

Monthly Report –January 2008

Angeles Baldanza, Director

Overview of Activities for January

- Jan 2nd - our staff joined the school staff for professional development- all staff is now CPR/First Aid certified.
- January 21st- Closed for Martin Luther King Day
- January 25th-Curr. half day-all programs open with in house activities.
- Site Coordinator's meeting, January 17th and 21st.
- January 28th-Kindergarten Childcare registrations have gone out to those children who are registering for Kindergarten for the fall.

Program Activities

- Taft Kid's Club is doing a food drive for their community service project for January and February. There is huge fan following for the Patriots, so many of the crafts and activities are related to the team logo. Homework Club and Computer Club with Mrs. De Pasquale continue to be offered Mon-Thursday. Much of December and part of January have included time in the snow, sledding, building forts and simply playing. Some of the children have taken a liking to completing giant puzzles with 1000 pieces or more. Appropriate puzzles are put out on a special table until the puzzle is complete. Some of children work on it diligently every day while others saunter over and put in a piece or two daily. The finished product is preserved and displayed. We have found this activity to be particularly suitable for the children at the end of a very long day.
- At the Whitin EXTRA Program, This age-group continues to place an emphasis on homework assignments. So much so, that there is not as much time for socializing and working on extra projects as they would like. However, they have been experimenting with tactile science projects by making goop and slime and other very strange substances for exploration. They still manage to fit in some cooking and crafts along with social skill building. They are also working on a unit to present to the Taft children during February vacation.
- The Kindergarten childcare children are learning science by working with snow and ice. They are also starting a unit on dinosaurs and the earth in prehistoric times. They have built a volcano and are amazingly adept at learning many of the dinosaur names.

Professional Development:

Staff participated in professional development on January 2nd. All the daycare staff is now CPR/First Aid Certified!

Emily Finnell, Matt Adams, Catie Renaud and Tim Scott continue their studies while working with our program. One of the benefits of before and after school positions is that the job allows an employee to go to school during the day and then work from 2:30-6. This has historically been a very positive recruitment point when looking for new staff. This year, however, it has been difficult for the students to keep their classes to that tight a schedule. It has caused some staffing issues and we are working hard to avoid that in the future.

Mrs. Baldanza continues to participate in NEDDS and MSAC, and is planning to attend the PEAR conference at Harvard in April.

Upcoming Events:

School Vacation Week, February 18th-22rd, we are open the 19th thru the 22rd and closed on Monday the 18th. We have planned a winter carnival, a summer Luau, a film festival, all sorts of fun breakfasts and lunches and an array of amazing activities within that framework. Due to a tight budget situation, we will not be going on a field trip or bringing in any outside enrichment. We are hoping for an amazing week and the staff are including the children in the planning and preparing for it.

Registration for next year is already out for the Pre-K and Kindergarten. Registration for the 1st-8th grade will be complete as soon a firm calendar is established. ALL rates must go up next year in order to present a balanced budget. Attached is the Information Sheet for the Pre-K and K application which states the new rates which are subject to approval by the school committee. I will be making a presentation sometime in March.