

# News from Early Childhood Care & Education Services

## February 2012

### a note from the director



*Dear Families,*

As I began this newsletter I still had the cheery sound of bells, drums and shakers ringing in my ears from the 'Dragon Parade' that wound its way through the Center and play yards. This annual preschool tradition, in honor of the Lunar New Year, is symbolic of the many ways the lives of our families, children and classrooms are interwoven and strengthen one another.

Each preschool classroom contributed to the parade with the making of the glorious 'head' of the dragon, shakers or streamers; a multitude of families joined in drumming and 'marching' along, the dragon tail was enormously long...

***~Individual creativity combines into a panoply of color, movement and sound that blend into an immense and magnificent whole, much larger than the 'sum of its parts'. ~***

In order to prepare the toddlers, a few children and their teacher took 'the head' for a visit to the toddler classrooms the day prior to the parade. The toddlers were able to touch it and experience it up close, without all of the noisy hoopla accompanying it! When the 'dragon' visited them, in all of its full glory, some toddlers were excited to see the parade and wanted to join right in, others watched from the safety found close to their teacher's side...

***~Anticipation, and respectful acknowledgement, of questions and concerns allow them to be addressed appropriately and promote trust and understanding.~***

Earlier, many family members shared their own traditions: mothers and grandmothers visited classrooms demonstrating and supporting children as they made and then ate delicious dumplings and distributed the red envelopes wishing good fortune. Teachers read stories that spoke to many different aspects and experiences of the Lunar New Year traditions.

***~Sharing our diverse customs and ideas is powerful. We are continually growing in our awareness and appreciation for the rich opportunities inherent in our differences and the commonalities that bind us together caring for our children.~***

What's best is that it doesn't take this annual extravaganza to see how these values are woven into our lives. They are evident each and every day as we, families, teachers, staff and especially children, come together. With continued sharing, participation and support these values will continue to help define our 'ECCES community'.

*In celebration & with warm regards,*

*Leslie*

*Director, ECCES*

### NAEYC Accreditation Update

### This is big news!!!!

With teacher, staff and family involvement, we have been preparing for our reaccreditation, by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, for over a year. We have just learned that our assessor visit has been set for a period of **3 days sometime between March 5<sup>th</sup> and March 23<sup>rd</sup>**. We will receive the Academy's decision, to grant, defer or deny accreditation, within 3 months of the assessor's visit. **Please hold a good thought for us as we move into the final phase of this lengthy and comprehensive process.** There are more than 400 criteria in 10 Standards\* which we have considered, examined, addressed and continue to improve upon where needed. The Classroom Portfolios, document many of the curriculum, teaching and assessment standards and are available for your review in your children's classrooms. (I also have a 3 volume Administrative 'Program Portfolio' if anyone's interested!) If you would like more information about the process, survey results, improvements made, etc...please refer to past newsletters or drop by and see me. Comments and suggestions are ALWAYS welcome.

NAEYC STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS  
 \*RELATIONSHIPS \* CURRICULUM \* TEACHING \* ASSESSMENT \* HEALTH \* TEACHERS \* FAMILIES \*  
 COMMUNITY \* PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT\* LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT\*  
<http://www.naeyc.org/academy/families/overview>

**Important  
Safety**



**&  
Health  
reminders**

I. Arrivals and departures are busy times and can pose some special challenges as children excitedly run ahead (either anxious to come or happy to go!). We appreciate your continued diligence in the constant visual supervision of your child(ren) until you and your child(ren) have entered their classroom/play yard and connected with the teacher. Our parking lots are busy too. Please also hold your child's hand and/or keep them close by when arriving and leaving the Centers.

II. We are working hard to promote 'correct' hand-washing for the children and ourselves. With families and classrooms working together we will be successful in cultivating a lifelong habit that effectively reduces illness. Remember to assist your child in washing their hands upon arrival at the center each day; encourage them to recall and follow all of the steps, including that last critical and hard to remember one of using a paper towel to turn off the faucet!

**Opportunities  
for  
involvement**

**Books Glorious Books !!!!**

**Sponsor-a-Book begins next week**

**You can help us maintain our rich classroom libraries by donating towards the purchase of new books.**

Each year we select books to replenish our children's classroom libraries and ask families to help us with the purchase as they are able. The books are carefully selected and reflect teacher requests as well as topics or issues we wish to support and promote. When you have a chance to browse this year's books (on display in the front office areas) you will notice special attention to books that introduce and support the multi-lingual world in which we live. We also make an effort to include selections that reflect our diversity in a variety of other ways including ability, family structure, culture and more. Fiction and non-fiction, humor and 'tender topics', engaging illustrations and writing... all are taken into consideration. Whether you choose to sponsor a book or not, please enjoy browsing.

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Speaking of reading.... **Come one, come all to Chaucer's Bookstore on Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Invite friends, family and co-workers. The Parent Council will receive 25% of the proceeds for all purchases made (not just children's books). Gift certificates count, too! So, if you can't think of a particular book or gift to buy, you can buy a gift certificate to use at a later date. You can also pre-order gift certificates if you can't make it to the Book Fair. Order forms are located at the front desk and are due back by Thursday, March 1st.**

Chaucer's has welcomed us to have story time in the Children's Book area during the event. If you enjoy reading aloud please consider reading a story or two- an appreciative audience is guaranteed!

Chaucer's is located in Loreto Plaza at 3321 State Street.

**"A book is a gift that you can open again & again."**

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**IMPORTANT ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITY**

**The Governor's proposed budget will seriously impact the ability of many families, including those at ECCES, to access child care.**

Many UCSB student families are only able to pursue their goal of improving their lives and those of their children, due to the subsidy received by the California Department of Education for child care tuition. *This critical support is seriously threatened.* Our program alone will receive an approximate \$38,000 cut in funding next year and most student parents will become ineligible for child care subsidies unless also able to meet stringent work requirements while pursuing their fulltime studies. In addition, the Governor's proposal threatens quality accountability and support of State funded child care programs by moving them from the Department of Education to the Department of Social Services July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013. *If you would like to learn more about this important and timely issue please review the attached documents.* 'Valentines', which

will be sent to the Governor and Legislature, will be available in the front office so you can write a personal statement, or simply lend your name, to this effort to preserve high quality early care and education for thousands of working and student families in California.

Best estimate of how the governor's 2012 budget proposal, with severe cuts to child care, will impact Santa Barbara County:

- ✓ Over 800 low income children will lose quality child care services, reducing their chances of success in school and life
- ✓ Employment and higher education opportunities for nearly 700 parents will be in jeopardy without high quality, stable child care
- ✓ Over \$5 million dollars, and a significant piece of our state's foundation for quality child care, will be lost (data gathered by the Santa Barbara County Child Care Planning Council)

## Resources

### ECCES Family Resource Guide

~just updated~

Need some support but not sure where to turn? The attached Family Resource Guide provides telephone numbers and internet links to more than 75 Community resources for services such as Breastfeeding Support, Children's Health Insurance, Housing, Food & Nutrition Aid and Support Groups. As always, if you would like assistance accessing these and other resources, please ask. Don't see what you need in the Guide? Please speak with your teacher, a coordinator or the Director and we will help find what you are looking for. Hard copies are also available for you and for you to share with friends and families not in the Center.

### Family Education Workshops

The first in a series of 3 'Parenting with Love and Logic' workshops is scheduled for Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Dinner & Child care (currently enrolled children ages 2 & up) sign-ups and further details are available in the front office.

### "Unload at Lunch" ~ a support group by parents for parents

Join other parents for lunch and an informal chance to share the joys and challenges of parenting! Trade stories, tips and tribulations in a relaxed and supportive atmosphere.

Open to all. First Friday of every month. Noon. Upstairs UCEN dining.

Next meeting: Friday March 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Upcoming Community events

### Children's Event

#### African Storytelling: Behind the Mask with Joseph Velasco

**Saturday, February 25, 1 pm Workshop/Multi-Cultural Center Lounge; UCSB**

Great family outing for all ages! In this interactive storytelling workshop, participants will have the opportunity to make and keep a paper mask based on a West African design and perform a story with local storyteller Joseph Velasco, co-founder of BOXTALES Theater Company. Participants will learn unique storytelling techniques, including "call and response," music, and movement with their mask. *Co-sponsored by the UCSB Early Childhood Care and Education Services.*

### Family Fun Series - UCSB Arts & Lectures

<https://artsandlectures.sa.ucsb.edu/EventSeriesFamilyFun.aspx>

American Family Theater's Cinderella · Sun, Mar 18 / 3 PM / Campbell Hall

Imago Theatre's ZooZoo · Sun, Apr 15 / 3 PM / Campbell Hall

### Santa Barbara Public Library

Check out the Community Calendar for family friendly events and story hours at our local Public Libraries. Events are listed from Carpinteria to Santa Ynez. <http://sbplibrary.org/eventsprograms/index.html>

<p><b>ECCES Calendar</b></p>	<p><b>February</b>  Monday February 13                      Sponsor- A-Book begins  Monday February 20                      CENTERS CLOSED     Presidents' Day  Tuesday February 21                      Family Education Evening     'Parenting with Love &amp; Logic' 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>March</b>  3 days during March 5<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup>      Accreditation Assessor visit (3 days)  March 17 - 23                                  UCSB Final Exams  Thursday March 29                      Family-Teacher Conferences (Centers Closed; Child  care available during conference only)  Friday March 30                              CENTERS CLOSED     Cesar Chavez Holiday</p> <p><b>Watch for...</b>  <b>April</b>  April 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>                                  UCSB -ECCES Parent Council Silent Auction     Student Resource Building</p> <p><b>May</b>  Friday May 18<sup>th</sup>                              ECCES End of Year Potluck  Monday May 28<sup>th</sup>                              CENTERS CLOSED for Memorial Day Observance</p>
<p><b>Gratitude</b></p>	<p><i>A very special thank you to the Parent Council Room Reps for supporting, promoting and creating such a wonderful variety of opportunities for the families in each classroom to connect with one another. From an afternoon of making birdfeeders to 'music &amp; muffins', baby showers &amp; goodbye parties from 'breakfast &amp; stories' to weekend play dates, your ongoing efforts to bring the families together are shining through.</i></p> <p><i>Thank you too to the many individual parents who have been sharing their time and interests with their children's classrooms. Examples include exciting science demonstrations, music, cooking, stories, gardening and even a multi faceted (and action packed!) lesson on volcanoes... what a vibrant group!</i></p>
	<p><i>Warm regards,</i></p> <p>UCSB Early Childhood Care &amp; Education Services  Orfalea Family Children's Center  University Children's Center  University of California at Santa Barbara  Santa Barbara, CA 93106-1060  Ph (805) 893-4904 Fax (805) 893-4907</p>