

# Oak Lane Child Care Center August 2010 Newsletter



## Director's Corner

And so it is August--- just in case you have not noticed. August always comes with a “thud” for me. I can no longer put off the inevitable. Our children who are going off to kindergarten are ready to go and by this time next month that is where they will be. Along with the children we will be saying farewell to Maureen Algieri our wonderful Toddler teacher for the past 20+ years. It has been a remarkable experience for all of us who have shared the journey through childhood with her. We are all richer and wiser for having had this opportunity.

As I am sure you have all noticed, there is a lot of activity in each of the classrooms lately and not just on the part of the children. The teachers are very busy redesigning their classroom space. While this is a valuable undertaking, it is also very complicated. The teachers find the time and make time after hours to sort out materials, move furniture, and in general design a new space within the confines of the space that they have.

September is a very exciting month. New beginnings are so exhilarating. I am especially excited for this September. All through the spring and summer the staff and I have been working on the development of a new curriculum for the children. Many, many hours have been expended thinking and planning rooms and programs with the help of our consultant, Professor Alperstein. We are not done yet, but then either is the month of August. We will be ready to welcome the children into their new settings.

Each classroom will reflect the interests of the children and the teachers who share the space. The rooms include a variety of learning centers: mini art studio/message center, dramatic play area, a construction area, and an area for exploration of light and a library.

Our playground is designed to be an outdoor classroom, providing children with opportunities to develop their motor skills and social interactions, as well as sensory experiences and gardening projects. Did you notice the beautiful basil and peppers that the children planted and are now ready for picking? Frank is using the basil in his sauce!

As we develop a “Reggio inspired” environment the children will learn

through interaction with their environment and the people in it. We know that it is through play that each child grows using his own unique style and interests. The staff at Oak Lane works with the children to help them discover many means of expression. Some of the unique ways that the children will be expressing themselves here will be through clay, weaving, beading, wire and sculpture, block building, drawing and painting and even paper making.

When we listen to the children projects emerge from their ideas and interests. The teachers will document the children's journey using photos and written descriptions. This will provide validation and will deepen the children's work. Authentic assessment and ongoing professional development are important components of this process.

Professional development is a highly valued component of our program. Teachers attend workshops and conferences in order to learn and to share knowledge. The teachers meet with me regularly in order to clarify and refine ideas and problem solve.

Teachers pay attention to the ideas of the children. Sometimes a project will begin with one child's imagination. The teachers and the children will research and collaborate to develop theories, and often revisit ideas with a variety of materials.

Close ties between Oak Lane and our families have always been fostered by communication through conversation, email and newsletters. It is a truly rich environment that has been created for the benefit of our children and their families.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for the support that you have shown my staff and me. It has truly been a pleasure to work with your children. For the staff of Oak Lane I want to wish all of our departing families peace, love and happiness. I know that your child is going to have a truly amazing year in kindergarten. I hope that you will think of us and come by to share your new adventures with us. We are always interested to know how things are going.

Sincerely,  
Ronnie



## Calendar

August 20	- Yankee Stadium Tour
August 31	- Last Day for Current Coconuts
Sept 3 & 6	- Closed
October 11	- Closed

## HOLIDAY CLOSING LIST July 2010 – July 2011

SEPTEMBER 3, 2010	STAFF WORK DAY
SEPTEMBER 6, 2010	LABOR DAY
OCTOBER 11, 2010	COLUMBUS DAY
NOVEMBER 25 & 26, 2010	THANKSGIVING
DECEMBER 24 & 27, 2010	CHRISTMAS
DECEMBER 31, 2010	NEW YEAR'S
JANUARY 17, 2011	MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
FEBRUARY 21, 2011	PRESIDENTS' DAY
APRIL 22, 2011	GOOD FRIDAY
MAY 27, 2011	STAFF DEVELOPMENT
MAY 30, 2011	MEMORIAL DAY
JULY 4, 2011	INDEPENDENCE DAY



## REQUESTS AND REMINDERS

### PLEASE LET THE OFFICE KNOW ASAP – IN WRITING IS BEST:

- If you change phone numbers (home, work cell) or email addresses.
- If you won't be available at your normal contact number for the day.
- If your pickup plans change and someone else is coming to get your child.
- If someone you've authorized to pick up your child should be removed from the list or if someone should be added.

**The last day for our current Coconuts** is Tuesday, August 31, 2010. We will miss you!

**New students may begin** their transitions on Wednesday, September 1, 2010. If you need to make other arrangements, please call your student's head teacher at 914-238-3756.

**Fill out all of the forms in your packet and return by 9/1/2010.**

**Label** anything of your child's that you'd like returned to you. Shoes, towels, clothing, toys, sunscreen....

**Sunscreen** your child in the morning before bringing him/her to Oak Lane.

**Check your child's box** – we need seasonally appropriate clothes that fit – and please empty your child's mailbox and art cubby regularly.

**Bring back** any borrowed Oak Lane clothing.

**Students are required to have an annual physical exam** and Oak Lane must maintain records of these exams. Please turn your forms in promptly.

**We're going to be asking** for items such as paper towel tubes for projects. Please watch for the list!

**If you have an unwanted digital camera** that you'd like to donate, we need three for our classrooms. We'd be happy to give you a receipt for the donation for your taxes. Thank you!!



### **Guidelines for bringing in food for celebrations**

We have students enrolled who have life-threatening food allergies. Our Food Rules were developed to keep them safe:

1. No homemade foods are allowed.
2. The food must be in its original container with the ingredients list attached and legible.
3. The ingredients cannot include NUTS of any kind.
4. Even if nuts are not listed as an ingredient, items are not allowed if the label says they
  - a. May contain nuts
  - b. Were made in a factory that processes nut products
5. You must check the ingredients list each time you purchase an item.
6. Bakery items which do not have an ingredients list attached to the original packaging must be accompanied by a note on the bakery letterhead or receipt saying that the product is nut-free. This includes Dunkin' Donuts, local bakeries, etc.
7. You may not allow your child to enter the building with food from home, and if your child has peanut butter or nut products for breakfast, please be sure to wash his/her hands before leaving the house.
8. If you would like to bring in special treats and would like an alternative to baked items, you might consider bringing in sherbet, ice cream or ice pops after checking the labels to be sure that they are nut-free.

**Oak Lane Child Care Center**  
**49 Memorial Drive**  
**Chappaqua, NY 10514**  
Phone: (914) 238-3756 Fax: (914)238-3757  
Email: oaklaneccc@excite.com

**Personalized Brick Order Form**

One brick per order form please. Please copy form if necessary.

Thank you for your interest in ordering a personalized brick for our **PATH TO THE FUTURE**

Ordered By: _____		
Address: _____		
City, State, Zip Code _____		
Phone _____	Check Number _____	Amt. _____

**One 4" x 8" Brick: \$100.** Please clearly print in block letters the three lines of text to be engraved on your brick. Please note only 15 characters per line are permitted, including spacing and punctuation.


**One 8" x 8" Brick: \$200.** Please clearly print in block letters the six lines of text to be engraved on your brick. Please note only 15 characters per line are permitted, including spacing and punctuation.


Oak Lane Child Care Center will not be held responsible for errors due to illegible writing. All information will be printed in block letters in a font similar to the one shown here. All brick orders will be approved by the Oak Lane Child Care before being ordered.