

# Orfalea Family Children's Center at UCSB

## Fall Newsletter 2005

### Beginnings & Connections

The fullness of Fall, in all of its busyness and marvelous crispness is definitely upon us. Of all the seasons, Fall is to me imbued with the most meaning as a symbol of the cyclical nature of our lives. Beginnings and endings seamlessly meld; we enjoy the bounty of harvests from Spring planting even as the stark waiting months of Winter lie just around the corner. As children gleefully cut their jack-o-lanterns during **Pumpkin Carving**, they gather the seeds that will start the circle once more. There is joy in creating and using the lovely golden

pumpkins and also in the anticipation of the process starting once again.

We welcome each Fall with a renewed sense of the potential strength of our community and an appreciation for the importance of beginnings. The **Pancake Breakfast & Fall Work Party** gives us

the chance to get to know one another as we work together with the common goal of taking care of this place that is so important in the daily lives of our children. Connections in a community should be measured by each individual, from

*continued on page 2*



### Center Notes

1. *First and foremost welcome to our newest teaching staff.* Support Teacher Sierra Collins maintains her calm manner and her cheery smile as she substitutes

throughout the Center. In July, Kelly Atkinson joined the Yellow Door classroom, bringing a wonderful presence to the infant classroom. And welcome back to Mia

B. Shellabarger, new mom and returning Grant Coordinator. With this comes farewell and a big thank you to Kristin Van Abel, a wonderful *continued on page 6*



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## Beginnings and Connections

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the youngest to the oldest, knowing that he or she has value to add to the community and an obligation to share it as they can. Our **Holiday Sharing** illustrates this as well as the equally important understanding that the community has something to offer each individual, that support is right here, right now; we must model how to ask for and accept support just as surely as we model responding to the needs of others.

I believe these lessons are all around us and can be as simple as eating pancakes together then standing side by side to wash toys and paint fences! Our children are so quick to learn by our example; we must work together 'to be' what we wish for them. Each time a child shows concern for a playmate, gives a hug, shares a toy or asks 'will you be my friend?' , they are showing us that they can both give and receive, creating the bonds that build a successful and caring community. If we pay attention, they can be our teachers too!

## SAFETY FIRST: Rules of the Road

In order to consistently keep our children safe it is essential that all families observe these critical rules when arriving at or departing from the Center. Whether you arrive on foot, by bicycle or in a car, you play an important role in ensuring the safety of all who come here. Thank you for following through and letting us know if there are any concerns.

1. **ALWAYS** keep your children with you when in the parking lot; hold hands, use a stroller , carry them... whatever it takes to ensure that they are by your side until safely inside the gate. Please do not allow them to run ahead or cross the lot by themselves.
2. Children are **NOT** allowed to remain unattended in vehicles under any circumstances. Car seats are the law.
3. Bicycles **MUST** follow the flow of traffic; you can safely walk your bicycle on the sidewalk once in the lot. It is very hard to see a bicyclist when backing out of the parking spaces, especially if they are going the wrong way.
4. **SLOW DOWN**
5. Use of the Handicapped Parking space is reserved for our families and visitors with a handicapped parking permit **ONLY**.

*From Our Community to Theirs:* Harvest-time is traditionally a time of thanksgiving. We are especially cognizant of our own blessings when we see the suffering of others. The devastation of the hurricanes and their immediate and lasting impact on families in the South reminds us of our own vulnerability. We are also reminded of the opportunity we have to reach out and make a real difference for people in need.

"...the solace of connection when strangers collide."

Watch for coming details of the '*Hand to Hand & Heart to Heart*' program, sponsored by the Southern Early Childhood Association. We will be paired with a program in the affected area in order to lend our support to their parents, children and staff in ways that are most meaningful for them.

## October 2005 Schedule of Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	
2	3	4	5	<b>6</b>	7	8
9	10	11	<b>12</b>	13	14	15
16	17	18	<b>19</b>	20	21	<b>22</b>
23	24	25	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	29
30	31					

- Oct. 6 Parent Orientation
- Oct. 12 Parent Council Social
- Oct 19 Parent Council Meeting
- Oct 22 Welcome in the school year at Pancake Breakfast & Work Party 8:30 am
- Oct 26 through 28 Pumpkin Carving

## November 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	
6	7	8	<b>9</b>	10	<b>11</b>	12
13	14	15	<b>16</b>	17	18	19
20	<b>21</b>	22	23	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	26
27	28	29	<b>30</b>			

- Nov 9 Parent Support Group meeting
- Nov 11 Center CLOSED for Veteran's Day
- Nov 16 Parent Council Meeting
- Nov 21 - Dec 2 Holiday Sharing
- November 24th & 25th Center CLOSED for Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov 30 Dinner & Parent Education Meeting

## December 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	31
HAPPY	NEW	YEAR	!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!			

- Dec. 26 to 30 Center CLOSED; Re-opens Monday Jan. 2nd 2006



***OFCC Teaching Staff:***

***Clubhouse***

Tes Tarango, Lead Teacher

Jenny Greaney, Teacher

Barbara Sanchez, Teacher

***White Door***

Nancy Erisman, Lead Teacher

Barbara Ellis, Teacher

Lupe Guerrero, Teacher

***Yellow Door***

Kathy Sargent, Lead Teacher

Kelly Atkinson, Teacher

Gloria Montague, Teacher

***Green Door***

Thrisha Francia, Lead Teacher

Alicia Trigueros-Cardenas, Teacher

***Grey Door***

Marina Nolte, Lead Teacher

Erin Barnett, Teacher

***Brown Door***

Linda Lafond, Lead Teacher

Heather Schieve, Teacher

***Blue Door***

Ana Dominguez, Lead Teacher

Holly Hardey, Teacher

***Orange Door***

Tamara Thompson, Lead Teacher

Elena Lopez, Teacher

***Purple Door***

Chris Pollock, Lead Teacher

Mike Peterson, Teacher

***Red Door***

Mary Hoffman, Lead Teacher

Kana Thomason, Teacher

***Pink Door***

Jeri Vaccaro, Lead Teacher

Terri Douglas, Lead Teacher

***Support Teachers***

Sierra Collins

Chelsea Aiello

## *Administrative Team:*

*Acting Director:* Leslie Voss is responsible for the oversight of the entire Children's Center program. She works closely with our Infant/toddler and Pre-school Program Coordinators, our Family Coordinator, and the office administrative staff to ensure a high quality early care and education program for the University community. Leslie serves on the SB County Child Care Planning Council.

### *Program Coordinators:*

Theresa Embry (Acting Preschool)

Patricia Nixon (Infant/Toddler) are responsible for the daily staffing of classrooms, our professional development program for teachers, supporting development of age appropriate curriculum, staff evaluations, in addition to supervising student interns, volunteers and on-going research projects at the Center. The Coordinators are always available to talk with parents about the Center's philosophy that follows the NAEYC guidelines for developmentally appropriate practices and the "Resources for Infant Caregivers" philosophy in our infants and toddler class-rooms.

*Family Coordinator:* Diane Jones coordinates parent activities and works with staff and families whose children have special needs. Diane plans our parent education program, works closely with the OFCC Parent Council, and is available to meet with parents who need support for special situations affecting families. She facilitates our Full Inclusion Program, maintains the parent library in her office, and will continue our Program's outreach effort to all families living in the student housing complexes.

### *Staffing Coordinator/Business Officer:*

Jesse Rosenzweig is responsible for the daily staffing of the Center to ensure that the mandated ratios between teachers and children are met. He also works with the Program Coordinators to hire and make classroom assignments for our UCSB student teacher assistants. Jesse is primarily responsible for creating our annual budget models for each fiscal year, monitoring our progress in meeting our income and expense projections and creating viable financial models for the future fiscal health of the program. He also oversees the smooth daily operation of our front office.

*Enrollment Coordinator:* Holly Carlson is responsible for maintaining our waitlist and enrolling new children into the Center. She maintains the children's files including keeping their immunization records up to date for our required annual reviews from both the California Department of Social Services and California Department of Health. In addition, Holly is responsible for the monthly collection and depositing of tuition as well as paying our monthly bills for supplies and equipment.

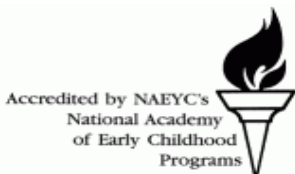
*Grant Coordinator:* Mia Shellabarger is responsible for the management of our California Department of Education Child Care Grant Program and the Center's Federal Food Program. She enrolls income eligible families, maintains quarterly eligibility documentation and attendance records for both programs, and completes monthly and quarterly reports for the California Department of Education (CDE). Mia additionally coordinates the CDE's periodic 'Program Quality Review' and our annual CDE audit. Finally, she is responsible for the purchase of food and cleaning supplies for the entire Center.

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## Center Notes *continued*

and much appreciated colleague during Mia's absence. Best of luck Kristin.

2. *Shake, Rattle & Roll!* Emergency Preparedness: Family Coordinator, Diane Jones, working with Student Affairs emergency operations planning, guided us in our first annual Division-wide exercise last Spring. We have a cellular phone and a 800 mhz two-way radio that will allow us to stay in communication with the on-campus Emergency Operations Center. We've added walkie-talkies for communication with the clubhouse should we need to 'shelter-in-

place'. The Children's Center has several large containers filled with emergency supplies such as food and first aid supplies. In the event of a natural disaster, please understand that *we will not release your child to anyone who is not on your Emergency Form*; be sure to list several friends or family members on this form. In an emergency, OFCC information will be broadcast on the Campus radio station **KCSB 91.9 FM and 1250 AM**. In the event of a major disaster in Santa Barbara friends and family can call **1-900-200-UCSB** for information.

3. *Calling all translators:* Long a Center goal, we are actively searching for assistance in translations of our Parent Handbook, ultimately including Korean, Japanese, Spanish and Chinese. If you can help or know of another resource, please let Leslie or Diane know.

*Take the first step in faith.  
You don't have to see the whole  
staircase, just take the first  
step.*

*Martin Luther King Jr*