

Director's Corner

Please mark your calendars for upcoming **noontime parent workshops with Beth Goss in May (TBD) and July 13th**. We have had the window film replaced in the center and the windows look great thanks to EPA! We have started creating a **school directory** (please sign and return "permission to include / request to opt" out slips). GT's tax id number is 91-406065 - learn about Federal and state tax credits that can provide thousands of dollars to offset cost of child care through NWLC www.nwlc.org/details.cfm?id=2860§ion=tax

Fundraising Efforts:

Thanks to all who participated in our February **Chinook Book** fundraiser. Together we sold 180 books and raised more than **\$1,800** for GT. All of the proceeds go directly toward enhancing the center – new books, teacher development and scholarships for families. The Preschool classroom won the award for selling the most books and earned a book for each child and a small party to celebrate! **Jason Ralston** and **Susana Guedes** are looking for additional parent volunteers to help with our ongoing fundraising efforts and events, please contact: susanaquedes@hotmail.com.

GT's Community Sale is planned for **July**. We're asking as you "spring clean" this year you to take an inventory of your gently used toys, clothes and other items you may be willing to donate to our sale. All proceeds will go to GT and any unsold items will be donated to charity in this win-win-win fundraiser. Volunteers greatly appreciated - please contact Keri Harling.

SAVE THE DATE for this year's auction on **September 14th!**

Pre-K Room:

Co-Teachers: Rachel Bawara, Holly Koehler



The Pre-K class has welcomed another classmate, Dillon, who turns 4 years old in May. Lately we have enjoyed cooking and science. We have baked banana bread and snicker doodles and used our eyes and tongues to define color and taste. What are other words for sweet? salty? bitter? How is flour different from salt? The children have worked hard at building a rich vocabulary. PreK is wrapping up their mask project. They created hand held masquerade masks, flat cardboard masks and papier-mâché masks and even designed ceremonial masks from gallon cans! More importantly, the children are working hard at creating and learning about being in a democratic community. They are becoming listeners and decision makers about what it takes to live and play in a harmonious environment and have worked out conflicts in group-time and through role-play with puppets.

The **"take-apart table"** is in constant use when we can keep "take apart" items in stock. **The demand is great so any donations of junk would be appreciated.**

Preschool Room:

Co-Teachers: Lindsey Carstensen, Brenna Pink and Amber Williams



We say hello to new children Jamaya, Erin, and Ava and wave to teacher Megan (Jamaya's proud mom) as she moves to the Older Toddler classroom to comply with DSHS policy. Megan, thank you for all your wonderful work in the Preschool room! Welcome to Brenna Pink, we are so excited to have her as part of our classroom family!

Preschoolers completed their project on families and began a new one on dinosaurs – a very popular new theme. We are planning a field trip to the **dinosaur exhibit** at the *Pacific Science Center* in **May/June**. The class "web" on cars included trips to *Broadway Playfield*, *Pike Place Market*, *Soundbridge*, the *Library* and *Freeway Park* for fun and interest. The children are being encouraged to become more independent by dressing themselves and using the potty! The class continues to develop skills such as counting, sorting, lacing, building with blocks, painting, drawing, tracing letters, and enjoying all the fun books we pick up on our outings to the library. Many of you have seen us out in *Freeway Park* having lots of fun with the **newly purchased outdoor equipment!**

Older Toddler Room:

Co-Teachers: Megan Bissonette, Virginia Mariano



The older toddler class has some transitions. We say a big thank you to Brenna for all her fantastic work with Toddlers as she moves to a Preschool teacher position. Elizabeth's last day was the 13th and Megan and Virginia are partnering with the teaching duties until a lead teacher is hired. Joseph has transitioned over and Evan is in the process of transitioning.

The classroom has been going smoothly and Megan plans daily fun projects for the children to participate in including: "foot tracing" where they compared size, shape, and then decided what color to use on the cut outs of their feet, sorting, comparing size, hammering with nails, dancing with scarves, walking on contact paper to experience the "sticky" sensation, and having fun with "gak" and ventures to *Freeway Park* for "frog jumping."

The children learned about **Chinese / Lunar New Year**, tasting foods and talking about their symbolic meaning in Chinese culture with a bus trip to the *International District* that included buying an algae eater. Focus is also turning to building and tools along with marine life as emerging interests.

Younger Toddler Room:

Co-Teachers: Lyndia
Cruza, Nenita Maghirang



Emma, Louisa and Anja transitioned to Young Toddlers. The class has had a lot of fun with the new curriculum centered on transportation. The children have looked at pictures and posters, painted with cars and read books about transportation. Songs like "Wheels on the Bus" have been a great hit during these activities! They are also studying the concept of "Myself" – calling out their names and learning body parts. Books, pictures and puppet play are all part of the fun.

The young toddler class continues to grow developmentally in all areas of learning. As of this date, there is a significant change in their learning attitudes with more desire to participate. They love playing with puzzles, a great way to enhance their critical thinking. Language and socialization skills are developing as they interact with their peers and teachers during play and mealtime. The young toddlers especially enjoy participating in art projects.

Infant Room:

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



Support Teacher: Julito Ibay



New infants have joined including Asher and Mae and all the children are moving forward with their growth and development. We are always providing stimulation by singing and interacting with them. Lisanne transitions to the young toddler room soon and loves to dance and count on her fingers!! Corrina is thriving and ready to move to the young toddlers. Mathilde and Asher are such good friends and play together. Both of them are pulling up on the table and shelves and attempting to stand by themselves. Mae is starting to crawl backward as well as forward. She is always smiling and loves to be talked to. Logan is so content and also loves to smile at everyone. Justin and Adele are also thriving and have adjusted quite well to the classroom.

Staff News:

Please welcome **Flashette Pickette**, who has started as a classroom support teacher. She has a portion of her CDA completed and 8 years experience working with young children.

Dates to Put in the Calendar:

May 28th – CLOSED for Memorial Day

June 23rd – FAMILY PICNIC (10:30-1:00 Madrona Park, Shelter #01: Burgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers provided with potluck salad/desserts) see website for directions <http://www.seattle.gov/parks/parkspaces/madrona.htm>

Parent Board Meetings are OPEN TO ALL PARENTS! Always held on the **4th Thursday** of the month - 6th floor of Park Place building. Dial in conference # if you can't make it in person: **206-553-4602.**

Happy Birthday To You....♪

Brenna Pink	March 2 nd
Vicky Villar	March 28 th
Megan Bissonette	March 29 th
Adam Breaux	April 7 th
Nenita Maghirang	April 17 th
Holly Koehler	April 19 th

Laura Lievano has been great with b-day reminders and states, **"Please give a thank you to parents who have contributed, the teachers really appreciate your generosity!"**

Our Parent Board:

Following is an excerpt from a parent letter we take particular pride in sharing, "...We have come to value Green Tree as an expert partner in the development of our son. As new parents, trusting someone else to care for and nurture our child was a nerve-wracking and emotional decision...."

With GT we are confident that we made the right choice. We appreciate the varied menu of healthy food that is provided daily, the social guidance, the emphasis on play, discovery, art and music and the general caring tone that puts us at ease every time we leave him in your care....

The social aspect alone has been amazing for his development. By learning to interact with and observe peers of similar age he has grown and developed skills that I know he would not have honed as quickly at home or alone with a nanny. From defending himself without getting over excited to sharing and taking turns, to feeding himself with fork and spoon, from speech to physical development I credit his peer group and teachers at Green Tree with much of his abilities. We're grateful for the emphasis on play and feel that the child centric setting extremely beneficial for him...

Then there is the art! I can't rave enough about the art! The wonderful messy projects starting with colored foam in the infant room on his second day and continuing through the toddler room with sand, dirt, colored water, scissor work and painting. As a first time mom with a penchant for order I wouldn't have thought to let my 6-month old baby dye his body green and get gunk under his fingernails. But what an amazing experience he (&I) would have missed! I can confess had he been at home with me I wouldn't have had the creativity or been able to bear the messiness of all these projects and sadly would have forfeited some of our favorite pieces of art! Not to mention the treasured experience of early creativity and development. We couldn't be more pleased with all the art that GT includes in our son's day..."