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A not-for-profit center serving Newark families for 50 years

News Letter

Spring 2011

TO EDUCATE, ENRICH, AND INSPIRE



- Early Childhood Education
- Full-Day Kindergarten
- Before- and After-School Care
- Summer Camp at NDNCC
- New Castle County Head Start-Newark Site
- Community-Based Outreach Services

Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children

921 Barksdale Road
Newark, DE 19711
(302) 731-4925
Fax: 738-8441

www.newarkdaynursery.org

The Newark Day Nursery and Children's Center is dedicated to providing the highest quality early childhood and school age services to educate, enrich, and inspire children and youth from culturally and economically diverse families.

Summer Camp 2011



The race is on for another great Summer Camp for the school age children!

Celebrating 50 Years

"We, residents of the Newark area, recognizing the need for additional facilities for pre-school children and especially for low-cost day nursery services, do establish an association to meet, in part, this need and to operate co-operatively a day nursery at no profit..."

With these words put to paper, the vision of a dedicated group of citizen activists was born in February 1961 that marked the founding of Newark Day Nursery and Children's Center 50 years ago. In that year, seven children were enrolled.

The next 50 years found hundreds of volunteers fighting through challenges for NDNCC to survive their non-profit mission, and supporting growth of community services for the children and their families. Moving several times to find space, acceptance as a United Way agency, struggling to pay the cost for serving low-income families, acquiring a 1-million dollar loan to purchase five acres and build a permanent home that avoided going out of business, two building expansions, expanding services to school age children and successfully undergoing four national accreditation reviews.

NDNCC estimates that over 5,500 children have been served over the years, serving multi-generations of children, their children and their grandchildren returning to NDNCC for nurturing care and education.

Please take time to look at the historical collage inside this newsletter that gives a glimpse of all that has happened! Also, watch for our homecoming event inviting all those who helped make it possible and those who received services come to celebrate an amazing 50 years!

Want To Help Celebrate?:

Past volunteer board members are needed to help plan a celebration! Or, did you or someone you know attend NDNCC and want to be included on our mailing list? Contact Christine or Chris at our front desk and (302) 731-4925 or email us at cirons@newarkdaynursery.org.

Growing to Learn

This spring NDNCC marks the beginning of our Pre-School, Pre-K and Kindergarten classrooms raised bed gardening experience. Each classroom has their own garden bed to plant with their choice of vegetables, herbs, flowers and fruits. The children have been feeding fruit and vegetable scraps to their classroom composting worms all year making some of the fertilizer that will "feed" their plants. They will work together to watch their seedlings sprout, care

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and maintain them during the growing season and harvest and enjoy the products of their labor. The classes will then continue the cycle by feeding the worms the garden scraps to make more fertilizer in preparation for next year's garden. The classrooms are all very excited to have the hands-on experience and to be part of the wonderful growing process.

Annual Meeting Honors Board/ Staff & Children's Art

Surrounded by the exceptional art work at our annual Children's Art Show, parents elected new members of the Board of Directors and applauded staff who were honored for long service as part of the NDNCC Annual Meeting. Over 125 children, family members, staff and board members shared dinner, a brief meeting, and then children (and a few parents) sang and danced to the live performance by Janina Williams.

Community volunteer Board of Directors elected by the membership for 2011-12 included:

- Michael Rasmussen, President (The Rodale Foundation of Delaware)
- Carolyn Donofrio, President-Elect (DE Trial Lawyers Association)
- Marie Holiday, Treasurer (Cover & Rossiter, P.A.)
- Kelly Sherretz, Secretary
- Mary Allin (Wilmington Trust)
- Dr. Deborah Auger (University of Delaware)



- Cathy Franceshini (Deutsche Bank)
- Cathy Germani (JP Morgan Chase)
- Dr. Tony Reed (Christiana Care Health System)
- Dr. Laura Salsini (University of Delaware)

Retiring board members Jane Junkins, Dave Murray, and Jim Canty were recognized.

NDNCC proudly honored staff members reaching special benchmarks for multiple years of dedication and service to our children:

- Tonya Barbour, Teacher – 25 years
- Irene Bailey, Administrative Staff – 20 years
- Pat Smith, Teacher – 20 years
- Jason Sylvester, Teacher – 10 years
- Dane Hutchinson, School Age Director – 10 years

Citizen's Bank's Generosity Builds Literacy

A generous award from Citizen's Bank has enabled us to do some great things for our children. Ms. Robin (a PK classroom assistant) has been able to work one on one with some of our children in the areas of: letter identification through a variety of medium, such as tracing letters in sand; rhyming; recognizing letters in his/her name; learning letter sounds (phonics); auditory memory through stories; even some social skills enhancing self-esteem. Studies indicate that more confident children are better learners. Additionally, we have purchased many library and classroom books as our existing ones are well loved. We were also able to purchase books for each child to take one home and will do so again — to celebrate The Week of the Young Child in April. We appreciate Citizen's Bank's generosity and commitment to young children.

NAEYC Re-Accreditation Time

NDNCC is embarking on our fifth NAEYC re-accreditation journey. This involves self assessment, parent and staff questionnaires, review of existing policies and procedures, creation of

classroom and program portfolios and, of course, the site visit. The process is very valuable as an ongoing tool for continuous improvement and growth to achieve and maintain a very high quality Early Education Program. There are 10 areas into which over 700 criteria are divided. Criteria examine leadership to playground/physical space to curriculum areas to staff qualifications, etc. It is very rigorous but very worthwhile. All staff are confident and looking to the challenge.

PNC Supports Cultural Arts

The giggles and happy sounds never stopped during our recent visits from Clem Bowen, a storyteller and musician who performed for us courtesy of PNC's generous grant. Clem gave a whole school performance as well as a smaller lesson with our Pre-School and Pre-K classes. He taught the children about different musical rhythms and showed examples of different instruments from various parts of the world. The PS/PK instruction included a lesson about where various fruits come from and the journey from South America/Chile and Puerto Rico and the instruments/rhythms from those parts of the world. That same morning they learned about Middle Eastern rhythms and melodies included in a Shabat/Shalom song and dance. We look forward to his return for another small group lesson with the Toddler and Kindergarten classes and another whole school performance.

The Toddlers through Kindergarten classes also enjoy "Mr. Brian's" weekly visits to learn music



theory, rhythms, songs, and instruments through the University of Delaware Community Music School program. Middle Eastern customs and other activities are planned for future months! We truly wish to thank PNC for their ongoing commitment to young children.

Expanded Summer Camps

This year NDNCC is trying something new this summer. Based on student, parent, and staff surveys we feel that our oldest group (Red Team) needs to have a slightly different experience than our other summer teams. Red Team will have different themes, events, and activities. This will include visits from local storyteller, Ed Okonowicz, trips to the beach, Delaware Rock Gym, and more! With input from counselors, students, and parents we have put together quite an exciting program. Rest assured that our other groups will continue to enjoy our wonderful summer programs with exciting additions of their own! We are still looking for a local chef who would like to come in and do a cooking demonstration or teach the students about cooking. If you know of someone who would be interested in volunteering their services one afternoon, feel free to forward our camp director's email address (dhutchinson@newarkdaynursery.org).

School Age Clubs Celebrate World Cultures

Twice a year our school age program discusses and chooses what they would like to learn about in our Club Program. In the past we have covered Science, Art, Photography, Volunteerism, Theatre and Cooking. For the Spring 2011 session the students chose something new, World Cultures Club. In this club we will spend two hours on a culture. The first hour will be learning about the culture, for example beliefs, traditions, important days, and music. The second hour will feature preparing and sampling a recipe from that culture. We hope to cover Latin America, Asian, Middle Eastern, African-American, and European traditions. Interested in helping? Email Dane Hutchinson at dhutchinson@newarkdaynursery.org.