



The goal of "Child Talk" is to provide quarterly updates with parents and others interested in Northwest Child Development Centers. In each issue, we will share information about our centers, upcoming events, changes in the field of early childhood education and the special learning programs NWCDC offers.

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Language & Literacy Development Tips

The early years are critical to the language and literacy development of children. According to research, before the age of three years, young children begin to acquire some basic understanding about literacy and it's function. Even as infants, children begin to experiment with language. The following are some everyday tips for parents of young children ages birth through 3 years:

- Talk with your child about their daily experiences and their interest.
- Sing and chant childhood songs and familiar nursery rhymes.
- Make everyday trips to childcare facilities, home or shopping become excursions. Discuss the scenery, stores, houses, cars, tall buildings, bodies of water and other topics that will lead to questions and discussion.
- Use *descriptive* words whenever possible to describe events or objects such as *huge* tree, *playful* puppy, or *frightened* horse.
- Find the time and comfortable well-lit places to read to your child on a routine basis.
- Make reading enjoyable, and talk to your child about what is being read.
- Encourage your child to ask questions and make comments about what's read.
- Let your child see you reading books, newspapers, magazines, and mail. As a result, your child will eventually learn that reading is important to you.



Karatha Scott
Former ED - NWCDC

Small talk with Tony

Excitement is in the air... it's that time of year again. During the Holiday Season, Thanksgiving is the time of year that we take the opportunity to consciously count our blessings and show gratitude to one another. As I reflect on this year and look toward 2008, there are many accomplishments for which we can be thankful.

(cont. on page 7)

Center of the Quarter

Built in 1972, Model City CDC is nestled in an established neighborhood surrounded by big trees and lots of green grass. For twenty-five years the center has given local children and families the extra care that only a small school can.

Offered in partnership through Family Services, Model City offered its first Head Start class in 2003. Head Start students are provided individualized services in the areas of education and early childhood development; medical, dental, and mental health, nutrition, and parent involvement. The faculty especially considers each family's ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage and experiences.

The first More at Four class was offered in 2004 in partnership with Smart Start. More At Four students are provided high quality education with the focus on specific curriculums and preschool experiences that will enhance their school readiness.

With its long tradition of offering high quality early childhood education, Model City is able to provide each student, each parent, each family every consid-

eration. Parents take comfort in knowing that their children will receive extra attention on a daily basis from dedicated and compassionate teachers. The faculty pride themselves in their ability to work together in order to get the job done. As professional educators, they are aware that they have the awesome responsibility of laying the foundation of a young child's future academic success.



Model City Staff

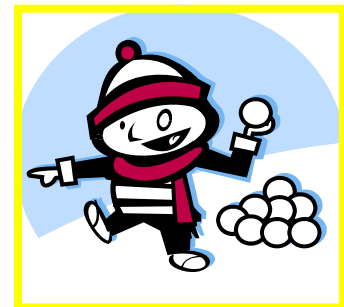
| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Lois Hicks | Center Director |
| Jeanette Kelley | More @ 4 Asst Teacher |
| Shonquila Thomas | More @ 4 Lead Teacher |
| Cynthia Woodruff | Head Start Asst Teacher |
| Sherry Byers | Head Start Teacher |
| Bridgette Leath | Floater |



If the Weather Outside is Frightful...

Moving forward into the winter months means the possibility of inclement weather. Closings for the Northwest Child Development Centers will be listed on WXII 12 News, WFHP Fox 8 and WFMY News 2. Parents and staff can also call Northwest Child Development Center at 721-1215 ext. 6 for a list of closings or delays. Those who have an after-hours emergency can call 721-1215 ext. 5 to leave a message and

a member of the staff or administration team will provide return communication as soon as possible.



Stokes Partnership for Children: A Helping Hand

Stokes Partnership for Children (SPC) works to improve those elements of family and community life in Stokes County that promote the learning, development potential, and well-being of young children through a partnership of families, communities and businesses. SPC is a non-profit organization led by local volunteers and is known primarily for administering Smart Start funds from the state legislature to support programs to benefit children age birth to five and their families. In this capacity, SPC is solution-oriented, bringing stakeholders together for the sake of the children.



SPC is also the contract administrator for the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program, serving children who are at risk and preparing them for success in school.

SPC administers a grant from the NC Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service to provide the AmeriCorps and Children Together (ACT) program in North Carolina. ACT members are placed in the child care setting in order to provide release time to teachers continuing their education and to provide age appropriate activities within the classroom.

A few of the many programs in Stokes County funded by Smart Start, include:

- AmeriCorps & Children Together – Provides a match to the grant from the NC Commission on Volunteerism and Community service grant.
- Child Care WAGE\$ Project – A statewide salary supplement program that rewards child care professionals for obtaining early childhood education

- DSS Subsidy – Assists families financially with child care services through the Stokes County Department of Social Services
- DSS Subsidy Coordinator – Administration for the subsidy program
- Outreach for School Readiness - playgroups offered in Sandy Ridge and Francisco focusing on school readiness activities for children in unregulated child care and their families
- Forsyth Tech Early Childhood Instructor - Provides college level early childhood education classes in Stokes County
- Healthier Children – Provides pediatric primary health care to young children at the Stokes Family Health Center
- KidSource Child Care Resource & Referral – Provides information and referrals to parents seeking childcare, provides resource library for parents and childcare providers, links childcare providers to training opportunities; and provides technical assistance to child care centers and homes

Stokes Partnership for Children also provides Breakfast with Santa - an event primarily for children with special needs or children who are deemed "at-risk." Children enjoy breakfast, have their picture taken with Santa, participate in arts and crafts and receive a free book and a toy.

For a complete listing of the service provided by SPC, visit www.stokespfc.com or contact Cindy S. Tuttle, SPC Executive Director, at 336-985-2676 or email buildingfoundations@stokespfc.com.



**More at Four
Halloween fun**

Parent to Parent

“I’m bored” are two little words that can pack a punch during the holidays. While you are running around buying and wrapping gifts, preparing meals and caught up in the holiday rush, it’s also important to be resourceful and plan for your child’s down time from their regular routine. The television and video games function well as electronic babysitters, but should be limited to two hours per day. So here are a few tips that will keep you sane and keep your child entertained:

- **Identify and schedule play dates.** In the weeks leading up to Christmas break, I would always team up with other moms and we would trade off childcare. It would enable each of us to get our needs met (like errand running and house cleaning) without having our children tagging along and whining.
- **Look for special events...** at the library, museums or local churches that would interest your child. It helps to have a day broken up by activities geared specifically to your child.

- **Involve your child...** in the baking, the shopping, or whatever activity you’ve got on your “to do” list. My children are thrilled to help me bake. And while there’s more of a mess to clean up when they “help,” you can use it as a time to show them how to clean!
- **Room reorganizing...** is another great activity. With presents coming into the house, it helps to declutter. Help your child decide what toys or books they would be willing to donate for others, meanwhile making room for what might be wrapped for them this holiday.
- **Get active...** throwing a ball, going for a walk, helping a neighbor are all great ways to keep the holiday pounds from hopping on your child and you. Do something active together each day.



And take advantage of quiet time by
(cont. on page 6)

Employee of the Quarter

Michelle Stewart has been with MudPies for 4 years. She has her certificate in Early Childhood from Forsyth Tech. Michelle is the co-teacher of the 3 - 4 year old group, the Ocean Divers. She is very pleasant and personable, and gets along well with all her peers. Michelle is very flexible as an



employee and a teacher. And she understands the importance of being flexible when teaching 3 year olds. On any given day or at any given time, she can be found on the floor engaging in activities with the children, and the girls love to “fix” Michelle’s hair. She demonstrates good teamwork with her co-workers, and is not afraid to face a difficult task or a difficult parent.

Congratulations, Michelle!



MudPies Frightfully Fun Fall Festival

MudPies CDC held it's 14th Annual Fall Festival on Friday, October 19th. Despite the cold, rainy weather the day was filled with sweet treats, games, food, parades and loads of FUN! The festivities began at 9:00 am with our annual Trick-or-Treating Costume Parade. The children went from room to room showing off their costumes and collecting goodies from their classmates and friends. We had princesses, fairies, bugs, clowns, ninjas, robots, cowboys and even a few ghouls and monsters join us for the day. Our 4's and 5's continued the parading to GMAC

Insurance. They were greeted by smiles, decorated halls and cubicles, and loads and loads of treats and goodies. The fun continued on into the evening hours from 6 - 8pm with food, fun, games, fun, activities and... oh, did we mention all the FUN! Our festival goes left Friday evening with their arms full of treats, goodies and huge smiles. Some left sleepy-eyed in their mom's or dad's arms. Whew, what a day of fun for everyone!

Mudpies December Holiday Calendar

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| Dec. 1- 19 | Angel Tree |
| Fri., Dec. 21 | Angel Tree Gift Delivery |
| Tues., Dec. 18 | Holiday Open House for Families |
| Fri., Dec. 21 | Christmas/Holiday Class Parties |



7th Annual Boo Bash: Another Successful Event

On October 24th, 25th, and 26th, the Junior League of Winston-Salem (JLWS) held three parties at Northwest Child Development Center preschools, including A Great Start Preschool, Model City Preschool, and Franciscan Preschool. Stories, related crafts, food, games, and dress-up activities were organized for the children. Children went home with a framed picture of themselves dressed up in costume and with prizes from the games they played during the morning. In addition, the JLWS



distributed over 160 goodie bags, each containing three books, a JLWS READ TO ME Parent Guide detailing the importance of reading to young children, coloring books and pencils, and a free pass donated by The Children's Museum of Winston-Salem. Almost 30 Junior League volunteers were involved in this annual event and all the children at the preschools had a wonderful time that week sharing smiles and celebrating reading!



Director of the Quarter



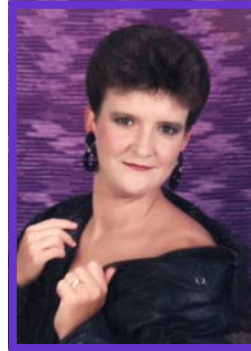
Congratulations, **Susan Hairston** of King CDC...our newest Director of the Quarter!

Ms. Hairston has been at the King CDC since September of 1988 where she started as the lead infant teacher. She was the lead two year old teacher until 1996 when she became the Assistant Director.

Ms. Hairston loves working with the children and seeing them grow. She also enjoys working with the teachers and watching them grow. "We are one big family at King CDC," Ms. Hairston says. "My first infant that I had back in 1988 came to King CDC this past May and brought me his graduation picture from West Stokes High School. He thanked

me for all of the love I had shown him the 5 years he was with me. I said he would always remember me. That really touched my heart and showed me that I can make a difference by loving a child that was not really mine."

When not at work, Ms. Hairston loves reading historical romance novels, planting in the spring and looking after her family, three children and her husband.



I have grown in my knowledge from the leadership of Mrs. Sharon White. I would not be who I am today without her love and the guidance she has shown me.

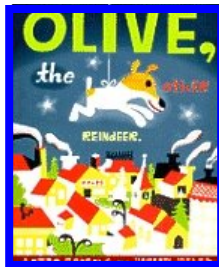
-Ms. Hairston

Parent to Parent

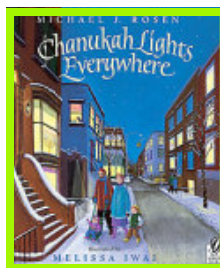
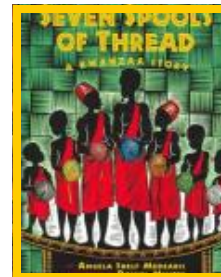
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during the holidays to read great holiday books with your child. The library or local book stores has many of the following favorites:

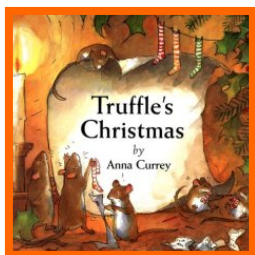
"Olive, the Other Reindeer" by J. Otto Seibold and Vivian Walsh... about a dog who thinks she's a reindeer and fills in for an absent reindeer to pull Santa's sleigh



"Seven Spools of Thread" by Angela Shelf Medearis...an original folktale about the seven sons of an Ashanti family



"Chanukah Lights Everywhere" by Michael J. Rosen...a little boy notices the special lights all over his neighborhood



"Truffle's Christmas" by Anna Currey...a mouse is torn between asking Santa for a new blanket for his family or a hula hoop for himself

Make the most of the holidays by taking time to make special memories with your child. A little thoughtful pre-planning will keep you and your child happy and interested throughout the holidays!



Small Talk with Tony

(cont. from page 1)

We continue to move forward and operate in this year's theme of *Cultivating Change*. Every day we can see the benefits of working hand in hand to ensure that we are effectively educating children and preparing them for a bright and productive future. As always, the participation and input of parents is essential to the success of each child care facility. We encourage all parents to join the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and work with staff and administration to shape the lives of the children we serve.

At Northwest Child Development Centers, we are excited about our plans to open the Danbury Child Development Center. This facility will have a More at Four Program and will offer many other programs and activities that make our centers unique.

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce a recent grant from the

Winston-Salem Foundation. The grant allows the organization to secure a resource development professional who will spearhead developing collaborations and partnerships with corporations, individuals, businesses and foundations that will provide resources and funding to enhance the programs and services provided by Northwest Child Development Centers.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and administration team, *we hope you all have a safe and wonderful holiday season.*

Tony L. Burton, III
Chief Executive Officer



Holiday Schedule

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| December 11 6:30-7:45 | MudPies Holiday Open House |
| December 11 | Mudpies Visit from Santa |
| December 14 | A Great Start Staff Christmas Party |
| December 15 | Mocksville Staff Christmas Party |
| December 19 | A Great Start Class Christmas Party |
| December 19 | Model City Class Christmas Party |
| December 20 | King More @ 4 Class and Staff Christmas Party |
| December 20 | Model City Staff Christmas Party |
| December 21 | Mocksville Class Holiday Party |
| December 21 | MudPies Angel Tree Gift Delivery |
| December 21 | Mudpies Class Christmas Party |
| December 21 | King Class Christmas Party |
| December 25 - 26 | All NWCDC Closed |



Special Announcements

A warm welcome to our newest employees!



A Great Start
Kartina Mann
Sheena Wimmer
Tameka Stephens
Tenicia Patrick
Anastasia Smith

Franciscan
Sheila Jetter
Arlene Bowen

King
Tracy Teague
Cynthia Mabe
Shawntavia Hart



MudPies
Debra Tranchese
Kenyata Cuthbertson



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Tony L. Burton, III
Chief Executive Officer

We're on the Web!
Visit us at:
www.nwcdc.org

