

Green Tree Newsletter

Vol. 6 August/September 2006

www.greentreechildcare.com



Director's Corner

We are pleased to announce that the center is now **officially accredited by NAEYC** until July of 2011. We are very proud of all the teachers for their dedication to the center and to providing an excellent program.

Cathy and Kathleen enjoyed the **GSA Childcare Conference** in Chicago very much. Their feedback: The whole event was very well run, with space available in all the workshops, plenty of staff to answer questions and give directions (and amazing food). We had the opportunity to meet with other directors and representatives from the same GSA region as ours and with Jennifer Bashford who is our GSA consultant. It was great to network with other centers and gain a better understanding of the GSA support we have.

Professional Growth for our teachers is available from the **STARS Program** as well as **Washington Scholars Program** that helps our teachers pay for community college classes with a small contribution from the center. We hope teachers will take advantage of this! Kudos to Rachel and Amos starting classes at North Seattle C.C. and Brenna at Seattle Central C.C!

Beth Goss returned in August for both a parent education and staff training. The parent topic was Limit Setting and the staff met with her for on applying the Problem Solving philosophy in the classroom. We plan to have her back for another parent training titled Sibling Rivalry on **Thursday October 3rd** from 12:15-1:15. in room 601 of our building. The parents who have attended have been very enthusiastic, well worth your time. We have another one scheduled on **Thursday December 7th**, topic to be announced.

Fundraising Silent Auction Event:

Green Tree's Annual Silent Auction is coming up soon, on **Friday, October 27th** and needs your support! To help make this year's event a big a success, we need every family to contribute. Please donate at least one item or service -- suggestions/ideas in hand out. Just fill out a procurement form for each donation and leave it in the "Siegrist" box. **PLEASE RSVP AND GET YOUR DONATIONS IN BY Friday, October 20th** so that they will be included in the auction catalog. See you at the Auction!

P.S. We're also looking for **volunteers** to help with set up on Auction Day, and other related tasks. If you can help, please contact Erin Siegrist at erin.siegrist@gmail.com. Thank you!

PreK Room:

Co-Lead Teachers:
Rachel Bawara
Bryan Giese-Gardner



Welcome to Bryan, whose bio states: I'm a California native who graduated from Western Washington University in 2004 with my Elementary Ed. Certificate. Working with children, playing reggae music, training

in Kung Fu, Tai Chi, and Qi Gong, and writing are my passions. It is a pleasure helping young children gain a sense of community and wonder about the world we live in. I have been in progressive, child-centered schools since my first memories of my mother teaching preschool. And now I am a teacher like her. I believe children are capable, creative, and intuitive learners naturally, who just need to be encouraged to make choices about what they want to explore. Watching the pre-K learn reminds me that I have a long way to go before I am as flexible in my thinking as they are. Fell free to come visit our class any time to see what we are discovering.

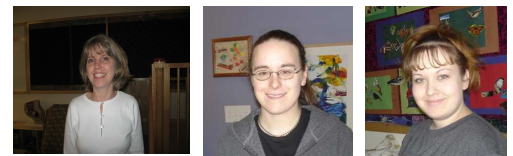
Come see the **new room arrangements** and the loft that was redesigned by the kids! PreK is on the hunt for a **new class pet/mascot** so look for an upcoming new friend.

On August 28th Willow returned to say good-bye to the children who will be leaving for Kindergarten. The parents arranged for a cake, diplomas, and balloons. They met outside under a little canvas gazebo, and gave out diplomas with many photo opportunities. Fortunately the toddlers and preschoolers showed up to have a bite of cake.

The Pre-K kids have been to a non-profit wood workshop, **The Giving Tree**, to make something special! Each child is making one secret item for the auction and one to donate to the homeless so come to the auction to find out about this great item and their giving experience!

Preschool Room:

Lead Teacher:
Holly Koehler
Co-Teachers:
Amber Williams
Megan Bissonette,



Welcome to Holly, Preschool Room's new lead teacher. Holly has an AAS in Early Childhood Education and six years experience in Early Childhood classrooms. Holly's advice on Emergent curriculum: *Begin with a topic and see where the children will take it. Sometimes large projects are sparked, sometimes it takes a few days to take off and sometimes it last only a short time.*

She has been working with the Preschoolers on **"true tales."** She told them about seeing a mouse visiting her house. Afterward she asked what they thought should be done about this mouse, discussions followed and the class has been reading books featuring mice and playing with toy mice in the sensory table. In a day or two they will decide if the "Mice" topic is a hit or miss.

Emergent projects begin when a teacher observes an interest or introduces something that effects the classroom community, decides if there is enough that can be supported by curriculum, takes it to the children, and follows their lead by close observation and documentation. When a direction is established then materials and activities are introduced to encourage the children's further exploration of the subject.

Want something in the newsletter? Contact GT newsletter volunteer Erin Conger at erin.conger@colliers.com or Green Tree's director or Parent Board.

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New tables have arrived and the class now enjoys being able to sit together during mealtimes as a community. Preschool has also received a **beautiful new library shelf** and is learning how to be careful with our books by placing them on the shelf.

Please sign up for a **parent teacher meeting** in early October and check out the **daily activities posted** by the front gate every day at pick-up time. Also, for preschool parents **each child has personal notebook** with anecdotal observations with the hope they give you a clear idea of your child's day.

Toddler Rooms:

Lead Co-Teachers: Lyndia Cruza, Nenita Maghirang
Lead Teacher Older Toddlers: Brenna Pink
Assistant Teacher: Amos Block



(see *Staff News for Amos*)

The older toddlers have planted a tasty **vegetable garden** with tomatoes, broccoli and cucumber. We'll reports on their harvest feast! July 27th saw the kids and teachers on a field trip to the **Seattle Aquarium!** (Many thanks to the parent volunteers for this trip and the trip to **Madrona Park.**) The focus right now is on animals: their sounds, food and environments. The Toddlers are crazy for wild animals!

Wednesday is story time at the **downtown library** (see us by 10:15 to join us). Toddlers **visit with PreK** once a month with each making something yummy to share. Congratulations to **Ethan, Zayad** and **Nathan** who have transitioned to Preschool!

Infant Room:

Lead Teacher: Lily Ibay
Assistant Teachers: Vicky Villar, Kusang Tsewang



Our babies are all growing so quickly and doing so many wonderful new things! **Emerson**, one of our super active boys is moving up to Young Toddlers. He says "Da-da, Ma-ma" and is happy and strong. **Evan** is moving soon and is talking, walking around the room, shy but happy. Charming **Stella** loves to crawl and play inside and outside. **Emma** just turned 1 and is quiet but doing great. **Louisa** will be our next birthday girl. **Corrina** is so cute and petite she makes us smile. **Lisanne** is a super baby moving around the room happy and strong. **Anja** is our newest baby girl and we are all enjoying getting to know her.

Ed. Note: Kusang - SO sorry you weren't in the last newsletter!

Staff News:

Please welcome our newest teachers: **Bryan, Holly** and **Amos**. **Amos Block**, new assistant teacher to the Toddlers, grew up in

New Zealand, earned his bachelor's degree at UW and has studied abroad in many languages including Japanese, French, Chinese, German and Spanish. Amos has worked with Special Needs children and is currently enrolled in Early Childhood classes at North Seattle Community College. Sadly we say good-bye to Hamdi who is pursuing her nursing education. Good luck Hamdi and welcome to our new teachers.



Votes are in and **Rachel Bawara** will represent the teachers as **Teacher Board Liaison**.

Parent Volunteering:

Green Tree is looking for a parent volunteer that is willing and able to help with **general website maintenance** of our current site. This would include periodically updating the menus, schedules, testimonials, child photos and staff bios on the GT site. Additionally, there are a few external links that should probably be checked and updated regularly, as well as the background of the website. Any program may be used to update The website which includes basic text, img and jpg files and also has posted pdf files. If you have familiarity in this area and are interested in helping out, please contact board member Susan Julien (shol@zqi.com or 206.851.0468). Thanks!

Dates to Put in the Calendar:

Our Parent Board Meetings are OPEN TO ALL PARENTS! October is the Annual Parent Meeting. Always held on the **4th Thursday** of the month - 15th floor of Park Place building. Dial in conference # if you can't make it in person: **206-553-4602**.

- October 9th CLOSED for Columbus Day
- October 26th Annual Parent/Board Meeting – (see above)
- October 27th Green Tree Fundraising Auction!

Happy Birthday To You....♪♪

Oct. 2nd – **Kusang Tsewang** (Infant room teacher)
Please keep on the lookout for Laura Lievano's reminders of staff birthdays.

Our Parent Board:

Board elections were held and three new members have been voted in for a 2-year term. Please welcome: **Ian Geopford** (dad of Isobel in Toddlers), **Carrie Jemley** (mom of Ava in Toddlers) and **Susana Guedes** (mom of Martin in Toddlers & new baby Tomas). If you see these parent please thank them for volunteering their time!

GT Wants/Needs:

- ♥ Volunteer with an accounting background to support the board's audit process
- ♥ Volunteer for general website help
- ♥ Computer for payroll module

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