



Kachemak Kids

Early Learning Center

DECEMBER 2008
Volume 1, Issue 3

Director's Note

The board and staff would like to wish you all a happy and safe Holiday Season!

December Themes

- ◆ Winter Solstice
- ◆ Gingerbread
- ◆ Stars & Constellations

Welcome New Teachers and Subs

The hiring of new Teachers and substitutes is completed. We hope you have all had a chance to introduce yourselves and welcome Jackie Kondak, Sevea Kroll, and Amy Russell. We are pleased to have them on board.

Our new substitutes are Sandy Bridges and Michelle Fournier. Michelle is the past teacher and owner of Raspberry Lane School and she will be the preschool teacher the end of November and beginning of December on Mondays and Wednesdays when Bobbi is gone.

The locker area

Parents please help us keep the locker area tidy. All articles of clothing and foot wear need to be **inside** the lockers. When helping kids dress and undress, please help them get into the routine of putting all of the clothing and boots/shoes inside their lockers themselves.

All day child care families

When picking up children at the end of the day, keep in mind that everyone has had a long day and the excitement of seeing family can create undesirable behavior. Help teachers keep the peace by making the transition calmly.

Teacher Tips

We will be working on writing our names at school. Here are a few tips that you can use when writing names at home:

- Write the first letter capital but all other letters lower case. This is what your child will learn in kindergarten, so s/he might as well learn to write it this way from the start.
- Use yellow marker to write a name, then ask your child to trace the letters with a different color.
- Write from top to bottom.



Ellen and her
"picture frame"

This month at Kachemak Kids

Holiday Giving Project

We will be going to Safeway on a field trip to share the Holiday spirit of giving. Each child needs to bring \$2.00 to buy food for a "Share The Spirit" food basket. Children will also do a fan dance for the bakery department because they gave us the cardboard circles to make our native dance fans.

Pratt Museum

We'll go to the Pratt Museum on the 16th to learn how animals adapt for the winter months.

Gingerbread House Decorating

We will be visiting with the Grandmas and Grandpas at Friendship Center to decorate gingerbread houses. Homer News will be featuring this event in the paper! I will need Adult House builders on Thursday the 11th - if you want to have some fun talk to Bobbi.

Pajama Day

In honor of winter solstice we will be spending the 22nd in our jammies! Have your kids come dressed in their best, it should be fun!

Reminders

- You may qualify for state childcare assistance if you are working or taking classes. Contact Ronnie at Haven House at 235-7712 or visit <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dpa/programs/ccare/> for more info.
- If you have not already done so, you need to get background checks from the State Troopers post in Anchor Point to volunteer. It takes only a few minutes and costs \$20.
- KKELC will be closing early on Dec. 24th, at 4pm and will be closed December 25th and 26th.
- Please read and review the updated Parent Handbook located on our website at www.kachemakkids.org or there is a copy to review at the check-in desk. Then sign the attached form and return to the KKELC folder at the check-in desk. The new policy will go into effect December 1st.
- If you are volunteering on a day that your child does not attend please check in advance with staff as space for extra children is limited.
- Please check your Parent Communication Folder regularly-this is the best way for teachers to communicate with you on a regular basis. Whenever you drop off your snacks in the morning, make it a habit to check your Folder at that time.

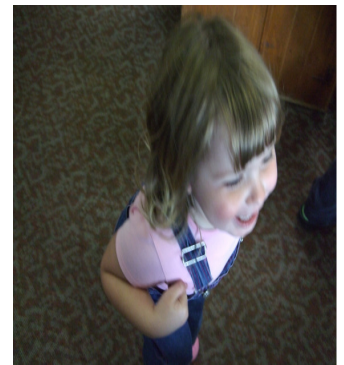
Try this at Home!

Tub Crayons

Spray an ice-cube tray with vegetable oil spray. Grate a bar of Ivory Soap using the smallest holes on a cheese grater. Add 10-15 drops of food coloring and 2 TBSP of warm water to the grated soap. Add more warm water, 1 TBSP at a time, and stir until it looks like a thick dough. Press the mixture into 4 sections of an ice-cube tray and freeze for 30 minutes. Pop the crayons out of the tray and let them dry for a day or two before using.

Welcome New Kachemak Kids

*Cassidy Carrol
Maggie Mae Gaylord
Lauren Letkites
Seamus, Theo &
Beatrix McDonough
Zak Wylde*



Good News!

We have received 2 grants to help us finish the Natural Playground project-one for \$250 from the Homer Rotary, and one for \$500 from the Homer Foundation. Research has shown that children who get outside are happier, healthier and smarter. Our goal is to obtain grants and volunteers to complete the playground by April for "Children in Nature" month. Contact Emilie Otis at 235-0706 or emmy@xyz.net if you would like to lend a hand.



“Jake, Lindsey and Lawson on the playground”

Board of Directors

Chair: Lolita Brache
299-0694

Vice-Chair: Marlina
Hogdgon
235-6414

Treasurer: Jenny Martin
235-9727

Secretary: Emilie Otis
235-0706

Members: Shannon
McBride-Morin
235-2604

Thank You!

- *Homer Foundation and the Homer Rotary for their grants to finish the Natural Playground*
- *The Gear Shed for the net for the loft and the playground*
- *Dan Boone, Tela O'Donnell, The Otis family and Chris Morin for their help in building the loft*

Parent Corner

Nearly every family met or exceeded their 6 hours of parent time in October, for a total of 227 hours! Way to go KKELC families! The first half of November has a total of 44½ hours. We encourage you to spend as much time in the classroom as possible. If you do any volunteer work outside of the classroom, a sheet has been put up near the check-in area to track your hours. Please make sure to fill it out, or you may not receive credit for the month.

Our September Escrip earnings are a little more than \$17. Remember, have your friends and relatives sign up as well at www.escrip.com – our group number is 500016330.

Board News

Attached is our new list of board member chairs and staff contact numbers. You'll notice we have some vacant seats. If you know of a candidate who would be interested in becoming a board member, please have them contact any board member to learn more about being on the KKELC board.

Our next meeting is Dec 15th from 5p - 7p at KKELC. Visitors, parents, and potential board members are welcome to attend.

We also want to recognize and thank 2 outgoing board members, Claudia Haines and Josh Tobin. Claudia has been with KKELC from the beginning and has been instrumental every step of the way in the success of this organization. Josh served as our vice-president and has provided us great support in advertising.

Wish List

We have a never ending wish list. Take a look and see if you could help us out.

- Crayola “Classic” eight markers
- Glue sticks
- Crackers or Rice Cakes to use during our family style snack
- Baby food jars (30)
- A “take-a-part” old computer, vcr, TV,.... Anything the kids can open and pull pieces out of. Check with Sevea before bringing into school.
- Small pillow cases (10)
- Classroom cleaning
- More help in the classrooms
- A handy person to help finish the loft (routed, sanded, stained, carpeted, net attached around the sides, steps installed)
- A creative person to make us:
 1. a paint drying rack for each classroom; see a sample picture in the classroom.
 2. A sleeping mat storage system (see Sierra)

Our Mission: To provide a safe, nurturing, cooperative-style preschool and child care program that strengthens families through the education of parents and staff. We strive to provide awareness and role modeling for the Homer community regarding safe, nurturing child care, child development, and integrated learning for children, their families, and other community members.



December 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 Bobbi returns!	6
7	8 Creative Classroom visits Homer Senior Center	9	10	11 Gingerbread House Decorating @ the Friendship Center	12 Preschool visits Homer Senior Center	13
14	15 Board Meeting 7pm @ KKELC	16 Pratt Museum & Safeway	17	18 Private Islands & Oceans "Discovery Lab"	19	20
21	22 Pajama Day	23	24 KKELC Hours 7am-4pm	25 Merry Christmas closed	26 closed	27
28	29	30	31			

*Extra hands are welcome for field trips, but please check with the staff if you want to come on a day that your child normally does not attend and/or before bringing siblings.