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May 2012 Newsletter

Thank You!

Wow! Where has the school year gone? The month of May— *already!* Hats off to the Sonshine Preschool staff, you're the best! I would also like to extend a very special thank you to all of you wonderful parents for your help in making this a great year.

This was our second year to have Room Parents, and host monthly Parent Group Meetings. I know the success that we have shared this year is due to this wonderful Group! The Red Cross Blood Drive, supporting the Lizzie Bell Foundation, was an amazing addition this year to our community outreach efforts!

Your children, each and every one of them, are terrific! Thanks for supporting me during my 11th year as Director. I truly believe in this Christian ministry and have tried to blend the 30 plus years history of Sonshine with some fresh ideas. Huge heartfelt thanks go to Claire Skuse, one of my terrific Assistant Directors. I really don't know what I would do without you! Every year YOU continue to amaze me in your dedication to this program. You are the best! And secondly a big, big thanks to Joanne Castillo my other Assistant Director, I really appreciate ALL of your hard work, and your ability to roll with the punches once again this year. You two are the BEST! And last, but not least, I'd like to thank JoAn, Kathy, Stacey, Julie, Mary, Prairie, Sarah, Heather, Hilary, Christina, and Amanda for all of your hard work and dedication to this program. Sonshine Preschool is what it is because of all of you!

From all of us to all of you- have a terrific, fun-filled summer- and to some of you- we will see you through the summer- and again when school resumes in August.

God Bless You,
Cathy Wysopal

P.S. Room Parents...well...they have been amazing this year!!!! Thanks to ALL of you for going above and beyond for Sonshine Preschool! Thanks for the memories you have created for this program!!! xoxo

Construction Updates!!

Thanks so much for being SO UNDERSTANDING during our construction! The rooms are going to look terrific when they are completed! It's been fun for the children to watch the action too!

The Grand Opening for the NEW 1 Year Old classroom will be August 2nd. Hopefully after the room has been set up, and inspected, we will be able to start accepting children sometime this summer. YAY!!!!!!

Summer Camp

PLEASE let us know by Friday, May 11th if your child will be attending our Summer Camp! Our staff needs to know their schedule, and so in turn we need to know how many children to expect! We have plenty of room, so please see Cathy or Claire if you're interested in

enrolling your child. Session 1 will begin Monday, June 4th. Tuition for Session 1 is due Monday, May 21st. Thanks so much!

P.S. If you want to ADD days once the summer starts just call us, and we will let you know if we have room!

Muffins for Mom's

Please stop by and celebrate Mother's Day with your child at Sonshine. We will be serving muffins, fruit and drinks on Wednesday, May 9th and Friday, May 11th from 8-9 under the Ramada. We are so very proud of all of you fantastic Mom's! Keep up the GREAT WORK that you are doing for your children!!!

Sonshine's Carnival!

Thank you to everyone who attended our celebration! We had a blast and hope that you did too. Thanks to everyone who worked at the carnival, and to those of you who donated baked goods, we really appreciate you all! Our very own Sonshine Room Parents made a HUGE impact on this event thank you ALL so very much!!!!

A special thank you to Mr. Gilbert Castillo and his band, Mid-Life Crisis for providing lively entertainment for this event. We have some great dancers among us!!!!

And to my entire staff, thanks for giving up your Friday night to make this event a success! Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Along with all the fun that we had we also managed to make a profit of about \$420.00! WOW!!!!!! Thanks Again!

Parent Survey = Survey Monkey ☺

Remember those parent surveys I mentioned to you last month? Well *NOW* is the time for you to complete those very important questionnaires. All of the necessary information has been made available to you throughout the year. We are striving for 100% of the questionnaires to be completed.

The surveys will be sent to you via e-mail. You will simply click on the link, and answer a few questions. We are using "Survey Monkey" this year. It is online and very easy to use. We really appreciate your feedback! Thanks again for your support!!! xoxoxo

Registration 2012-13

Some classes are starting to fill up for fall. However, we do still have PLENTY of space! Please tell a friend or two, and help Sonshine Preschool continue to grow. Remember you get \$50 and your friend gets a \$25 credit off of a month of tuition! (this is valid for our Summer Camp too!!!!)

Thanks for your help!

May Days...

Mother's Day is approaching and your children will be creating something special just for Moms. We will explore the "Great Outdoors" and "Bugs and Butterflies".

Our next to the last week of school is traditionally water week. We will wash tables, chairs and toys, and play in the MUD! Please wear old swimsuits or clothes that can get wet and messy, and bring a change of clothes, too! Don't forget the sunscreen! Thanks!!

From our Teacher's Corner..

Mrs. Corbin's 5 day 4-year-olds-

Gosh, April came and went so fast. We were so busy! We finished up our unit on farm animals. The class learned so many fun facts about life on a farm.

The children planted seeds in the garden and

watched them grow and they learned what it takes for plants to grow. We learned about the life cycle of a butterfly. We also painted and glittered butterflies.

As the weather gets warmer, we will be playing with water and mud. Please bring your child in clothes that can get messy, and please put sunscreen on your child before school.

Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped out this year. We had a great year together! I will miss you and all that are going to kindergarten. Have fun!!!

Mrs. Wysopal's 3 Day 4-year-olds-

From learning about each other's families, singing at the Christmas program, the Family Pizza Fun Day Lunch, cooking Green Eggs and Ham, visiting the Reid Park Zoo, digging in the MUD PIT, painting and eating our way through the alphabet, spelling tests (WOW! A first for Sonshine!), planting and watering in our garden, and enjoying our CARNIVAL, this has been a terrific year! I've been the lucky one to have watched your children grow and blossom before my eyes once again this year. Each of them has made progress in his/her own way. Some were timid or shy around others when school started, that certainly isn't true now. I think anyone in the class could be the "Teacher" for the day. They know the "rules", and they know how and when things are to be done. Their motor skills have improved week by week, either by cutting with scissors, writing their names, swinging, or climbing the tree! They can all speak with kindness to others, and express their needs. Every year I brag that I have "the best class" in the school, well... this year is again no different! This is a fantastic group and I've enjoyed each and every minute I've spent with them. Thanks for sharing your children with me. Parents, you've done a wonderful job in preparing your children for school.

Our class will visit Peter Piper Pizza on Wednesday, May 9th. We will need every child to supply their own transportation for this "NON-Field" trip. The children need to be there at 9:30. We are going to the one on Old Spanish Trail, next to Target. Please feel free to stay if you wish. The children in our class will have a "behind the scenes" tour, and a mini pizza will be made for them. We are usually done by 11:00, and your child can return to school, or go on

home with you. (Remember this will follow our Muffins for Moms breakfast)

Preschool Promotion is Wednesday, May 23rd, 9:15 – 10:30 a.m. We will start off in the Sanctuary for the ceremony, and will follow with cake and punch under the Ramada.

A warm heartfelt HUG to Mrs. Corbin & to Mrs. Lucas for everything you did for the school and for the children this year, and for "ME"! I couldn't have done it without you! You both really stayed flexible, and VERY understanding and I appreciate you both so VERY MUCH!!!! Thanks! xoxoxo

I hope your child will be continuing in Sonshine Preschool's Summer Camp, it will be a lot of fun! I wish you, your families and your children the very best of everything that life has to offer!

Heartfelt Blessings to you all!

Cathy

P.S. Please keep in touch with me! I love to keep seeing your children and hear about how they are doing! Thanks!

Mrs. Lucas's 2 Day 4-year-Olds –

I can't believe May is here!! April was filled with activities revolving around Easter, learning about the farm, and enjoying our special zoo field trip. We've also been busy working on those fine motor skills like cutting, writing, painting and gluing, to prepare us for kindergarten. Have you asked your child about our "mud pit"? They love putting on their galoshes and making rivers, and digging away! Those shovels are the real thing, except they're just smaller!!

Please mark your calendars for "Muffins with Mom" on Friday, May 11th from 8:00-9:00 and also for our Promotion ceremony on Wednesday, May 23, 9:15-10:30. This is such a special ceremony for all of us! The children have been practicing their cute songs and there will also be a memorable video shown that you do not want to miss!

I'd like to give a huge thanks to all of you wonderful Parents for sharing your amazing children with me, and for your kind support and generosity this year! Each of your children are so unique and watching them blossom has been such a blessing to me. It has been a true pleasure working with all of you!

May God bless you and your families!

Mrs. Lucas

Mrs. Castillo's 5 Day 3-year-Olds -

Spirit week was fun with the much anticipated carnival ending the month. I hope everyone had as much fun as we did!

I hope you enjoyed our trip to the Zoo as much as I did. Feeding the giraffes seemed to be a favorite activity. Thank you all for coming.

The month of May will find us exploring bugs, butterflies and the great outdoors. Please send your child in old clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. Fun is very messy and wet. Extra clothes in your child's cubby would be greatly appreciated.

Thanks again to all of you parent who helped out throughout the year with donations and signing up for special events and activities. We could not have had the success we had without your generosity.

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to everyone who participated in the 2012 Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure by either walking with our team, or purchasing a ribbon. I truly appreciate all the support from my coworkers, their families and the preschool parents. A special thanks to our team captain, Claire Skuse, who did a fantastic job of organizing our Sonshine Preschool Team. Thanks to everyone, we exceeded our goal and raised \$425.00. Hurray!

Hope to see some of you this summer.

Love always,
Mrs. Castillo

Mrs. Moten's 2 & 3 Day 3-year-olds -

April went so fast! We were so busy! We planted seeds and learned that plants need water, soil and sun to grow. We watched the garden grow and looked for signs of spring all around us. We also learned about what lives and grows on a farm.

The class loved learning about zoo animals. Thank you for coming to the zoo! We love to watch you enjoy your children. To top it all off, our spring carnival was such a fun time for all our families! Thank you so much to all who helped. We look forward to our last month of school. I have a lot of messy projects planned for May so remember, please wear *play* clothes! Your children are a true blessing!

Ms. Romero's Young 3- year-olds-

April was great! We talked about Easter, spring, and the letters U, V and W. Everyone has really enjoyed free painting with lots of different colors. They also really like playing with play dough and shaving cream! The warm weather is here which means lots of water play. It would be a good idea to bring a bathing suit and an extra set of clothes.

The carnival was so much fun! Thanks for your donations to our cake walk, and to the parents who helped make our carnival a huge success!! Thank you, also, for bearing with us during construction!!

Sonshine Preschool Promotion (For children going on to kindergarten)

Mark your calendars for a very special event. Children who will move on to kindergarten are invited to attend our Eleventh Annual Preschool Promotion Ceremony. Children and their families (yes, 2 day classes too) are asked to be here Wednesday, May 23rd at 9:15 for this ceremony. Please have your Preschoolers here on time at 9:00am. Our program will involve the preschoolers in song, movement, and sentiment. This promises to be a very memorable event. Cake and punch will be served immediately following the ceremony. 3-Day and 5-Day children can plan on staying for the remainder of their school day.

Happy Birthday To You!

Satori Dixon
Landon Gates
Jacob Knight
Macee Murdock
Connor O'Toole

Chapel Time

May 2 & 4: "Ye are the light of the world..."

(Matthew 5:14-16) Shining Lights

The Last 2 weeks will be a review of all of the stories!

Pizza Fun Days:

Wednesday, May 2nd

Friday, May 11th

Wednesday, May 16th

Dates to Remember:

Muffins for Moms: Wednesday, May 9th and Friday, May 11th

Between 8:00 – 9:00 am

Friday, May 4th: Scholastic Book Order due.

Monday, May 21st: Session 1 Tuition Due

Wednesday, May 23rd: 11th Annual Preschool Promotion 9:15 am -10:30 am - All preschoolers who will be attending kindergarten in the fall and their families are invited to attend a ceremony at 9:15 a.m. Please have your Preschoolers here on time at by 9:00am. Refreshments will follow. This is the last day of school until June 6th.

Thursday, May 24th through Friday, June 1st: ****Please mark your calendars****

Sonshine Preschool Closed for Memorial Day, and maintenance and repair.

Monday, June 4th: Classes resume for Session 1 of our summer program.

Wednesday, July 4th: ****P lease mark your calendars****

Sonshine Preschool Closed Wednesday for 4th of July.

Monday, July 16th through Wednesday, August 1st: ****Please mark your calendars****

Sonshine Preschool closed for maintenance and repair.

YOUR SPECIAL CHILDREN AND SPECIAL TIME

Special Time may not be the answer to every childhood problem, but it is almost a magical the way such a short period of time can make such a huge difference in your child's mood and behavior. The tool is positive undivided attention for a limited amount of time in nondirective play every day. All that is needed is 10 minutes per day in order to be effective and satisfying. The five elements of positive attention, undivided attention, time-limited play, nondirective play, and consistency combine to deliver a powerful message that helps a child feel loved and appreciated. As a result behavior improves, and your relationship with your child becomes more playful, joyful and loving.

Positive Attention

During the special designated time there will be no teaching, correcting, competition, criticism or reprimands. Instead you will simply play, show your child you are listening, and notice all the appropriate behaviors and actions. The more enthusiasm you show the more encouraged your child will be to continue those appropriate behaviors. For example, "Look at all of those bright colors you're using in your rainbow!" or "You built a ramp for your cars to go down!" as well as an occasional "I'm really enjoying playing with you" and hugs are all forms of positive attention.

Prepare three different activities and allow the child to choose from among those three. Some suggestions for activities that are noncompetitive and have no "right" or "wrong" way of doing them are Lego's, other building toys, Mr. Potato Head, Play Doh, and any art activity, cars and trucks, doll houses, or farm animals.

Undivided attention

During special time, refrain from taking phone calls, going to the bathroom, talking to other family members or anything else that would keep you from giving your complete attention. Your child will quickly learn that during special time, he will have you all to himself. Choose a time of day when undivided attention is most likely possible such as when a spouse is home to take care of the other children, when younger children are in bed, or early in the morning before others in the family are awake.

Time Limited Play

Set a limit on the time for special time and stick to it. It is difficult to sustain the level of positive attention, listening and enthusiasm that is required. It is

more effective to have special time consistently every day for a short period of time than to have a long special time once a week. At the end of special time, say, "Special time is over. Now its bath time/story time/snack time." End with a hug, and a positive comment; such as "I sure had fun playing with you!"

Nondirective play

Nondirective play means that the child is in charge of the play and can play with the toys in whatever way he chooses. Avoid asking questions or making suggestions. Follow along with the child and try describing what he is doing, praising him, imitating him, and reflecting what he's saying, and demonstrating enthusiasm. If the play is destructive or unsafe, remove the toy and redirect your child to another toy, if he continues to be destructive, or unsafe remove the toy, say, "Special time is over. Maybe tomorrow you will play more gently with the toys." Then, in a non-angry way, you can transition to bath time or story time.

Consistency

One of the most important aspects of special time is that children quickly learn they can count on it every day. If you only have special time four days a week that's OK, as long as your child knows the pattern. It's important not to use special time as leverage, i.e.: "If you don't behave we won't have special time tonight!"

Special time is based on Parent-Child Interaction Therapy developed by Toni Hembree-Kigin and Cheryl Bodiford McNiel
Submitted by Dana Free, Counselor Intern

PARENT BUSINESS CONNECTION

Would you like to place your business card in our Parent Connection section of our monthly newsletter? We distribute this newsletter to current and new prospective parents. The fee is \$10.00 per month for a business card ad, or \$35.00 for a business card ad for 4 consecutive months. We have limited space. If you would like to advertise in our next newsletter, please see Cathy or Claire, or call the office at 885-1045.

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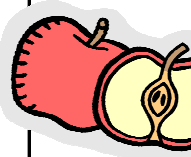
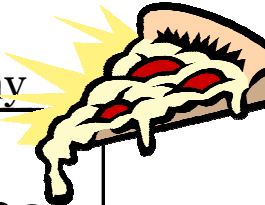
MAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Some Snack suggestions:

- *100% fruit juice box
- *1/2 c. cereal (Chex, Kix or Cheerios)
- *1/2 oz. string cheese
- *1 1/2 oz. granola bar
- *1/2 c. broccoli, 1 tblsp. ranch dressing
- *1/2 c. pretzels

- *1/2 c. goldfish
- *1 gogurt
- *1/2 c. apple slices, 1 tblsp. Carmel dip
- *1/2 c. grapes
- *1 banana

- * 4 crackers & wrapped cheese slice
- * 1/2 banana, 2 vanilla wafers
- * 1 rice cake, 1/2 oz. cream cheese
- *1 graham cracker, 1/2 oz. cream cheese
- *1 pudding cup



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		Pizza Day! Chapel		Chapel
	1	2	3	4
		Muffins for Moms		Pizza Day! Muffins for Moms Scholastic Book Order Due
7	8	9	10	11
Please apply sunscreen before school this week!	Water Week	Pizza Day!	Water Week	Please apply sunscreen before school this week!
14	15	16	17	18
		9:15-10:30 a.m. 11th Annual Preschool Promotion	No School- SPS Closed	No School- SPS Closed
21	22	23	24	25
Memorial Day No School- SPS Closed	No School- SPS Closed	No School- SPS Closed	No-School- SPS Closed	No School- SPS Closed
28	29	30	31	