

For the Love of It



May 2011

Admin News



Kristie and Kathy went to the Capital with Jill Keenlance and Heather Waltenberg, two parents from Policy Council, as part

of the Spring WHSA Advocacy. We met with Senator Lassa's aide; with Representative Peterson's aide; with Representative Clark's aide; with Senator Olson's aide; with Representative Molepske's aide and with Representative Ballweg. At each visit Jill and Heather shared their story of the importance of the Head Start and Early Head Start programs in their lives. Jill also shared work samples done by the children in her child's three-year - old class – a sample of their



drawing of a person and their name writing from fall to spring. All



the staffers were impressed by the changes in the children's abilities (a picture does tell a thousand words). On April 28, Representative Joan Ballweg visited the Wautoma Early Learning Center and Senator Julie Lassa visited FDC.



Kristie and Monica M attended the Family Literacy Conference in St Louis, MO. Marlee Matlin, Bruce Feiler, and Fantasia were featured speakers at the three day conference.

Kathy, Kristie, Monica and Bobbie Jo attended a WDEC sponsored lecture series in Tomah. Linda Espinosa, the author of "Getting It Right for Young Children from Diverse Backgrounds" spoke about teaching children from poverty and from different ethnic backgrounds, including many tips for working with Dual Language Learners.

Carla spoke to Kathie Gray, the Region V Program Specialist who requested a written proposal regarding the changes in Marquette County be sent to her by May 9th. A rent figure was obtained from the Westfield School District as were moving estimates for the playground and center supplies. The proposal to reduce the enrollment slots in Marquette County

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Staff News

Monica M: was awarded the Fern M. Horn scholarship at UWSP & attended a banquet on April 29 to accept the honor.

Rachel S: I am a huge Oprah show fan. As this is her last season, I have been trying for months to get tickets to a show. My wishes have been answered and I will be attending an Oprah show taping, with my mom, on Friday, May 6th. According to the emails, my mom and I will be part of Oprah show history, as we take part in her

last and BIGGEST "Make over" show in Oprah history. We also received a \$100 gift certificate to Old Navy for a new outfit to wear to the show. I am so thankful for this opportunity and I will pay it forward in the months to come.

Deana H: My son, Danny, is in the Navy, stationed in Japan aboard the USS George Washington. 2 hours after he got to Japan and called us to let us know he arrived safely, the earthquake hit and later the tsu-

nami. Luckily, he didn't feel a thing or get too wet. However, the radiation was a different story. His ship was in dock for annual repairs when orders came in, they had to leave with a ship that wasn't 100% with non-crew members on board performing some of the updates and repairs. His ship sailed far enough away from Japan that the radiation couldn't affect them & the coast was clear the USS George Washington returned to Japan.

Center News



WELC: April 12, 2011 was our 4th annual Dads and Kids Olympics. The evening started with a

family meal and then we went outside to start the fun. The athletes participated in a sack race, egg race, and obstacle course. After completing all three activities the athletes received a gold medal!

CELC: This project started after we read the story *The Great Blue House*. We were already



talking about construction and the children decided that we should build a house like our story. We were lucky enough to have Eric the builder visit us and help with the frame. Everything just sort of snowballed from there. We built walls, a roof,

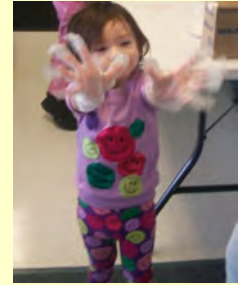
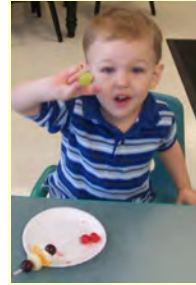


Painted, laid a tile floor, cut out windows and then moved in! After we had our furniture inside we continued to decorate by creating framed art for the walls and even made a flat screen TV complete with a remote control (it always seemed to be on the *Sponge Bob* channel!).

CELC: Bonnie Elandt's class read "All the Colors We Are" and then we compared our skin colors.



EHS Waupaca held socials including fun foods and nutritious meals including a Spaghetti Dinner social and parent



training/Brunch with Alyson from UWEX. We made fruit kabobs at 2 of our socials for snack. So easy! Kids didn't know what was funner-making the kabobs or wearing the plastic gloves.

For Week of the Young Child, Waupaca's EHS made a bulletin board with Waupaca HS to be displayed at the Waupaca County courthouse. Finally, Waupaca



EHS joined Waupaca HS at their end of school year picnic at Swan Park. Ms. Vicki designed, baked and decorated the cake/s.

NL: Pat Grossman contributed pictures from a successful Week of the Young Child bike parade, and other festivities.



2011 Volunteer Banquet



The volunteer banquet was held for parent and community volunteers on April 28th at Spencer Lake Christian Center in Waupaca. A total of 53 volunteers and 47 staff attended.

Awards were given to the top volunteer at each center and home based option, top community volunteer and Policy Council Representatives. Entertainment was storyteller Betty Manion, who solicited parent participation in an adaptation of the story, Stone Soup. The banquet was facilitated by Monica Meinholz.



Twelve Storytelling Tips by Jean Warren

When working with preschoolers you may find it almost impossible to keep them interested or focused unless you first capture their interest, imagination and cooperation. Do not assume that very young children will want to sit quietly while you read to them, even if you occasionally show them the pictures in a book. Preschoolers need to feel that they are part of the story telling process. Here are some tips that I have found helpful.

- Bring in an object that is found in the story and let the children inspect, feel and talk about the object. Have they ever seen one before? Do they know what it is for? Would they like to hear a story that contains this ob-

ject?

- Get your children involved by offering them a felt board story. Let the children help you place appropriate felt pieces on the board as they appear in the story.
- Have children make puppets that represent characters in the story to hold up as you read about the character in the story.
- If the story you want to read, is written a little too involved for preschoolers, don't hesitate to make up your own version of the story as you turn the pages.
- Preschoolers love rhyme stories because they can anticipate what the words at the end of the sentences will be. Children especially love to have you leave off the last word of a 4 line stanza in a rhyme story for them to

shout out.

- Preschoolers also love stories that are repetitive in nature. Stories like the Three Little Pigs or the Three Billy Goats Gruff, enable children to learn the repeated phrases and repeat them with you as they come up in the story.

- Preschoolers love hearing the same story over and over. They like to be able to know what will happen ahead of time.

- Any time you can get preschoolers involved in the story, you have a better chance of getting them to stay focused on the story. Try having a couple of children at a time act out what is happening in the story.

- Complex stories are not good for young children. Some people say that you should have no more characters in a story than the age of the children.

- You can also help children remember the different characters in the story by introducing them to the characters before you start reading. You can have cutouts of the characters placed on a felt board, dolls or puppets to represent them.

- Short stories are best for young children. Most children's stories are written for first and second grade students and may be too complex for the average preschoolers. This is why short fables, folktales and picture books are the best for this age.

- If you like a folktale or fable but the plot is too confusing for your children, do not hesitate to simplify it to make it more enjoyable. If it has a surprise ending, be sure to keep that in the story.

May 2011

Ramneek Sidhu and Maggie Czaikowski are the Book Bingo Winners!

1-7 National Family Week
1-7 National Pet Week
2-8 Children's Book Week
6-12 National Nurses Week
15-21 National Police Week
15-21 National Transportation Week

Admin News *(cont. from pg. 1)*

from 56-40 and to move the center from Montello to the more centrally located Oxford Elementary School was presented to and approved by both the CAP Board and Policy Council. Conversations have also occurred with the Montello principal and the current landlord. It is expected to hear from Region V in June.

Carla, Kathy, April, Bobbie Jo, Tera and Amy met with parents **at the Children's Discovery Center** to explain the benefits of collaboration with Head Start and to answer any questions about programming in the Head Start classroom located there in

the fall.

Carla, April and Amy completed the first mentoring meeting with CCR&R for the Youngstar Rating System.

Plans are being finalized to offer summer school programming **through the Children's Discovery Center**.

Selection for Head Start center and home based option enrollment opportunities for the 2011-12 program year occurred April 26-28 for all counties except Marquette. Selection for the new site in Oxford will take place on May 23. Currently

three year old applications for Portage County are low. HS and EHS Parent Satisfaction surveys were distributed in April. Results will be tabulated in May. A Family Development Managers Meeting for CAP Staff occurred on April 7th. Topics included a Legislative update (Karl Pnazek); Collaborative Leadership (Monica Meinholz); Challenges facing undocumented families (Luis Garza - UMOS); 40 Developmental Assets (Mary Ann Krems) and Organization and Time Management Skills (Marilyn Herman - UW Extension).

Exams for the University of Iowa Family Development training were taken by 10 HS and EHS staff. Results should be back by the end of May.

EHS staff were trained on the Family Development Data collection process on April 15th.

A Four-Year-Old Kindergarten survey was sent out to all families with a child enrolled in 4K to assess the program.

The program received a Program Instruction from ACF explaining that the ARRA funded Early Head Start program would be continued until the end of March 2012. This was great news for the ECD program!

Summer Plans...

Mary N: Dan & I are spending 5 days in June in Wisconsin Dells in a 3-bedroom suite with our 5 adult children and spouses and 3 grandbabies. It should be a lot of chaotic fun! Can't wait!

Shannon P: I will be taking some FML time to spend with my parents at their place on the lake in Sauk Centre, MN. My Dad was diagnosed with prostate cancer last July, and recently was told that he has 6-18 months to live. Therefore, I want to spend as much time as possible with him this summer.

Toni: On May 20, I am participating in ARTS WALK in Stevens Point again this year. My art work will be displayed in the store front of The Divepoint Scuba Shop. Come stroll the avenue and see some great artwork! Over Me-

morial Day weekend, I will also be in the Rising Star Mill Art show on May

28-29 at the historic mill on the Tomorrow River in Nelsonville. Take a drive and stop by!

Deana H: Work and school

Meghan C: We are taking a camping trip before the baby arrives in July. Then I will be home, enjoying being a Mom!

EHS Deana H says her class really enjoys Peek a Who!

