



Little Champ Times

November - December 2007

Mark your calendar

November 22-23

Thanksgiving Holiday
Center closed.

December 6

Teacher & Staff Holiday Breakfast

The PAC Staff Appreciation Committee is hosting a holiday breakfast in the conference room to fortify teachers and staff for the busy month ahead.

December 7

Orange Santa

Last day to drop off your Orange Santa donation.

December 14

Gift Baskets for Janitorial Staff

The UTCDC is creating gift baskets filled with food, candies and other goodies to show how much their work is appreciated.

December 24- January 2

Winter Break
Center closed.

Singing and Bouncing into the New School Year

More than 100 families from both UTCDC locations picnicked under the oak trees at Central Market in early October to kick off the school year and "One to Grow On," the Center's annual fund raising campaign.

Families dined on kid-friendly fare donated by Central Market, danced to silly lyrics and rhythms by Mr. Craig, and kids jumped, popped and flipped to their hearts' content courtesy of Sandi's Moonwalk.

According to the PAC Fundraising Committee, this was the most successful Fun-Raiser yet, with one of the best turnouts ever.

Most important, the annual Fun-Raiser provided a venue for parents to get to know each other in an unhurried, relaxed setting, while joining together for a worthwhile cause.

Special thanks to our sponsors: Bluebell Ice Cream, Central Market, HEB, Oak Farms Milk, MusicalChairs.biz, Opus One Music, Sandi's Moonwalk and Sparkletts Water!

Playground F-U-N

Thanks to all the parents who volunteered for the Nov. 3 playground workday. We installed the decorated tiles from the Multicultural Day, fluffed the playground, repainted the boat and the water troughs, and painted the teacher's lounge.

A huge thank you goes out to: Keefe Boerner, Jonathan Mather, Jeremiah Palmer, Andrea Poag, Curtis Robillard, and Steven Rosen.

The Playground Committee is ALWAYS looking for additional volunteers -- please contact Steve Rosen at srosen@utsystem.edu if you'd like to join the crew! The next playground workday will be in the spring.



Families enjoy music with Mr. Craig under the Central Market oak trees at the annual Fun-Raiser!

Pajamas and Pizza Make Perfect Pair

Were you at the Pajama Party Nov. 8? Then you know how to have fun in your bunny slippers!

More than 120 people - big and small - turned out for the annual Pajama and Pizza Party.

Upon filling up with pizza, families were captivated by stories told by Thom Barthelmess of the Austin Public Library, summoned their inner Picasso at an arts and crafts activity, and lost themselves in the fun music of Danny Gee, a music teacher and grad student in the School of Music.

Special thanks go to Panda mom Jacqueline Henninger for arranging for Gee to perform, Rainbows mom and PAC member Jenifer Flaxbart for arranging Barthelmess to read, and Mr. Gatti's Pizza, which donated 20 of the 35 pizzas served.

Fall Gardening

The Green Corn Project, a non-profit organization that educates and assists Central Texans in growing organic food gardens, helped us plant a fall garden in early November.

This is the second organic garden they've helped us plant -- the first was planted last spring on the big playground and provided us with a bounty of okra, tomatoes, melons and summer vegetables.

Our budding gardeners are now nurturing fall vegetables, including broccoli, cauliflower, lettuce, beets, carrots and marigolds.

For more information, visit
www.greencornproject.org

Staff Appreciation and Support

Staff Holiday Breakfast

The PAC is hosting a holiday breakfast for Center teachers and staff from 7 to 8 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 6 in the Center Conference Room.

Janitorial Staff Gift Baskets

Teachers, staff and members of the PAC are donating packaged snacks, coffee, tea and hot cocoa, mugs, candles, candies and fruits to create gift baskets for the wonderful janitorial staff that help keep the Center sparkling throughout the year. Want to pitch in? Place your item in the box at the front desk by Dec. 12.

Turkey Hands

Thanks to all the families who helped recognize their teachers in this special way. And everyone gets an “A” for creativity on this project.

Pantry Drive Report

A huge “thank you” to all the families who helped stock the pantry. This was the most successful pantry drive to date and teachers and staff (especially students) are very appreciative.

The activities above are organized by the PAC Staff Appreciation and Support Committee, with financial assistance from the “One to Grow On” campaign.

PAC Points

With a successful pantry drive, turkey hands decorations, World Peace project and the second issue of *Little Champs Times* under its belt, not to mention kicking off the “One to Grow On” campaign and the Giving Tree, the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) loves this fall semester!

Teachers are excited about the classroom supplies they’re receiving through the Giving Tree. As “apples” are pulled from the tree, items are purchased and delivered to the classrooms.

This year’s fund raising goal is \$12,500, which will enable the Center to purchase an ice machine for the San Jacinto location and benches under the tree in front of the center. As of mid-November, more than \$5,500 has been donated to the “One to Grow On” campaign! Way to go families! More info? Visit www.utexas.edu/childcenter

The PAC is thrilled to announce that in January, the UTCDC will be “adopted” as the community project for Ampersand, the UT Interior design Student Organization. The Front Entryway, Community Room, Teacher Lounge area and Mr. Craig’s Music Class Space will be redesigned and revamped! Get Ready for a Makeover CDC!! Parent volunteers will be critical to the success of this project—watch for the work day announcement and grab your paintbrush!

Members of the San Jacinto PAC include: Kelsey Evans, chair, Wendy Anderson, Maria Arizpe-Sanchez, Jenifer Flaxbart, Erin Geisler, Kristen Kayross, Yeo Jung Kim, Jeremiah Palmer and Steve Rosen.

Have a suggestion or comment?
E-mail Kelsey Evans:
kelsey.evans@mail.utexas.edu.

Super Champ Spotlight



Christy Flores

Ms. Christy Flores, lead teacher in the Ducklings Class, came to us this summer from the Comal Center where she worked with toddlers for a year.

Flores, who hails from Nevada and Illinois, has a CDA (Child Development Associate credential) and 10 years of experience teaching young children.



While her tenure with the Center has been short, her impact has been enduring.

Flores was nominated as a Super Champ by Mei Yang, whose 2-year-old son recently joined the Duckling Class; his first exposure to a childcare center.

Growing up in a household where Chinese was spoken, Yang’s son knew very little English. This increased Yang’s anxiety about enrolling her son in a new childcare setting.

Yang was reassured when she observed the Ducklings Classroom and watched as her son engaged in circle time where he sang songs, danced and listened to stories.

“Ms. Christy helped him adjust to life in a new environment with tremendous love and patience,” Yang said. “My son developed a strong attachment to Ms. Christy and before long, he enjoyed going to school every day.”

Flores also regularly communicates to parents about new skills their children are learning and what activities filled their day.

Her colleagues note that Flores is a team player and clearly enjoys her children.

In fact, it was Flores who organized the Center’s Harvest Fest last month. The Harvest Fest was an event where infants, toddlers and 2-year-olds spent a morning outside creating collage art, participating in pumpkin tosses and listening attentively to fall-themed stories.

She does all this while raising her 4-year-old daughter, who is in the Butterfly Classroom, and while wearing a smile on her face.

Super Champ nomination forms are available at the front desk and can be dropped off in Sandy’s mail slot at the front desk. You may also email your nominations to: brileys@mail.utexas.edu