



Village News

September, 2010

More Music!

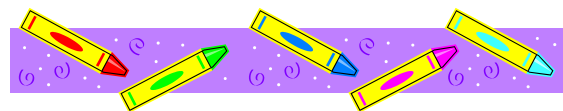
Welcome **Billy Zanski** of **Skinny Beats**. He will be coming to the Village once a week to help us all continue to bring out our own individual music beats! He's sooooo much fun, and will be spending 30 minutes in each classroom once a week. He will be with us every Friday morning, to compliment Wednesdays as *Dance Days*, and Thursdays as *Storytelling Days*.



AND ...Billy has agreed to help us design & install our outdoor music area, possibly

using our Remo drums in a large circle so lots of Villagers can play at once. Check out his website at:

www.skinnybeatsdrums.com.



New School Year Transition

Creative Village has had a very successful beginning to the new school year, from new teachers, to great new Villagers and the welcoming arms of our current Villagers, to the "graduation" of some of our pre-schoolers to kindergarten. *However, as parents, please feel free to let us know if there's anything else we can do for your little one to ensure a happy and successful experience with us.*

"Growing Up Wild"

Growing Up Wild is an early childhood education program that encourages a child's wonder and interest in nature, and his or her exploration of wildlife and the natural world. We have ordered their Activity Guide, written by



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the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Developed for children ages 3 to 7, it includes hands-on, nature-based activities, and supports developmentally appropriate skills at all young learning levels. We do have several teachers at the Village who have some exposure to these activities, and we hope to incorporate them into our day! Hopefully, we will be able to get some formal training in the near future from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.



*Beginning in September, teachers will no longer be laundering Villagers' nap blankets at the center. We're asking parents to take their blankets home at the

end of each week and return them after washing. This change will allow teachers to spend more quality teaching hours in the classroom, and will also meet the sanitation inspector's request to keep the kitchen focus on food prep. We are still able to launder cot and crib sheets in the center laundry area, as well as bibs and art smocks. *Thanks for understanding!*

*A reminder to parents to please return books to our parent library after you have finished reading them, so that they can be available to all parents. *We're glad that you take advantage of our book offerings!*

Our Teachers are Committed To Each Other Too!

Ms. Allison and her family have decided to help out a fellow teacher in need. We've all been worried at the Village about Ms. Petra's car & the huge price tag for repairs. Ms. Allison knew just how to solve the

problem & announced today that she's donating a 2001 Kia to Petra & family! It's wonderful to see families supporting each other in such a giving way. *It Takes A Village!*

Teacher Notes



Infant Room

Hello parents! Fall is around the corner, and we are exploring some new changes in the Infant Room. We would like to welcome **Ms. Donna**, who has come to us with lots of experiences. She has worked with children of all ages for over 25 years. Also, **Ms. Anna** came back to help us with our little ones, and we cannot forget **Ms. Allison**, who will be a part of our team as well. Our babies are getting use to all the changes, and most of them are happy to explore moving all about our room!

Reminders to please bring an extra change of clothes for your Villager, and please update all new information for our records. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know. We are here for you! Have a good fall !!!!

Ms. Petra, Ms. Donna & Ms. Allison

Toddler Room

Hello village parents! We have had some exciting changes in our Toddler Room last month. We welcomed back, **Ms. Kim**, who was a teacher in the Toddler Room last school year. She is happy to see familiar faces along with many new ones! **Ms. Gretchen** joins our class this year as well. She has recently moved to the area with an educational background in art education and psychology. Ms. Gretchen has been having so much fun getting to know our wonderful toddlers and families. This month our classroom theme will be " Back to

School." We will learn all about how to be caring and compassionate classmates. Our class will take turns playing games and participating in teamwork activities. They will also learn all about sharing and how to use gentle hands and feet when we play "Hide And Go Hug." Our song this month will be The Wheels on the Bus, and we will read weekly theme books. The Toddlers and teachers are excited to creatively learn and grow everyday! * Thank you parents for continuing to label your child's snacks, lunches and water bottles.
Ms. Kim & Ms. Gretchen

Two's Room

Happy September! As we move into the beginning of a new school year and the fall, we will be starting a lot of fun new activities. Last week, we were visited by Jennifer Brewer from Earth Fare, who cooked with us and helped us make fruit kabob rainbows for our tummies. Hopefully, she will be coming to our class regularly to do cooking and healthy eating activities with the children. We will also have someone coming in to do drumming and other music, and we will continue to see Ms. Suzanne on Thursdays for library reading time. As the summer leaves us, so does water day. While we will still have a small water table set up outside from time to time, we will no longer be changing into bathing suits for sprinkler play.

There are some new changes in our classroom as well. We said goodbye to James, Tyler, and Ava Rose who have moved on to the Preschool Room, and we welcomed Amaya and Talib to our room. We will be saying goodbye to Mary Day, Amelia, and Finn, as they move on to other schools. We will miss them all!

Please be sure to read our parents' white board in the classroom above the cubbies for any daily messages, as well as a summary of our daily activities.

We have been learning the "A" sound and doing fun activities with animals

and objects that begin with the letter "A." We will be spending one to two weeks on each letter and learning what sound it makes, how to recognize it, how to make the letter in sign language, and also some words that begin with each letter. We look forward to another fun and exciting month in the two and three year old room!

Ms. Stephanie & Ms. Cassie

Preschool Room

By now you know that your children have 2 new teachers, Ms. Bo and Ms. Kristine. We are very excited to be working with your children and have enjoyed the opportunity to get to know each child and develop relationships with each one. Over the past month we have been making LOTS of changes, no doubt that you have noticed. The children have adapted well to these changes, including lots of new expectations and routines.

We have had several students leave our class to begin Kindergarten and have had several new children move into our room from the younger class. So far, they are doing wonderfully and learning quickly. Also we have begun dance class again as well as having visits from Ms. Suzanne from the library who reads to the children. We look forward to inviting Ms. Jennifer from EarthFare who will be coming to cook with the children about once a month.

Our theme for the past several weeks has been "Making Friends". During this time we have been discussing different ways to be and not to be a friend to someone. We have talked about including everyone and not excluding anyone. We have been working directly with the children to give them the tools they need to communicate their needs, wants and feelings to teachers and to their friends. They are learning to say things like "how can I help you to feel better?", "how long until my turn?"

and "I don't like that, please don't do that to me". The children are learning to mediate for themselves and to work together to all get along. There have and will continue to be many bumps along the way, but they are coming along nicely. If you have any questions or concerns about anything, please don't hesitate to talk to us...you know where to find us!

Ms. Bo and Ms. Kristine

Recommended Reading:

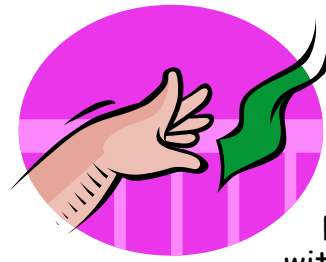
365 Perfect Things to Say to Your Kids By Maureen Healy

This book offers great and simple suggestions for parents and caregivers when communicating with children. Daily words and interactions tend to combine both Eastern and Western thought in inspiring and empowering kids to be caring, resilient, creative and self-loving. *We all use some of these comments, but it's always great to expand our communication skills!*



Baby Signs: How to Talk with Your Baby Before Your Baby Can Talk By Linda Acredolo

This book and the following one are based on current child development research suggesting that early signing can help babies and toddlers express their emotions and needs, and reduce frustration and aggressive behaviors. Some baby friendly alternatives to the American Sign Language approach help teach babies to communicate with simple signs.



My First Signs By Annie Kubler

This additional book on signing with young children is formatted as a large board book with great illustrations that make it fun and practical to use. Each page shows pictures of babies and toddlers illustrating signs for simple words and concepts. Signs and facial expressions accompany each word.

The Village staff encourage signing, and now we have more resources!

All books will be made available in our parent library.

National Wildlife Federation

The NWF has developed an **Outdoor Family Fun Guide** for parents, within their "Be Out There" program. The "easy outdoor activities for happy, healthy families" includes an alphabet hunt, nature detectives, leafy fun, and take a moon walk. Just go to their website and sign up for their **Be Out There** program, and you can download the guide for free. www.nwf.org



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