

## Director and Staff News:



Learn more about our Director, **Natacha Dimitrova**: I was raised in Germany and Bulgaria where I enjoyed an exciting and very beautiful life. I have been married for 22 years to a very patient and never boring person. My two sons, Oleg (18 - high school senior) and Kalin (21 - UW student), are the joy of my life. They adore the USA and are the reason our family moved here.

I spent five years teaching High School and about 15 years as a University professor and manager. For the last seven years, six of them as a Childcare Director, I have devoted myself to the education of young children. I believe that in order to have quality on the next levels of education and in life in general, we need to start the proper education (in the broad sense of this word) of our children very early. It is also our obligation to provide them with a safe and happy childhood.

A **big thank you** to the 19 staff and parents who gave up their Saturday to help us clean and organize the school this made a big difference!

Our yearly visit from the **City of Seattle** in April went very well. After 6 hours of tours/meetings we regained our new enrollment status and have already received a scholarship for one more child. We hope both the above help and give us a warm-up for our **NAEYC Accreditation** visit this month.

**Emergent Childhood Curriculum:** Green Tree focuses on nurturing the whole child - heart, body, mind and spirit. Each classroom teacher uses observation paired with a strong understanding of child development theory to design a curriculum customized to the needs of the children in that class. The lessons and activities emerge with the child. Our staff will be undergoing **two training sessions** from **Beth Goss** on ECC Monday, **May 16** and Thursday, **June 15**. We are also attempting to arrange a 1-hour session (most likely during the noon hour) for parents to attend. Please let Natacha know if you have another time preference.

## PreK Room:

**Lead Teacher: Willow Ruff**

**Assistant Teacher: Rachel Bawara**



PreK teachers (l-r); Willow and Rachel.

Scheduled Activities: PreKers are **journaling** on Tues afternoons – come look at their awesome work posted in the classroom! **Baking projects** happen 2x month and **1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays** of the month (leave at 1:45 back at 3:15) we visit **Horizon House** a senior living center a just across Freeway Park. Birthday celebrations: **Ryan (15<sup>th</sup>)** and **Abby (21<sup>st</sup>)**!

Get ready for **“The Secret Life of a Castle”** written by PreK and to be performed **June 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:30** (tentatively)!

## Toddler Rooms (Young & Older Toddlers):

**Lead Co-Teachers: Lyndia Cruza, Nenita Maghirang**

**Lead Teacher Older Toddlers: Brenna Pink**

**Assistant Teacher: Hamdi Abdi**



Toddler room teachers (l-r); Lyndia and Brenna (others' pictures soon).

Welcome to **Hamdi Abdi**, our new Older Toddler Room Assistant Teacher. Hamdi has been working with young children for five years and is a valuable asset to our team.

**Brenna Pink** has been promoted to lead teacher – her Bio states: I attended Pierce Community College and studied Geology and Early Childhood Education. After working with children of various ages I realized that the toddler room is where my heart is. I believe the children are our future and we need to be sure we treat them that way. For fun I like to explore new vegan cuisine, both cooking and eating.

Regularly Scheduled: Sandy's music sessions Weds **9:40am**.

## Preschool Room:

**Lead Teacher: Currently interviewing for position**

**Co-Teachers: Megan Bissonette, Amber Williams**



Preschool room teachers (l-r); Megan and Amber

Preschool has been taking advantage of our warm weather by taking the bus to

outings at **Broadview Park** and walking to **Pike Place Market** (right) - see teachers for the next scheduled visit parents are welcome! The kids have been having a blast with Preschool's "Homemade Play-dough" see below to have your own fun at home.



### COOKED PLAYDOUGH RECIPE:

<b>2 cups flour</b>	<b>1 cup salt</b>
<b>1 teaspoon cream of tarter</b>	<b>2 tablespoons oil</b>
<b>1 teaspoon food coloring</b>	<b>2 cups of water</b>

Mix ingredients in saucepan and stirring constantly, cook over medium heat until dough leaves side of pan. Remove from pan and knead for a few minutes. This is very smooth, pliable clay - store it in a tightly closed plastic container and it lasts for weeks (not necessary to refrigerate)

Regularly scheduled activities: **Tuesday: Soundbridge** (leave by **10 am**), **Wednesday: Sandy** comes in at **9:20am** for sing along, **Thursday: Outing Day** (leave by **10 am**).

Want something in the newsletter? Contact GT newsletter volunteers, Erin Conger and Gayle Frederick  
[erin.conger@colliers.com](mailto:erin.conger@colliers.com) [Gayle.Frederick@IngramMicro.com](mailto:Gayle.Frederick@IngramMicro.com)  
or let Natacha know.

## Infant Room:

**Lead Teacher: Lily Ibay**

**Assistant Teachers: Vicky Villar, Kusang Tsewang**



Infant room teachers (l-r); Lily, Vicky and Kusang.

The Infant room's fish tank is up and running! The babies really seem to enjoy it - peek in and watch them crawling / toddling over and pulling up to have a good long look. It's great how it holds their attention!

## Other Staff You Should Meet!

More great staff people (l-r); Adam and Julito.



**Adam Breaux**, chef: I've been in the food industry for eight years, most recently working in an Italian Bakery. In my spare time I indulge in my other

passion, which is oil painting.

**Julito Ibay**, floater teacher: I was born in the Philippines, and then moved to the US in 1999. I've been working with children for four years and I am always learning from them! I enjoy attending Early Childhood seminars and conferences and reading about current practices in education.

**Lolita Toloza** has just joined GT as a Toddler Room Floater. Lolita has a Bachelor's degree from the Philippines where she taught elementary school for 14 years. In the last four years she has been working in an early childhood center in Redmond.

## Our Great Substitute Teachers!



(l-r); Ashley Warrior, April Terrell and Jessica Johnson

We also have three very solid **Program Supervisor** candidates coming for interviews and a very experienced **Lead Teacher** prospect interviewing for the **Preschool Room**.

## Worthy Wage Day - May 1<sup>st</sup> Closure

**What is Worthy Wage Day?\*** Worthy Wage Day is a day of action built on locally-based organizing and outreach in support of better wages, benefits, professional development opportunities, and working conditions for early childhood educators. This is a day to show people the importance of our teachers' roles and the inequality of paychecks for the wonderful care they give our children.

**What is the history of Worthy Wage Day?** Based on a long May Day tradition, the first Worthy Wage Day was held in 1992. It was coordinated a year after the launch of the Worthy Wage Campaign by the Center for the Child Care Workforce / A Project of the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation's (then known as the Child Care Employee Project). Its purpose is to get the word out about the importance of early childhood education work and the urgent need to improve the wages, benefits, professional development opportunities and working conditions for early childhood educators. \*Info from website - for more information. [http://www.ccw.org/about\\_WWday-2006.html](http://www.ccw.org/about_WWday-2006.html)

## Parent Volunteering & Fundraising:

**Patty McGrath** (mom of Kate & Ann) and **Susan Julien** (mom of Morgan), our Co-Parent Involvement Chairs state, "Parent turnout has been great so far, and many of the positions have sufficient parent support (yay!)." There were only a few areas that did not have a parent contact listed, and ideally, we would like to fill all the positions. We are hoping to have parent volunteers to fill the following positions: **Staff Appreciation, Marketing Plan, Fundraising Lead, Parent-Board Liaison**. Please let them know if you can assist.

Our **Chinook Book** fundraiser is due this week. **Jason Ralston** (Charlotte & Louisa's dad), Fund-raising Chair, reminds parents to please drop off your envelopes into either the Ralston parent cubby or the lockbox where you normally leave checks for Green Tree. Make sure that the envelope has your name on it. We will put the extra books you sold in your cubby in the next day. Thanks for all who have supported.

## Dates to Put in the Calendar:

**Our Parent Board Meetings are OPEN TO ALL PARENTS!** Next: **May 25<sup>th</sup> from noon - 1** on the 15th floor of Park Place building. Dial in conference # if you can't make it in person: **206-553-4602**

## Meet Our Parent Board:

**Sharie Hyder** is our **Parent Treasurer** and mother of **Zayad** in the Toddler room. The Treasurer, by-laws state, "shall have custody of all the moneys of the corporation and shall make regular reports of the corporation's accounts. There shall be no bond for the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the corporation in payment of the just demands against the corporation or as may be ordered by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer, as well as the President, has the authority to sign checks drawn in the corporation's accounts. This authority may be delegated to the Executive Director..." Stay tuned for info on Parent Committee Chairs.

## GT Wants/Needs:

♥ Portable Light Table – for viewing fun see-thru toys, xrays, slides, etc.

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or let Natacha know.