

Director's Corner

City of Seattle offers our staff a great scholarship program which allows our teachers to take community college credits at a greatly reduced rate. We congratulate **Rachel Bawara**, Prek lead teacher, who has just completed 13 units last semester with a 4.0 and Brenna has completed her class with an A and both are taking more. Our **Occupant Emergency Plan** is being updated and will soon be distributed along with a keychain holder for all our emergency numbers and alternate site information. Upcoming **Parent Education Workshops** with Beth Goss: **Feb 13th** Helping Kids Cope with Change & Transition.

Congrats to Cathy, she has been invited to join the board of the **Childcare Directors of Greater Seattle!** Their key mission is to promote anti bias education and administrative training. Also with additions of Lindsey and Elizabeth we're now fully staffed!

Fundraising Efforts:

Green Tree's **Annual Silent Auction raised \$6,184!** Thanks to all of you for your support of the center both in generous donations and taking the time to attend and bid for the auction. We're always looking for **volunteers** to start helping on next year's auction, including a chairperson, If you are interested, please contact the director or **Jason Ralston**, our board member in charge of fundraising. We are moving the date up slightly for the 2007 auction so our wrapping paper drive can start a little earlier so please save the date of **September 14th!**

The **Sally Foster wrapping paper drive** raised \$206 from sales of \$412 this winter. We are looking forward to spring fundraisers like the **Chinook Book** that will run from **2/5-2/23** with a goal of at least 10 books per family. The classroom whose families have sold the most will receive a prize - one scholastic book for each child in the class and a small party to celebrate. **Susana Guedes** from the board will support our Fundraising Chair Jason. She is looking for additional parent volunteers to help with our ongoing fundraising efforts and events. susanaguedes@hotmail.com Also we're planning a possible "**Community Sale**" - where folks can clean out their houses of old toys and clothes and donate them to the sale with proceeds going to GT and leftover items going to charity. We're scouting for a location for it (somewhere convenient and free / inexpensive) so the general public could come and shop. If you have any suggestions please let us know!

PreK Room:

Co-Lead Teachers:
Rachel Bawara, Holly Koehler

We give a big welcome to Holly, who has joined Rachel as a co-lead teacher in the



PreK room. New transition children are Evie, Saige and Tatum. PreK has been following an exciting path that began with interests in maps and has grown to designing their own maps and crating paper mache globes! Their theater trip to *Goodnight Moon* was canceled due to snow but is being rescheduled so be on the lookout for the new date if you would like to join their outing.



Preschool Room:

Lead Teacher: Lindsey Carstensen



Co-Teachers: Amber Williams Megan Bissonette,

Welcome to **Lindsey Carstensen**, Preschool Room's new lead teacher, here's a bio from Lindsey: I graduated from Western Washington University in March, 2006 with a BA in Elementary Education. Throughout my schooling, I worked part time at the Whatcom Family YMCA Childcare Center in the infant, toddler and preschool rooms and toward the end of my schooling found that I preferred those age groups to teaching at the elementary level. I stayed on there after graduation as Lead Preschool Teacher because I enjoyed the center so much. I moved to Seattle in August 2006. Although it was hard to leave the children and families at the YMCA, I was ready to move to a bigger city. From August until the end of December, I worked as a co-lead in a Montessori preschool downtown, but found that that particular teaching philosophy was not right for me. Thankfully I was lucky enough to find Green Tree!

I really love the child-centered philosophy that Green Tree promotes, and enjoy this environment very much! I hope to continue here for a very long time. My parents live in Olympia, WA, and I have a younger brother that lives there also. My older sister lives in Reston, Virginia with her husband and two children. I love spending time with family and friends, going to Mariner's games, reading, sewing (I've just begun to make hats- it's very exciting!!!) and exploring this wonderful city that is still a bit new to me. I am really enthusiastic about working with your children here at Green Tree! Please feel free to come to me with any questions or concerns, as I am always open to talk. I look forward to seeing all of you!

Preschool is resuming regular trips to **Soundbridge** and the **Library** on Tuesday and Thursday (leaving at 9:45 if parents care to join us).

Green Tree Newsletter

Vol. 7 Winter Quarter 2007

Toddler Rooms:

Lead Co-Teachers:
Lyndia Cruza,
Nenita Maghirang



Lead Teacher Older Toddlers: Brenna Pink
Assistant Teacher: Elizabeth Bortz

Welcome to new assistant teacher, Elizabeth Bortz! She has a BA in Education, excellent recommendations and is very excited to join GT. Lots of change in the toddler rooms! Morgan, Jackson, Martin & Isobel transitioned to Preschool and Rocco, Noah, Stella & Lucy to Older Toddlers. Teachers are busy adjusting to changes and assessing needs of the new children.



Picture shows Brenna with Ava and Joe who is leaving this month and will be missed!

Infant Room:

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



Emma and Stella have transitioned to the young toddler room and Louisa and Anja are in the process of transitioning with gradual introduction to the new settings and teachers. Teachers are preparing to welcome FIVE new infants who will begin in March; Alyvia and Asher along with Adele and Justin (twin siblings of GT graduate Ryan Davies) and Tatum (Logan Narode's sister). Throughout the day teachers are interacting with the children through singing, reading, playing games, conversing and engaging the children in art activities.



Staff News:

Asmeret Habtemariam has been assisting in the Older Toddler room while we searched for a teacher to join Brenna. Now the position is filled, Asmeret has chosen to become the permanent support teacher for all of our classrooms. A little from Asmeret's bio: I have 2 sons, Narod and Hermon, who just left GT for Kindergarten. I've worked with kids for last 9 years, and enjoy my

friendships with GT families and teachers. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my parents and family for get-togethers and celebrations and listening to all kinds of music.



Virginia

Mariano, our substitute, has accepted the full time position of toddler support teacher. Congrats to Virginia!



Parent Volunteering:

Green Tree is looking for a parent volunteer with an accounting background to support the board's audit process. 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! Octobers is the Annual Parent Meeting. 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**.

February 19th - CLOSED for Presidents' Day

Happy Birthday To You....🎵

We've had birthdays since our last newsletter and a few coming up so please give congratulations to the following:

<i>Asmeret Habtemariam</i>	10/20
<i>Lily Ibay</i>	11/26
<i>Julito Ibay</i>	12/01
<i>Cathy Prygrocki</i>	12/07
<i>Kathleen McLees</i>	12/13
<i>Liane Clemen</i>	12/22
<i>Rachel Bawara</i>	1/10
<i>Virginia Mariano</i>	2/28

Please keep on the lookout for **Laura Lievano's** reminders of staff birthdays.

Our Parent Board:

New Board Member **Carrie Jemley**, has taken over as secretary. Thank you to **Heather Mulligan** for her past work!

GT Wants / Needs:

- ♥ Volunteer with an accounting background to support the board's audit process
- ♥ Computer printer if anyone has one not being used

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