

contact one of the following committee chairs. Tickets for Adults will be \$8.00 and \$6.00 for children. Included in the ticket price is also a meal. Children 1 year old or younger are free.

- Games and Crafts - Kristin Ratino (3-2048)
- Publicity - Ada Narvaez-Legeza (3-3559)
- Food - Gynelle Steele - (3-8258)
- T-Shirts - Annie Schaft (3-2249)
- Volunteers - Jessica Roberts (3-6561)

Please contact Gwendolyn Flowers or Heather Linden for additional information.

Interested in helping but don't know how? Please join us on **Wednesday, March 1 at noon at LLF for a Fundraising Committee Meeting.**

Thank you for your continued support!!!!

The Fundraising Committee

### **Staff Appreciation Committee**

***By: Marilyn Groff, Chair***

This past holiday season the committee spread some good cheer by personally handing out \$10 Target gift cards to each LLF Staff member. We also made sure to tell them on your behalf how much we all appreciate their hard work, love and care. Thank you, parents of LLF children, for making this possible through your generous donations.

We are planning a Winter Appreciation Event to occur in early February. The theme is "Winter Warm Up." We will be providing them with hot chocolate and marshmallows, hot tea and a table full of goodies during their lunch time.

I would like to take a moment to specifically name and thank the parents working with me, who take time out of their already busy schedule, to participate in the events of this committee. It is only with your time and effort that we are able to make these events the terrific occasions they are.

Committee Members who have donated their time:

Doreen Zudell, Tina Jicha, Annie Schaft, Duane Schaft, Renee Palyo, Melissa McGuire, and Kirsten Duffy.

## **CLASSROOM NEWS:**

### **Bunny 1: Ms. Renee, Ms. Paulette**

Winter has arrived and the snow is falling! We have been 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, Grace Laster, born April 3, 2005 and our youngest bunny, Javier Collazo-Lopez, born November 28, 2005, younger brother of Christina Collazo-Lopez. In addition, please welcome our new Bunny 1 teacher, Paulette Strange, who came from the Puppy 2 room and joined our room in December.

Congratulations and goodbye to Kyle Adkins and Audrey Wemple who graduated to the Duck Room. They have made a good adjustment, but we will miss them.

Happy first birthday to Elaine Shaft on February 1, Hope Ptacek on February 4, Nicole Trsek on February 27, and Justin Vaden on March 28.

We would also like to ask all our newer parents to please bring in a family photo(s) so we can recognize and point to family members (recommended for accreditation).

Please be sure and check your child's bin (under the crib) for warmer clothes and don't forget to check the sizes too. We are growing fast.

### **Bunny 2: Ms. Tina, Ms. Melanie**

We would like to begin by saying goodbye to Miss Tara. Miss Tara is now a Puppy 2 teacher, and we would like to thank her for all the care she has given to the Bunnies. The Bunny Room would like to give a big welcome to Miss Melanie who is now our new teacher.

Special 1<sup>st</sup> birthday wishes to Nicholas Greenwalt (December 12<sup>th</sup>), Kylie Jicha (January 13<sup>th</sup>), Noah Weaver (February 2<sup>nd</sup>), Imani Wright (March 6<sup>th</sup>), and Jacob Linden (March 16<sup>th</sup>).

Congratulations to Kylie Jicha, Nicholas Greenwalt, and Noah Weaver who are now walking and to Imani Wright, Jacob Linden, Joshua Mullenax, and Evan Kortez who are crawling. Good Job!!

Even though the weather in January was nice, please make sure to bring hats and gloves in case we go outside.

Last but not least, on February 14<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a Valentine's Day party and on March 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be a special St. Patrick's Day snack. So come and have some fun!!

### **Ducklings: Ms. Aurea**

Hola and hello!

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005, I, Ms. Aurea, entered into the Duckling Room as a toddler teacher. I am excited in being in the classroom with all the children. I just graduated from Cleveland State University with a BA degree in Early Childhood Education and Science. I have experience working with toddlers. I am planning on pursuing a Masters degree in Dual Language (Bilingual Education) next January. My goal is to provide a positive and a fun learning environment for all the children.

It is sad to say that Ms. Samantha is no longer with us in the Duck Room. She is doing well and she sends her regards to everyone, especially to the Ducklings.

In other news...we have a new Duckling in the room, Kyle Adkins.

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!!!! Quack!!!!!!** We are happy to have Kyle in our room. He is happy and is having a great time being a Duckling.

Have a Quacking Day!

### **Puppy 1: Ms. Lisa, Ms. Kim**

The Puppy One class would like to wish the following students a happy birthday: Emily Williams (2), Cooper Flowers (2), Anthony Ratino (2) and Rohan Suresh(3). We hope you enjoy(ed) your special day!

These past months have been fun in our classroom! We have had many chances to learn and explore. We are starting to expand our science center. Some of our new toys include magnets, colored blocks and new water toys. The children have enjoyed mixing colors in the window with the blocks and making new colors in the water table. We also got to see what happens when we put water outside! If you have any additions to our science area you would like to donate, please talk to the teachers. We are always looking for new ways of learning!

If you have been in our classroom recently, you will notice the artwork decorating our walls. We have been doing many open-ended art activities during the day. We have finger painted, dot painted, used chalk, markers, made collages, upside-down colored, did art at the easel and painted with our new glitter paint. Open-ended art

activities provide an experience for your child to use his/her creativity and express themselves. Please take a minute to look around our classroom at your child's art. They take much pride in their work. 😊

The children have also begun working with scissors. For Chinese New Year, the children cut lanterns. For many of them it was one of their first experiences cutting. This could be a fun activity to be encouraged at home as well! Remember when purchasing safety scissors to get ones with rounded edges. Children enjoy cutting scrap paper. Keep it simple and encourage fine-motor skills at home. 😊

We would like to welcome Spike to our classroom. Spike is our new hamster friend adopted from Puppy 2. The children have enjoyed watching Spike climb up his tunnels and run on his wheel. He is a great addition to our class.

In the upcoming months we will be learning many new things. We will be doing a unit on good foods. We will be learning what kind of foods is good to eat, doing taste tests, and having a grocery store in our Home Center. We will also be discussing good oral hygiene. We will be learning how to brush our teeth by using a big set of pretend teeth and a big brush, singing a song about brushing and many more fun things.

We are looking forward to the upcoming months in our classroom! We hope to make it a fun, hands on learning experience for your child. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us!

**Puppy 2: Ms. Nancy, Ms. Tara:**

Puppy 2 would like to say good luck to Mrs. Paulette. She has moved to the Bunny room and we wish her the best in there. As we all know, Mrs. Tara is now the new teacher in the room. Mrs. Tara and Ms. Nancy worked together at another center and we are happy to be working together again. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask us.

We would like to say happy 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday to Darcie Zudell on February 1<sup>st</sup>, Julia Groff on February 4<sup>th</sup>, and happy 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday to Abby Williamson on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Also happy 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday to Zack Padula on March 29<sup>th</sup>! Ms. Nancy will be having a birthday on March 27<sup>th</sup>! Happy birthday to all and we wish you many more to come!!

In the upcoming months we will be talking about dental health and are hoping to have a guest speaker. Also we will be talking about postal workers. If any parents know a postal worker who would like to come talk to our class, tell us and we will be more than happy to have them come talk! Thank you!

Puppy 2 would like to ask for any donations that you would like to give. We are in need of kid's socks and disposable cameras to take pictures of our kids working and having fun. Also, we could use disposable bibs and any toys that you would like to get off your hands! We are open to any donations and thank you in advance!

When the weather is warmer, we are going to try to get out as much as we can. Make sure that your child has everything they need to go out in the months of February and March. It's still colder, so we would like to have coats, hats and gloves.

One last thing... we are hanging up updated pictures of each child's family around the room. The children love to look at these and enjoy looking at other kids' families. If you could bring those in as soon as you can, it will be greatly appreciated!

**Preschool 1: Ms. Anita, Ms. Cathy:**

Now that the winter air is settling down on northeastern Ohio, it's time for months of hands-on learning fun in our room. Please don't forget we will be going outside as long as the weather permits. Just recently we went for a walk and saw a crane working on a nearby building. Ask your child about what they saw!

We welcome our new friend, Nicholas Rhodes, who moved up from the Puppy 2 room and Crystal Siwik, who is our new student teacher from Cleveland State.

A valentine list with the class names will be going out before our party. Please encourage your child to write his/her own names on the card. Since February is "healthy heart month", we will be having a healthy heart Valentine's Day Party. The sign up list will be going up soon, so start thinking healthy thoughts!

We will be having a week with the doctor...that is Dr. Suess! This will occur during the week of Feb. 27 - March 3. If you have any books, tapes, movies, or computer games that you could share with the class, please bring them in.

Here are some important dates to remember:

Feb. 27: bring in funny hats

March 1: PJ party, and wear your favorite shoes (for "The Foot Book")

March 3: silly sock day (We're looking for donations of bubble wrap for this day...you'll have to trust us on this one.)

We will also have a lesson on our great state of Ohio on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

March will bring in a wee little visitor to our classroom, and other characters may show up as well. As we move along through the months, we are hopeful that spring will be arriving soon.

Please feel free to contact us at any time.

### **Preschool 2: Ms. Maureen B., Ms. Sharyl**

We are learning so much in the Preschool 2 Room these days!

We have finished counting from 1-20, and we will continue reviewing the numbers for the rest of the year. We also are getting to the end of the alphabet. Next week we will be learning about Letter "Uu", already! We have had so much fun going through the alphabet, week by week, and playing games, doing finger plays, learning new songs, and reading books about about each letter and themes.

We had many birthdays during the month of December: Marcus Steele (Dec. 10), Nathaniel VanDrie (Dec. 14), Michelle LeGallee (Dec. 15) and Heather Williamson (Jan. 16). Up-coming birthdays are DeAvion Anderson (Feb. 5), Bianca Legaza-Narvaez (Feb. 9), Michael Rolince (Feb. 21), Ben Roberts (Feb. 24), Nichaela Noebe (March 12), Claire Hu (March 12), Gabriela Santiago-Narvaez (March 31). Happy birthday to all of the above!

### **Preschool 3: Ms. Donna, Mr. Tim**

We have been enjoying this warmer weather with chances to be outside. We are sure it will not last so remember warm **coats, hats, & mittens for each day.**

We are looking forward to our Valentine's Day party, learning about healthy teeth, nursery rhymes, and a week dedicated to Dr. Suess. This should be fun for all! In addition, we will be talking about spring, the earth and how to take care of it.

We are nearing the end of the alphabet and will start looking at numbers when we finish our ABC's. The children really like show-n-tell and coming up with unique words. Thank you for not sending in toys from home. It has really made a difference in our classroom.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

### **Kindergarten: Ms. Foster, Ms. Ammons**

Dear Parents,

Can you believe we've been in school 100 days? We had a fantastic 100 Day Party on January 31<sup>st</sup>. The boys & girls made their own pizzas and we played lots of games. The children decided to open up a pizza shop. They picked their jobs, and some

were sauce spreaders, cheese sprinklers, and pepperoni designers. One child said he would be the pizza twirler. They even had a name for the pizza shop, such as "Batman Loves Pizza", "Zoom Pizza", "Pizza Juniors". If we only had a backer! This is a good starting point for learning about money, which we will be doing in the next chapter on math.

All the children are doing a great job at reading the "Easy Readers" books. We can't wait until our Valentine's Day Party! The children will probably want to open a Cupid's Shop.

We are planning a field trip for the spring. More details will be provided at a later date. We are also planning our zoo field trip in June.

Happy Birthday wishes to:

Zack Van Zante (January), Katie Williamson, Alex Williams, Jessica Ryan, (February),

Teddy Stueber, Satya Nayagam, Rickey Shyne(March)

Lauren Borowski, Ryan Palyo, (April)

Jack Woo, Darrin Scott, Miss Ammons, Ben Greibel, Lynsey Scheneman, (June)

Volunteers Wanted for Black History Month: The Kindergarten class is asking any LLF parents & staff members to come in and share your special talents with us for Black History Month! Invite your co-workers to participate, too! A sign-up calendar sheet is posted in the main lobby or contact Miss Ammons at 3-9180 to set up a date & time.

After School News:

We have had a busy winter in the after school program. It has been filled with lots of arts & crafts. The weather has been so nice that we have been outdoors and unfortunately some crafts were not completed until later. I prefer to take the children outdoors and if the weather is permitting, we usually take the projects outdoors. I have lots of crafts & activities planned for Valentine's Day! We are going to make a love potion to drink (color mixing/7-up) and attempt to bake a cake from scratch and decorate it (yummy). We will also have lots of hearts and cupids art projects. Spring activities include Irish crafts for St. Patrick's Day, Easter, Passover, Cinco de Mayo. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering to come in for any of the holidays listed above. After school activities start at 3pm and end at 5pm. Please remember your child's boots, hat, and gloves everyday.