



Little Champ Times

November - December 2008

Upcoming Events

November 10-21
Turkey Hands

November 21
Book Club, "Discipline the Brazelton Way"
noon, San Jacinto Center

December 2
Teacher & Staff Holiday Breakfast, 7-8 a.m.
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 5
Orange Santa deadline
Last day to drop off your Orange Santa donation.

December 4-12
Scholastic Book Fair

December 17
Deadline to contribute to janitorial gift baskets

December 22 - Jan. 2
Winter Break
Center closed.

Jan. 5
Center reopens

Check out that spiffy playground!

Our parents really know how to roll up their sleeves and get dirty when it comes to keeping the playground safe and attractive.

Special thanks go out to parent volunteers **Valerie Bauhofer, Susan Binford, Monica Choi, Scott Evans, Lynne Wiggins, Scott Morris** and **Amy** and **Peter Keane** for spending part of their Saturday fluffing, painting and hammering.

Extra special thanks go to **Tina Radke**, who installed the laundry room counter, **Tom Rafferty**, who brought all his own tools, and **Yong** (last name?), who helped identify the projects and gave the great suggestion of using heat shrink tubing on the swing chains and then, due to some miscalculations on supplies, ran all over town Saturday morning gathering more last minute material. He also stayed late in the afternoon putting in at least a full eight hours on Saturday.

Additional thanks go out to the **Texas Cowboys** student volunteers, led by **Keshav Rajagopalan** (who also is the Student Government president). And last, but not least the playground improvement chairs **Keefe Boerner** and **Steve Rosen**.

All told, we were able to install more painted tiles on the playground wall, repaint the boat, playhouse, gates in the breezeway and doors for the wooden shed that we will install at a later date, put new table top and seats on the picnic table, install the laundry room countertop, put new coating on the swing chain, fix the missing and loose boards in the bench, bend back and re-secure the metal edges on the metal storage shed, make mulch depth markers on the play sets and plant a shade tree.

A special shout-out goes to **Sandy Briley** for providing moral support, as well as water, snacks, sandwiches and sweet tea to keep the crew's spirits and energy level up!

FUN Raiser Ginormous Success

More than 100 families from both UTCDC locations picnicked under the oak trees at Central Market in mid-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.

This was the most successful Fun-Raiser yet, with the best turnout ever. Most important, the Fun-Raiser provided a venue for parents to get to know each other in an unhurried setting, while joining together for a worthwhile cause.

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

NAC, A Sign of Quality

Not only is your child enrolled in one of the best early childhood development programs in Austin, but they're enrolled in one that has been accredited by the **National Accreditation Commission (NAC)**, which is sponsored by the National Association of Child Care Professionals (NACCP)!

Earning NAC accreditation is a three-step process: starting with an intensive six to 18-month self-study during which center staff identify areas for improvement, followed by internal training to meet NAC standards and concluding with a site visit by an NAC validator.

"NAC accreditation tells parents they have chosen the best quality for their child," said Sandy Briley, Ph.D., director of the Child Development Center.

Staff Appreciation and Support

A “handful” of thanks

Break out the glue stick, scissors, construction paper and markers. It's time to shower teachers and staff with that timeless gift of the season -- a turkey hand.

The staff appreciation and support committee “handed” out construction paper with instructions for making a turkey hand. Parents are encouraged to spend time with their children decorating a turkey hand and writing words of appreciation for their teachers and the staff, who love to adorn their doors with this beautiful, one-of-a-kind “hand” made artwork.

Staff appreciation breakfast

The UTCDC Holiday Staff Appreciation Breakfast, from 7-8 a.m. Dec. 2, is an annual event for teachers and staff, funded, in part, by contributions to the “One to Grow On” campaign.

Specifically, this event is coordinated by the Staff Appreciation and Support Committee, which combines funds with contributed items to create a breakfast buffet to demonstrate warmth, admiration and appreciation on behalf of all parents and children to our dedicated teachers, students and staff during the holiday season.

Janitorial Staff Gift Baskets

The holiday season is a perfect time to thank a group of people who have the important job of keeping the Center clean and tidy. Our janitors work late hours, so they do not get to join in staff recognition or social events. Please help us create gift baskets so all four janitors feel appreciated!

Any donation amount will help, and/or any gifts you think they might enjoy, such as packaged snacks, coffee,

tea and hot cocoa, mugs, candles or candies. Simply place monetary donations in the black metal box across from the front desk, inside an envelope marked ‘Staff Appreciation,’ or give item donations to a Staff member at the front desk by Dec. 17.

Pantry Drive Wrap-up

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.

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

Parent Book Club

Let's be honest, raising our children is not always joyful. Sometimes parents need some coaching when it comes to teaching their children impulse control, instill morals and nurturing self-esteem.

The San Jacinto UTCDC is hosting a book club centered around the book “Discipline the Brazelton Way,” by T. Berry Brazelton and Joshua D. Sparrow. Parent from the Comal Center are invited to join the discussion.

Books are available at the front desk on loan or for purchase for \$8. Despite being a short and easy read, the book covers a lot of ground, including common behavior problems and effective responses.

PAC Points

Thanks to all the parents who have contributed to the “One to Grow On” campaign by purchasing a ticket to the Fun Raiser or picking an “apple” from the Giving Tree, which will go back up in March.

So far, the San Jacinto Center has raised \$1,547 toward the \$5,000 goal for this center.

Don't forget you can support the “One to Grow On” campaign through payroll deduction, the UTCDC's online giving tool or by adding an extra \$10 or \$20 to your monthly tuition check.

Super Champ Spotlight



Jackie Moore

She's fun, authentic and full of energy. She's always positive. She knows how to bring out the best in children. She has even taught children to sing. Is this Maria von Trapp? No, it's Ms. Jackie Moore, lead teacher in the Dolphin classroom.

“Since joining the UTCDC, my son has blossomed both socially and academically,” says one mother. “Thanks to Ms. Jackie's encouragement, he has also gained a great deal of confidence in his abilities in reading, writing and math.”

Jackie got her start in early child development 19 years ago as a nanny for a former University of Texas at Austin volleyball coach. She went on to earn her child development associate credential and become an active member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

She mentors children in her spare time and serves as a youth director and district youth counselor for her church. She is also an experienced baker and outdoors enthusiast who says hiking and camping with her family is quickly “climbing” to the top of her list of favorite weekend activities.

One mom sums it up best, “Ms. Jackie is an amazing teacher that goes beyond her duties to keep the kids entertained, learning and happy. The kids all love her and have learned so much with her. She is a wonderful asset to the Center and deserves to be celebrated.”