



The CHASTAIN School

A Child Development Center & Preschool



December 2010
January 2011
Issue

Upcoming Dates

JANUARY 17TH—
CLOSED—MLK DAY

JANUARY 18TH—
HAPPY FEET SOCCER
DEMONSTRATION

JANUARY 19TH -
PIANO & VIOLIN BEGINS

JANUARY 21ST -
SWIMMING BEGINS

JANUARY 21ST
PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

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Genesis Shelter Adopt a Family! Volunteering Opportunities All Year!

This past December TCS once again partnered with the Genesis Shelter to give our families the opportunity to Adopt-a-Family for the holidays.

We would like to thank everyone who donated gifts and participated in the Genesis Adopt-a-Family program. Over half of our classrooms contributed to the cause. A BIG thank you goes out to the Coconut, Olive, Bonsai, Lime, Birch, Mulberry, Chestnut, Plum, Mimosa, & Oak rooms.

The Genesis Shelter is a shelter for homeless infants and their families that helps them to grow and develop in nurturing and healthy surroundings while enabling them to remain together.

If you would like to know more about volunteering opportunities at the Genesis Shelter, here are a few ways you can help out:

- **Play Group:** This is our most popular volunteer opportunity for you or a group to let out the inner child in you. It is an opportunity for volunteers to play with our children while our parents

attend a support group or educational class. Play groups are Wednesday night starting at 6:15 P.M. and ending at 7:30 P.M.

- **Child Care:** Our Child Development Center has openings for loving, caring people to help feed and rock infants and to play with preschoolers every weekday. Various shifts are available in the nursery and preschool during Child Development Center hours.
- **Kid's Crafts:** Bring a craft project for one of the Children's weekday classrooms. Great for families, groups and individuals.
- **Supply Closet:** Come keep our supply and donation room organized.
- **Meals:** We always welcome groups of 2 to 10 volunteers that would like to bring and serve a meal for our families. Weeknights and also Brunch or Dinner on week-ends.
- **Desserts:** Families & small groups, 6 people and under, bring and serve dessert to our residents on week-nights at 5:30 P.M.
- **Group Volunteering:** We have many opportunities for group projects. Just contact

us for more information.

- **Creative Fundraising:** We would like to invite you, your group, your family, friends, community or co-workers to take part in some exciting fundraising projects that are easy to organize or host – that do not take a lot of your time and effort. This is a lot of fun for your group and helps us in a BIG way.
- **Adopt a Family for the Holidays:** This is a great way for you and your co-workers, your family, or your organization to bring holiday joy and love to a family this year.
- **Drives:** Each month we spotlight items we need. Would you help us by having a "drive" at your work, church, or organization? Contact us and we will work with you to make your "drive" a success.

There are more opportunities to serve and give. Please give us a call for more information.

For more information contact **Marla Poe**, Volunteer Coordinator:

Phone

404-522-6056 x 228

Email

mpoe@genesisanewlife.org

Ho! Ho! Ho! Happy Holidays @ TCS

On Wednesday, December 15th, Santa Claus traveled all the way from the North Pole to visit the wonderful children at TCS. Santa stopped by every classroom checking to see who had been naughty or

nice. He made sure to say hello to all the children and took pictures with each classroom. "Most" of the children enjoyed meeting and having their picture taken with Santa. Even the

teachers and staff were excited about seeing Jolly ol' Saint Nick. On behalf of the entire TCS staff, we would hope that everyone had a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!



What	Where	When	Cost
MEDIEVAL TIMES	Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament	In January - Friday's - 8pm, Saturday's - 7:30pm, Sunday's -5pm Sat - Jan 22nd & 29th - 5pm Show Also	Adults \$51.95 (+tax) 12 Yrs & UNDER: \$35.95 (+tax) Discounts available @ www.medievaltimes.com/atlanta/specialoffers.aspx
ICE SKATING RINK	Centennial Olympic Park	Through Jan. 30, 2011 Including Holidays	\$7 per person. Skate rental add \$2 for 90 minutes of skate time.
PLANET SHARK: PREDATOR OR PREY	The Georgia Aquarium	Through Feb 20th - Sun.- Fri., 10am - 5pm, Sat., 9am-6pm	Adults - \$31.50, Children 5-15, \$23.50; Under 5 - Free
DINOSAURS IN THE SKY	Fernbank Museum of Natural History	Jan 15, 22, 29. 1:30 pm	Adults, \$4; students, \$3.
FLYING DEBRIS SHOW	Chattahoochee Nature Center	Jan. 22—12 noon and 1pm	Adults, \$8; Children 3-12, \$5; Under 3, free
PETER PAN	Pemberton Place at the World of Coca-Cola	Jan. 21st - March 20th	Tickets \$20-\$125.
ANIMALOPOLIS	Fernbank Museum of Natural History	Through March 17th Show Times —11am, 1pm, 3pm & 5pm	\$15.41 for adults, \$13.27 for Children, \$1.50 for Toddlers
SNOW MOUNTAIN	Stone Mountain Park	Through March 6th	Family Value Pass -(4) Christmas tickets, (4) Snow Mountain tickets, (4) Meal tickets & (4) Unlimited hot chocolates - Available Exclusively Online)

Center for Puppetry Arts

Oak Fieldtrip

On Wednesday, December 8th the Oaks went to the Center for Puppetry Arts to watch the live performance of Jon Ludwig's adaptation



of the timeless television classic *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. After the show, the Oaks enjoyed a sack lunch, and then made their own Rudolph marionette puppets.

When asked what they enjoyed most about the fieldtrip some of the Oaks said:

Asher: Likes the big monster & snow man & Rudolph & the guy that fell off the roof & the guy who wanted to be a dentist.

Dennis: Like the big monster & the girl who hit the guy down.

Brigid: Liked Rudolph & the girl.

Jack: Liked them flying in on the sleigh at the end.

Plays at the Center for Puppetry Arts not only provide entertainment they also meet Georgia Performance Standards.

Visit http://www.puppet.org/pdf/SG_Rudolph.pdf for a related learning activity

sheet to do with your children at home. This sheet meets the Georgia Bright from the Start Pre-K content standard for Mathematical Development.



Why do babies like boxes best?

By Linda Groves Gillespe

It is Ella's first birthday, and her mother is excited. She places a present wrapped with bright paper in front of Ella and tears just a small portion of the paper. Ella takes over, pulling on the paper and scrunching it in her hands. Some tape gets stuck on her finger, and she pulls at it; then it gets stuck on another finger, and she pulls at that. With help, Ella eventually tears all the paper off the box.

Ella's mother opens the box and takes out the musical elephant inside. She shows Ella how, when she squeezes its foot, the elephant sings the ABC song! Ella looks at the elephant, then at the box and paper. She grabs the paper and crumples it, stuffs it into the box, turns the box upside down, and lets the paper fall out. Ella is delighted, and she does it again and again. In the meantime, Mom is squeezing the elephant's feet, trying to interest Ella in the real toy!

Think about it

Watch how the babies in your care play. What does their play tell you about their development? How do they explore objects? What interests them? What is their environment like? Are there safe places on the floor where nonmobile and newly mobile infants can explore? Is there a variety of materials, not just plastic toys?

Wow, what happened here? Why does Ella prefer the wrapping paper and the box to the fancy toy inside? The answer lies in Ella's development. The toy in the box is one dimensional, and while really cute and interesting to adults, it does not offer the endless opportunities that the box and the paper do for exploring with all the senses. Infants at one year of age are in the stage of development

Piaget called sensorimotor play. The sensorimotor stage of play is characterized by babies actively exploring objects in their environment—first with their eyes, then with their hands and mouths. Ella spent her first year of life practicing this exploratory play. In the first two months, Ella mostly looked at toys, because her body was not developed enough for her to reach for and hold them. Then, from 4 to 6 months of age, she started to hold on to toys and bring them to her mouth, which she did at every opportunity. In fact, one of the universal characteristics of 4- to 6-month-olds is their ability to look, grasp, and bring objects to their mouths.

From 6 to 8 months, Ella's play became more sophisticated. Her physical abilities progressed enough that she could explore toys in more meaningful ways. She learned to transfer objects from hand to hand, turn them over, give them to others, and finger, poke, and scratch at them. As Ella grew, she developed the ability to drop one object for another; and because she preferred novelty, she would often drop what she had for what was being offered. At the same time, she began to develop object permanence, knowing that an object exists even when not in sight. As a result of this milestone, she was able to pull the blanket off a favorite toy that was

hidden but she wanted to find. So now, at 12 months, Ella likes the wrapping paper and box best! During the next six months, Ella will begin to experiment with objects. She will scrunch the paper, it will make a noise, and she will change its shape when she pulls it apart. The box is a vessel she can fill, dump, and turn over and bang on. The paper and



the box together provide her with endless opportunities to experiment and explore.

At 18 to 24 months, Ella will move into symbolic play, where a block will become a phone or a car. Her play will have more purpose and will take place alongside, and sometimes even with, others.

Ella will begin to be able to solve problems through play, like putting a cube into a hole or nesting cups. And then the box will become a house or a hat or anything she wants it to be. The opportunities are as endless as her imagination!

<http://www.naeyc.org/files/yc/file/200905/BTJRocRoll.pdf>

Try it

Offer one new object a week for infants younger than 12 months to explore. Here are some suggestions:

- Make a basket of objects, specifically those that appeal to touch, smell, and sound. Include materials with different textures—a cloth bag with spices in it, wooden items, a bell.
- Provide containers and a variety of materials for dumping and filling.
- Offer bowls of various unbreakable materials like plastic and stainless steel.
- Give infants containers that open and close, like plastic jars of different sizes.

Just be sure that anything you give a baby is large enough not to be swallowed and safe to put into their mouths. And don't forget the boxes!



Yuri Waddell is originally from Louisville, KY. She graduated from Tennessee State University, receiving a Bachelor's of Science in Family and Consumer

Science. She works in the Mulberry Classroom with Ms. Lori. Ms. Yuri's overall goal is to be a teacher who shares her love of learning with children. She hopes to give children the tools to make them responsible, loving, and respectful adults.

Ashley Ramey grew up in Georgia and graduated from Sequoyah High School in Canton. She has worked with children for over 5 years and has earned her Child Development Associate's Certificate from Chattahoochee Technical



School and is currently majoring in Early Childhood Education. Her hobbies include scrapbooking, painting, reading, sewing and hiking. She also enjoys reading science fiction.



Khrystal Davis was born in Long Island, NY. She holds a degree from Georgia State University in Psychology and is pursuing her Master's of Art in Counseling Psychology. She has

been working with children for over 10 yrs. She is married and has 2 daughters and a stepson. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, listening to music and spending time with her family.



Akua Boye-Owusu was born in Florida and raised in Georgia. She has worked in the childcare field for over 10 years and she loves working with all ages. Akua (ah-kwee-ah) is looking forward continuing her education in early childcare.

Malikah Sabir grew up in Columbus, OH. She graduated from Columbus State Community College with an Associates Degree in Social Services and Early Childhood Education. She has worked in infant care for the past few decades, Her hobbies include reading, hiking, and meditation.



MVP for November 2010

Ashley McCoy



Congratulations to Ashley McCoy for being awarded MVP of the Month for the month of November. Ashley was nominated by her peers for being positive and for having a **GREAT** attitude when she's asked to do something by co-workers and administrators.

She's warm and fuzzy with children and assures the parents that their little ones are in good hands.

Have a difficult situation? Need a resolution? Call on Ashley! She will remain calm and execute the best solution using her positive attitude and great spirit!

Calm, Cool and Collected....that's our MVP of the Month. Ashley was awarded a \$100 gift-card and the coveted Teacher of the Month Parking Spot. **Congratulations Ashley!**

MVP for December 2010

Roza Kostova



Kudos go to Rozelina Kostova for being chosen as MVP for the month of December. Ms. Roza who was nominated for being an excellent team player and for providing excellent customer service. She is known for sharing her expertise with her co-teachers

and for giving a helping hand to the Oak class when needed. She is a bus driver, a dedicated teacher, an artist, proactive, and a hard worker. She is also known for her creativity, which has been described as "out of the box and out of this world!!" She rocks! It shows that she loves what she does. **Way to go...Ms Roza!!**



The Chastain School celebrates the following holidays with classroom parties: Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas.

All parties are child-centered and offer age appropriate snacks or foods. Parties are coordinated by the staff and often include help from our parents.

Special visitors

Costumed characters must first be approved by the director. **Balloons of any kind are not allowed in the school because they are a choking hazard.**

Birthday Tradition

Birthdays are special at The Chastain School. On your child's birthday, you may want to have your child give a book to the Nancy Weaver Library in honor of his/her class. This gift should be inscribed with the child's name and birth date on the labels available at the front desk so that can be shared by everyone in our Nancy Weaver Library.

Birthday parties in the classrooms are appropriate and welcomed. Parents and teachers should work together to coordinate a good time. All snacks and food should be nutritious and in age appropriate portions. We have found it a good idea to check with the parents in your classroom when planning foods for a birthday party at school, as many have allergies or concerns about sweets and foods they would not like their children being exposed to (i.e. soft drinks, donuts, fried foods, candy, etc).

December Birthdays

Jake Charette	12/04	Olive
Lori Beasley	12/05	Mulberry
Theresa Olds	12/05	Chestnut
Sharon Cash	12/08	Lime
Yolanda Ware	12/08	Aspen
Kira Watkins	12/15	Mimosa
Alden Krause	12/17	Kid's Club
Maddox Trombley	12/18	Chestnut
Liam Findley	12/25	Olive
Jack McCabe	12/26	Bonsai
Jim Richter	12/28	Mimosa
Caitlin Rohner	12/29	Mimosa
Preston Bonham	12/30	Dogwood

January Birthdays

Isabelle Chapman	1/5	Olive
Dia Burton	1/7	Coconuts
Sloane Milam	1/12	Mimosa
Danielle Watts	1/13	Lime
McClain Miller	1/15	Olive
Charlotte Smith	1/15	Mimosa
Luke McDonald	1/15	Mimosa
Caleb Kang	1/17	Coconuts
Harrison Long	1/18	Coconuts
Gavin Rocchio	1/19	Mango
Preston Watson	1/19	Coconuts
Logen Scott	1/25	Chestnuts
Angela Jones	1/26	Plum
Sherena Perkins	1/28	Mango