

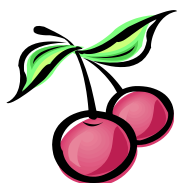


# Village News

June, 2011

## Nature Happenings At the Village

We're moving into spring & diving right into a variety of outdoor projects and gardening activities. Our living willow shade domes are sprouting leaves! We're so excited they're taking root, AND we're proud to watch as the children learn to respect and care for plants. They are making a great effort to be careful when playing in and around the garden spaces, and they all enjoy helping with watering & other nurturing duties.



We've added some edible garden



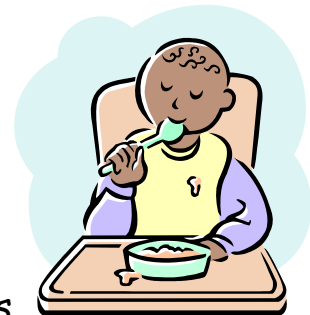
spaces including herbs, kiwi vines, blueberries and cherries, along with lots of vegetables! Thank you for the many plant and seed donations

for our garden spaces. If you'd like to read some ideas to try at home check out this link:<http://www.kidsgardening.com/growingideas/projects/july04/pg1.html>

## Keeping the Village Tops

At our request, our Quality Enhancement consultant and our consultant from the Health Department will be working with us throughout the summer. We appreciate these caring ladies and each of you as we work together to keep Creative Village a top quality center for all.

It's required that all lunch items have a name/date label, including cups & other drinks. We'll be sharing updated guides on nutrition requirements soon, but please be sure your child's lunch includes healthy choices every day. Healthy foods =



healthy children ☺ and healthy eating habits last a lifetime! Please ask your child's teachers if you're not sure how to meet the guidelines.

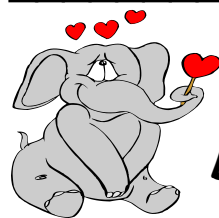


We'll now be offering sunscreen for anyone interested: Equate and Up & Up brands will be available in SPF 50. If you'd like to have teachers apply the Village sunscreen, please sign that **specific permission slip** in your child's room. Of course, we'll still apply a different brand of your choice if you prefer (just be sure teachers have updated slips for any brand you bring).

**A BIG thanks** to Hannah & Flynn's daddy, Patrick, for improving our Sandboxes and shade sails... He has many projects on his list & we appreciate his help!



**And a BIG thanks** to Claire's mom, Stephanie Wallace. Ms. Stephanie is so sweet & considerate & always putting together special events to recognize our teachers here at the Village!



## ***Don't Forget***

**\*\*Creative Village will be closed June 27<sup>th</sup> through July 4<sup>th</sup> for Summer Prep Week & Independence Day.**

**\*\*Father's Day is June 19th**

**\*\*Please include your child's name on all tuition checks so we can be sure your account receives the credit.**

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## **Teacher Notes**



### **Infant/One's Room**

We hope that everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day weekend. We are trying to keep our little ones as cool as possible in this hot weather. We are spending at least 30 minutes outside each day, and we will be playing in the water table too. Remember to bring extra summer clothes and hats for your little ones so that they can play safely outside.

As our babies are getting older, our room is transitioning from an Infant Room to an Older Infant/ Toddler Room. We will be changing our look a little, and adding cots and older toys. We are also asking parents to help us by bringing in pictures of our little ones and their families to help decorate the walls with art.

Also, every child needs a bottle, sippy cup and bowl for every meal. We are not allowed to wash them in the room, due to state laws. Thank you for all of your help, and have a beautiful month of June!

*Ms Petra and Ms Donna*

## Toddler Room

Welcome warm weather! We will be working on sign language this month and will begin by learning the signs for "more" and "please." We will be using pictures along with the signs, so you can practice at home with your child.

As the summer heat rises, outdoor water play will be introduced. Water days will be sporadic during the afternoons, so please bring your child a swimsuit to leave at the Village (we will wash them here). Or, if you prefer, some little ones in the past have had fun just playing in their diapers. Little swimmers swim diapers work best as they do not absorb so much water and leak gel outside.

During the month of June we will also be doing lots of other outdoor activities, such as blowing bubbles and coloring with chalk. If you would like to donate these or any other fun items please feel free!

Lastly, a few reminders: Please replace winter clothes with a change of summer clothes in your child's cubby. Also, Father's Day is June 19th!

*Ms. Trisha and Ms. Krystal*

## Two's & Three's Room

Happy June from the 2's and 3's Room! We are so excited for all of the wonderfully warm weather we are having. This month we will begin having water day once a week. Since the day will change depending on the weather and other specials (reading / music), we will send a note home the day before water day and just ask that your child comes to school dressed in their swimsuit / water play clothes, with sunscreen already applied. Please remember to bring an extra change of dry clothes for that day as well as a towel! Also, please check the door for a sun- screen permission sign-up sheet if you'd like us to use our Village's sunscreen (or you may provide an alternative brand

as always, with appropriate signed permission slip).

Last month we learned all about R and S, & we studied spring, rain, and space. Our favorite part about space was watching the astronauts float around the space shuttle on a NASA video and making "astronaut food" of our own! We also really enjoyed creating the surface of the moon and practicing our moon walks. Ask your child about the planets revolving around the sun. They learned a cute song and might want to show it off!

We will see some changes this summer in our classroom group as some of the children move up to the 4 year old Preschool Room, and other new faces join us! Allie and Eva have joined our class, Ms. Gretchen has moved upstairs from the Toddler Room, and Ms. Abby is helping out on Monday and Wednesday afternoons. Ms. Cassie will also be out quite a bit this month while she gets married! (YAY!), so there will be some other teachers helping out (Ms. Kim will be subbing for a few days, too!). We hope everyone has a safe and happy June!

*Ms. Cassie and Ms. Gretchen*

## PreSchool Room

Dear Families,

Wow, it is already June and almost summer, and the year has flown by! We can hardly believe that some of our little preschoolers will be graduating this Friday and off to the land of elementary school! We will deeply miss our graduates! As a reminder, graduation will be held this Friday at 9:30-10:30.

We have had a wonderful month of May. One highlight was going to the Nature Center on a field trip and seeing all of the animals and exhibits. This month, we also enjoyed learning about insects. We made 3-D sculptures, collaged bug creations, investigated the woods and caught insects and worms. We even made an edible bug snack. Don't worry! We didn't eat any real bugs!

We are transitioning into a summer theme, where we will play in the water a lot and enjoy bringing our centers outdoors.

We hope that everyone has had a chance to look at the class photo book and see all of the wonderful moments that were captured from this memorable year. The photo book is for sale for \$70. Please see Ms.Bo for details.

As early preschool educators, we had the chance to attend the Western Regional Child Care Conference a few weeks ago. The conference was very informative and provided us with more new insights into working with young children. Some of the information shared by the presenters focused on the importance of helping children learn to problem solve at an early age. This is one of the main goals of an early childhood educator. We learned that children at this level are not developmentally ready for being instructed on literacy skills. We learned that it is more appropriate and beneficial to introduce different types of literature to the children, both fiction and nonfiction. Simply reading to them serves as a means of instilling the love of books and providing the foundation needed to learn literacy skills in elementary school. We were reminded about the importance of fostering joy and a sense of natural curiosity in children by allowing them to be guided by their own interests. We, as teachers, work to embrace their interests and encourage them to follow their heart and fully live in the moment. Thanks for being such fantastic parents!

*Ms.Bo and Ms.Kristine*

**AND, thanks to our part time teachers who make this all possible, including Alison, Denise, Abby, Tara & our wonderful subs!**



## Recommended Reading:

### The Nature Principal

*By Richard Louv*

The author of one of our favorite books, Last Child in the Woods, suggests that adults need more



experiences in nature too, for physical and emotional health. He promotes the

mind/body/nature connection, and the importance of developing an attachment to the land and the natural history of your region. A great reference for practical activities "to bring us back down to earth".

*And for the Kids.....*

### The Sun Egg

*By Elsa Beskow*

This book is admittedly for some of your older pre-schoolers, given the vocabulary and the more lengthy descriptions, but full of cute imagination and adventure. A large orange sphere has fallen into the woods.

"It must be a Sun Egg fallen from



the sky!" A sweet elf and her friends gradually find out what it is, after some very imaginative possibilities.

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