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# News Letter

Fall 2009

**TO EDUCATE, ENRICH, AND INSPIRE**



- Early Childhood Education
- Full-Day Kindergarten with Certified Teacher
- 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*

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[www.newarkdaynursery.org](http://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.

## Renovations Award Winner

We are proud to announce that Premier Builders, NDNCC General Contractor, recently was awarded the "2009 ABC Delaware Excellence in Construction Merit Award" from Delaware Associated Builders and Contractors for the renovations recently completed at our center.

The award acknowledged the excellent quality, meeting tight timelines, and safety consciousness of the project even while working within a fully operating early care center and over 250 children and their parents. Congratulations to Premier Builders for a great job!!



United Way  
of Delaware

**Support the  
United Way  
Community  
Impact Fund**

## Capital Campaign Goal Met; Classroom Renovations Completed

The NDNCC Capital Campaign Committee has announced completion of the campaign by successfully raising \$776,500, 103 % of campaign goal. Success was made possible by hundreds of volunteer hours and strong support from foundations, corporations, small businesses, government and numerous community individuals. Thank you for your support!!



Phase II renovations were completed this summer. Children and teachers survived the summer

"musical classrooms," allowing every classroom to receive a makeover. This resulted in a cleaner, safer and more exciting learning environment.

New rounded corner counter tops, renovated cabinets, new or repaired flooring, new lockers for staff, freshly painted walls and new energy efficient classroom lighting all add to the feeling of a new classroom. In addition, worn children's classroom furniture (some furniture was 15 years old) was replaced with new furniture for every classroom. New colorful hallway flooring throughout the center added a new "step on the new blocks" game for the children, and brought many parent compliments as well.

With renovations inside of the building almost completed, Phase III plans are primarily focused on renovating our playgrounds. The mini-hurricane striking our playground in September made playground planning more emergent. Playground renovations will be completed by Spring 2010.

## Family Fun Night at the Delaware Museum of Natural History

The NDNCC/DE Museum of Natural History partnership sponsored by PNC is almost in full swing! NDNCC teachers have received extensive training, children are doing science activities from new large resource binders and the initial free Family Fun Night was a great success! Families explored the cool things in the museum together, ate pizza, did crafts and had a wonderful time. Some of the fun things include: the Peek-a-boo tree in the Discovery room, viewing Under the Sea through a transparent floor and studying a huge dinosaur skeleton. We are looking forward to the next Family Fun Night this winter. The partnership is supported by the PNC Grow up Great with Science initiative.



## Delaware Officials Hold Press Event at NDNCC

Senators Tom Carper and Ted Kaufman and Lt. Governor Matt Denn and Governor Jack Markell announced on October 26th at a Press Conference held at Newark Day Nursery and Children's Center that the State of Delaware has reached the \$1 billion mark for American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (a.k.a. "stimulus") funds committed to the State of Delaware. NDNCC parent Shani Patrick (above) speaks to Delaware officials on the importance of her being able to have enrolled all four



of her children in an affordable and quality center so she can work to provide for her family. NDNCC used the \$7,520.00 received in stimulus funds to support additional children and their families in need of reduced childcare fees so they could continue to work.

## Healthier Menu Started

Newark Day Nursery and Children's Center and the State of Delaware have been focusing a lot of time and effort on the healthiness of children. Over the past few years a serious problem has been creeping up on our youth. Problems such as obesity, diabetes, and malnourishment are several health risks being observed right here in our community.

Several healthy meal plan guidelines have been developed and are going to be put into effect as of January 1, 2010. NDNCC is diving into these new guidelines ahead of schedule. Our children will receive a whole grain food item every day of the week. Several of our meat/protein items are being replaced with cheeses, beans, and fish. Fresh fruits and vegetables will be served weekly as well as many other low-fat and low sodium items.

We are excited about partnering with the State of Delaware in order to offer the healthiest food possible for our children.

## Wine Tasting December 18 Mark Your Calendar!

Our second annual Holiday Wine Tasting fundraiser in conjunction with Deerfield Fine Wines will be on December 18 from 5:30-9:00 p.m. All proceeds go toward providing tuition help for low-moderate income families.

Bring in the season with good friends and fine wine. The evening will include a wide selection of wines for tasting and purchasing for gifts, a silent auction and a raffle. Auction items include a Coach Dick Vermeil signed NFL football, a Tag Heuer men's sports watch, Ron Jaworski signed football, restaurant gift certificates, "Sweetheart" collector dolls, and much more.

A donation of \$20 is requested for our Tuition Assistance Fund.

Plan to share a joyful tasting with friends and know you made a difference for our children! Call our front desk at 302-731-4925 to get advance tickets.

## Welcome New Faces

Ms. Keri Sheppard and Ms. Brigid Brady are new full time Asst. Teachers in the Tweenie & Toddler Rooms respectively. They come to us with many years of classroom experience in different settings. Both of our new friends are well on their way to degrees in Early Childhood Education. They are in classrooms from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm each day.

Keri enjoys reading, doing homework, & going to the zoo. Her favorite part about the Tweenie room is watching the children explore and their faces of discovery. Keri says the parents have helped make her feel welcome.

Brigid enjoys spending time with family, friends and her cat, Carmelle. She also likes going to concerts and the beach. What she particularly enjoys about the Toddler room is nurturing & educating the children as well as getting to know the families and other NDNCC staff.

Welcome also to Ms. Christine Irons. She is our new full time Administrative Secretary, who cheerfully opens NDNCC with a smile each day. She enjoys being with "her girls" - two Siberian Husky dogs as well as many outdoor activities; camping, kayaking, riding bicycle tours. Christine's favorite part about being here are the children's smiles and the supportive, welcoming families and staff.



Left to right: Keri Sheppard, Brigid Brady and Christine Irons.

## PNC Employees Adopt Center

Nearly 30 employees of PNC Bank and PNC Global Investment Servicing exchanged their paperwork and PCs for several afternoons of painting, power-washing, and other projects at NDNCC.

The PNC volunteers "adopted" the center through PNC Grow Up Great, an early-education initiative focusing on children from birth to five years.

Teams of volunteers continue to come together since July to pull weeds, trim shrubbery, move rocks, spread playground mulch, paint interior rooms, move classrooms and clean up the playgrounds after recent storm damage.

Among the volunteers to support the Grow Up Great projects was a team of PNC Bank branch managers, organized by Kristine Haner, Vice President and Regional Manager. "We wanted to be part of a project that would foster pride and team spirit among our managers while doing something to benefit the community," said Haner. Our work at Newark Day Nursery was successful on both counts as we helped improve the environment where young children learn and play."

Hats off again to PNC and their employees for making a difference for our children!!!



## Social/Emotional Development: New Resources for Families & Teachers



Research has found one of the most important areas for school readiness is a child's social/emotional development. NDNCC has entered into partnership with Delaware Guidance Services For Children And Youth (DGS) to assist our teachers and families in children's healthy emotional development, and with challenging behaviors. A licensed clinical social worker has spent time in our early childhood classrooms observing children, teachers, interactions, and play. He provided valuable feedback to our teachers telling us a lot of what we are doing "right" and offering alternative suggestions, as well. Some families have been referred for additional assistance with DGS on a more individualized level. Children are better equipped to learn and function in a classroom with fewer disruptions, where they can focus on the multitude of educational, enriching activities available to them. DGS will serve as an on-going resource for training, consultation and referral to services.

Supplementing these efforts, the Delaware Division of Child Mental Health Services made available new services to our parents through the University of Delaware Psychological Services Training Center. Responding to the growing needs identified in the Early Care and Education community, the Division of

Child Mental Health Services has launched a program entitled Parent Child Interactive Therapy (PCIT) and provided intensive training to mental health professionals. PCIT trained staff at the UD Center

have now implemented therapy services to NDNCC families. PCIT is a 12-16 week training, coaching and therapy program aiming to build positive relationships and change negative behavior patterns.

PCIT program goals include: improvement in the quality of parent-child relationship; increased children's pro-social behaviors, decreasing parental stress and negative behaviors in children, increasing parenting skills including positive discipline. NDNCC had the good fortune to be included in the pilot program and we referred several families. The parent and child pairs attended a number of weekly therapy sessions and the feedback we have received from participating parents has been extremely

positive. Parents felt empowered, acknowledged and they are learning new skills. It has served as a benefit to all – children, parents and teachers and that to me spells success.

## 2009 Year-End Gift Ideas for NDNCC

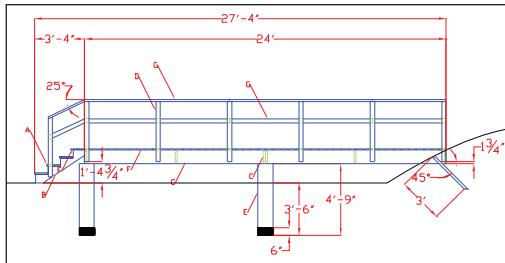
- Contribute to NDNCC through the United Way of Delaware Campaign (Agency # 440)
- Designated gifts matching your unique commitment to our mission – (Scholarship Fund, Capital Fund, Library, etc.)
- Gifts of Stock
- Gifts of Life Insurance
- Talk with your advisor about NDNCC and various Planned Giving Options, such as Gift Annuities, Charitable Bequests, Charitable Remainder Trusts.
- Gift of time – Volunteer your family for a project or consider board involvement.

Call 302-731-4925 for additional information.

## Eagle Scout Gives Back – Home Depot Supports

NDNCC teachers have a vision — create a Natural Habitat in our woods to help teach our children nature’s science. Andrew Wright, a “graduate” from NDNCC who is about to become an Eagle Scout, helped move that vision forward by choosing our site for his Boy Scout Eagle Project.

Andrew developed the drawings, estimated materials, secured approval of scout



leaders and NDNCC, and recruited volunteer help to build an observation bridge over a natural “rain” pond area in the woods. The hope is to attract more frogs, toads, and turtles. Planned nature trails leading over the bridge pond area will contribute to a natural ecosystem.



Newark Home Depot (Suburban Plaza) and their employees generously donated equipment, cement, and hard labor digging the pilings for the bridge, along with much of the building supplies. Lowe’s Hardware (Newark), Al Moser of Just Cutzzz Lawn Care Services, and Elk Mills Quarry of Elkton also provided significant help with building supplies. Andrew and his father, Dan Wright, measured and coordinated the project.

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Andrew, with help from BSA Troop 56 scouts and parents, completed the bridge on



October 25. The next step will be adding bird and bat houses, a butterfly garden, and creating a guide book for students. Anyone interested in assisting with this program should contact Dane Hutchinson at the Center.

Thank you Andrew for giving back to our Center.

## Museums Combine Learning & Fun

This summer our school age children had the incredible opportunity to visit several Delaware museums. We started this trend with a successful visit to The Delaware Art Museum last year. The students loved it so much we expanded the program and this year had the pleasure of visiting The Delaware Museum of Natural History ([www.delmnh.org](http://www.delmnh.org)). The students had the chance to learn about dinosaurs, wildlife, and sea creatures.

Later we visited Fort Delaware State Park ([www.destateparks.com/park/fort-delaware](http://www.destateparks.com/park/fort-delaware)), where students learned of the Fort’s history and Delaware’s role in the Civil War. There was a musketry demonstration as well as learning to march “rank in file” and watching a real blacksmith work.

Our next stop was in Dover at the Air Mobility Command Museum ([www.amcmuseum.org](http://www.amcmuseum.org)). The students were treated to a tour of planes from the 1930’s to current times. “Learning about the C5’s was cool,” said one student.

As well as visiting museums, we also had a museum visit us! Iron Hill Museum’s Outreach Program came to teach us about Lenape life during our Cultures Week. The campers loved the trips, some have even returned again with their families! Every family should take advantage of these great opportunities in Delaware!