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Uxbridge Extended Day

A program of the Uxbridge Public Schools
Kindergarten Kid's Club, Taft Kid's Club and Whitin EXTRA
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Monthly Report –October 2007

Angeles Baldanza, Director

Overview of Activities for October

- October 5th- Professional Development Day-School was closed, but our program was open- We went on two field trips: the younger children went to the Children's Playground in Woburn, Ma. And the older children went to the Monster mini-golf center in Webster, MA.
- We were closed for Columbus Day, October 8th.
- **October 18th-National "Lights on Afterschool" day.** Over 150 people attended the lights on dinner at the Taft school, children, parents, grandparents, the principal and vice principal of Taft School as well as the police chief, with his wife, the superintendent and representatives from the school committee and the board of selectman. The dinner was catered by Janice Watt and her team. Dessert and decorations were made by the children of the program. A fun time was had by all and attention was focused on the importance of afterschool care to this community.
- October 24th- full staff meeting.
- October 24th- Received an Ocean State Power Grant (\$1000) for athletic equipment.

Program Activities

- The children have started up with the clubs---cheerleading and computer club being the most popular. The excellent weather has allowed for a lot of outdoor time and we all know that this is beneficial to the children. The fall season gives us an abundance of supplies for fall exploration and activities and we are using them to full advantage. For Halloween, the Whitin EXTRA program is putting on a party for the younger children.
- At the Whitin EXTRA Program, Sue Sullivan has been working with the children on thinking community----thinking beyond ourselves. Thus far, they have planned a party for the younger children at Taft, they baked cookies for the staff meeting on the 24th and they are working on ideas for next month. The kids are working on a friendship quilt. The children are learning how to use carpentry tools on simple carving projects and will be expanding that to basic woodworking and small furniture projects. We are still short staffed for one afternoon per week (Tuesdays), but we have been covering with subs thus far.

- The kindergarten childcare program is excited to have added a limited number of 4 yr old preschool spots in the Kindergarten room. We have 3 preschoolers enrolled and they are fitting in just fine. This helps to make up for the low enrollment in Kindergarten during the day (due to full day Kindergarten offerings). We still have good kindergarten childcare numbers before and after the school day.

Professional Development:

- 12 staff members participated in the NEDDS training conference on Saturday, October 20th, from 8 am to 1 pm. Charlie Applestein was the keynote speaker and he also did a training session for the entire group. Each staff member went to 2 additional workshops and the feedback was that it was a very helpful conference. NEDDS is a Network of Extended Day Directors and all the workshops are germane to the kind of issues affecting Public School run childcare programs.
- We continue to work on appropriate practice at our staff meetings as we get closer to completion of our new staff handbook.

Upcoming Events:

- November 6th-Curriculum half day—child care is open at both schools. No field trips planned. Activities will be on site.
- November 12th- Veteran's Day-school and child care are closed. Mrs. Baldanza has been asked to be the opening speaker at the Professional Day Conference on Nov. 12th for the Worcester Comprehensive Child Care Services. This will be the 2nd time that Mrs. Baldanza has spoken at this conference—4 years ago, she was the keynote speaker.
- Nov. 16th- early dismissal day at Taft School- Child Care will be open.
- Nov. 19th- early dismissal day at the Whitin School- Child Care will be open.
- Nov. 21st—open for breakfast club only. Closed after 9 am.
- Nov. 22nd and 23rd closed for holidays.
- Staff Meeting Nov. 28th.

A scene from "Lights on Afterschool"

