



# Village News

February, 2009

## Thank You Parents!

Thank you to our Village families for spreading the word about Creative Village Child Center. Your enthusiasm for our continued success is well appreciated, and evident in our growing list of referred parents.

*And thank you again, parents, for all of the thoughtful gifts to our teachers over the holidays. We're very invested in your children while you're at work, and the acknowledgement touches us.*



\*We now have a **tuition drop box** in the foyer. Make sure that a teacher acknowledges your check with a written receipt. If you are paying in cash, please give it directly to a teacher.

\*Although **plastic bags** are great for recycling, please be careful not to leave them in cubbies or any place that is

accessible to little ones. Our teachers keep them up high and out of reach until recycled.

*\*Check our website for the **Monthly Snack Menu**. Feel free to bring a substitute snack if your child doesn't like ours one day. We encourage a lite and nutritious snack, following a good breakfast at home.*



## Spaghetti Dinner Benefit

Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>  
4-6 PM

Swannanoa  
Dept.

Join us in helping to contribute to medical costs for little Shayla. Contributions will also be made for overall children's cancer research. Some of you know Shayla from her occasional visits to the Village. The dinner will cost \$6 per person, including entrée, drink and dessert. Raffle tickets are being sold as well, \$1 each or \$6 for 5. See our bulletin

board for more information.

## ~ Staff Additions ~

Please welcome two new wonderful teachers, **Carla Frye** and **Maree Harvey**. They would be happy to talk with you about their history and their interests, whenever you have a chance to chat with them. There will be more details in the next newsletter.

## Children & Nature Network



This is a growing movement nation-wide, with the goal of connecting children to nature and the outdoors. We at **The Village** are firm believers that children who play, explore and create in the outdoors are mentally and physically healthier. Outdoor experiences have been linked to better school performance, higher self-esteem, good self-discipline and good, cooperative problem solving.

We need parents to help us get involved in this movement! - As spring approaches, we will be working hard to develop a children's vegetable and flower garden, further develop our water table and sprinkler activities, and talk about backyard birds and mammals. As parents, the sky's the limit!

- What about organizing an ongoing Saturday or Sunday afternoon hike that's appropriate for the little ones? The woods or park near your house may be perfect, and several neighbors and Villagers may want to join you. **The Village** will support you in any way we can!



Check out our parent library for articles entitled "Children & Nature Network", "Play in the Early Years" and "Alliance for Childhood". There will also be a few books available, discussed in *Recommended Reading* below.

## Recommended Reading

### Geography of Childhood: Why Children Need Wild Places

*By Gary Paul Nahban*

A conservation biologist shares his observations of children on western ranches and Indian reservations, and their positive connections with nature.

### I Love Dirt: 52 Activities To Help You and Your Kids Discover the Wonders of Nature

*By Jennifer Ward*  
*-This book is awesome!!-*

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