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Ways You Can Help

Give a special gift this year. Make a donation to the Five Towns Early Learning Center in your loved one's name and you will both get the gift of knowing you made a difference.

CHOOSE FROM:

* *Holiday Cards*

* *Tribute Cards*

* *Valerie Marrero Cultural
Enrichment Fund*



A personalized acknowledgement will be sent to the gift recipient

Write checks to Five Towns Early Learning Center

For more information call 516-239-4660 or email fivetownselc@optonline.net

2011-2012 Goings On

BOARD MEETINGS - Wednesdays -

October 26, 2011
November 16, 2011
December 7, 2011
January 25, 2012
February 22, 2012
March 28, 2012
April 28, 2012
May 23, 2012
June 27, 2012



News from the Five Towns Early Learning Center

Child's Play

FALL 2011

Why I Joined The Board...



Who could predict that a simple visit to drop off children's books for a Cub Scout event would lead me to find joy, purpose, and sense of community? Was it chance, coincidence, or destiny? The answer to these questions may best be answered through the words of Anne Sullivan, teacher of Helen Keller, who said, "Certainly, we do not choose our destiny. Our destiny chooses us".

With each visit to the Five Towns Early Learning Center, I could feel my heart fill with love, my spirit with inspiration, and I developed a renewed passion for teaching and learning. This energy was (and still is) contagious. I "pay it forward" in my work at Touro College with my graduate students.

As I drive through Inwood and approach the center, I have of a sense of purpose - one that allows me to help preserve a family's right to high-quality childcare. I am also afforded an opportunity to remain relevant in my field. I don't want to forget the innocent curiosity and wonder that young children display as they learn and master new skills.

Within the center there exists a community of caring and talented teachers, mentors, and friends. There is so much to learn about what it takes to allow the center to operate smoothly. One cannot take this for granted. Our success is possible because of many different people who believe in constant collaboration.

Everyone agrees about how happy we feel serving on the board. More importantly, we value what we get in return, knowing it is much more than what we give.

Joy, Purpose, and Community are what we receive, and that is Priceless!!!

Shoshanah Findling, Ph.D.



Windows to the World



I was sitting in my office - looking out the window - thinking about how wonderful it is to have this beautiful bay window. I began to think about all the new windows at the Center and how they have enriched the program.

The window in my office has become a good-bye window for many of the children. Children struggling to separate from their parents in the mornings come into my office in the arms of their teachers and wave good-bye. It has become an important part of the separation process. The small window in the Toddler room has also become a good-bye window.

Late in the afternoon, when most of the children have been picked up, I have observed children sitting on the windowsill in the two-year-old class, waiting with their teachers. While watching life on our street, they wait for that familiar car to pull into the driveway. Big smiles come to their faces as each parent exits the car and rushes in to pick them up - a perfect way to finish their day.

The new windows in classrooms do so much more than provide great natural light and opportunities for fresh air. They have changed the feel of the classrooms. The classrooms seem bigger. The windows bring the outdoors in. They provide opportunities for the children to observe nature, watch a rainstorm arrive or see the first snowflake fall.

Late in the afternoon, you will often find me in the easy chair in the all-purpose room, looking out the window. It is a wonderful place to observe the children at play. It is a window into their world.

Pepper



112 Wahl Avenue
Inwood, NY 11096

Who We Are



The Center is a not-for-profit agency co-sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women and Five Towns Community Chest. The center provides care for children, 18 months to four years old, of working families in a full day setting licensed by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services. A dedicated staff and volunteer board of directors are committed to quality early education.

Did You Know???

**We are a designated
Nature Explore Classroom.**

Check us out at www.arboday.org
Nature Explore Certified Classrooms

**FAMILY
FUN!**



Scarecrows at Rock Hall
Saturday & Sunday
OCTOBER 22ND & 23RD



President's Message



My favorite time to be at the Center is in the early morning when the space fills with children and parents and teachers.

I see the smiles on the children's faces as they look forward to a day filled with friends and learning.

The parents' smiles reflect the knowledge that their children will be cared for and nurtured in a secure environment while they are at work.

Our teachers are smiling because they know that each day offers them another opportunity to perform their ordinary miracles.

I invite you to come to the Center – visit and volunteer – You'll be smiling too!

Liz

The Five Towns Early Learning Center mourns the passing for our dear friend and Board Member Louise Schindler.



The Board of Directors purchased an old wooden dingy for the Play Garden in memory of Louise, who was an avid sailor. Louise would have been thrilled to watch the children enjoying the VEEGEE IV.



Staying Our Course



"By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail." Armed with Ben Franklin's words of wisdom, a group of dedicated board members met with Pepper in June 2010 to undertake the study of our Center, our vision and direction, our core values, our short and long-term planning strategies, our philosophy, and our curriculum (High Scope). We examined where we are and where we want to go in the future. We committed ourselves to read and discuss on a monthly basis the chapters in STAYING ON COURSE, THE EARLY CHILDHOOD BOARD'S GUIDE TO SUCCESS. We discussed the objectives, evaluated our Center's present practices and positions, and determined how we could make improvements where necessary. We reflected on the changes in the neighborhood and how we could best serve our children and their families in the future. This will be an on-going process.

Our activities included:

- Rewriting our Mission Statement to be more concise in expressing our philosophy.
- Organizing a Board/Staff supper to become more acquainted with each other's common needs and goals.
- Learning the basic philosophy of High Scope which emphasizes learning through play and hands-on experience.
- Encouraging Staff education - the Board set up a tuition assistance fund for our teachers who are attending college.
- Visiting the Alice Brown Early Learning Center at Adelphi to observe another early childhood center.

Our board Book Group has accomplished a great deal in dedicating ourselves to providing the best early childhood environment for young children.

We wish to continue to strengthen our proven practice and to keep evaluating and learning how to do the very best for our children during their formative years.

Helen Pollack



Families enjoy Pot Luck Supper and Puppet Show.



A walk in the rain is a favorite spring activity for the children.



Gardening is an integral part of our summer program.



Our Year in Pictures



Five Towns Community Chest brought new T-Shirts for the Children this summer.



Graduation Day 2011
Over 180 friends and family gathered to celebrate the growth of our children.



Playing in the snow.

Mission Statement

"Supporting working families by providing nurturing care and quality early education for young children"