



## From the Director by Patti Harford

Welcome to the winter season! I happen to be a cold weather hiker, so you won't hear me complaining about the cold and snow. Thank you all for bringing in what your child needs to enjoy the season and please remember to label all items!

I'm looking for suggestions on how to display found items, please drop your ideas in the suggestion box.

Do we have a categorizing wizard with extra time? Our Cinnamon Street reference library is in need of organizing. Interested persons may stop by the office.

The Panda Bear group will be moving their classroom to the old Polar Bear room. Lyndsey has already begun the process of transforming the space into a warm, comfortable atmosphere. She hopes to be fully set up by Monday the 10<sup>th</sup>. If you'd like to volunteer your time or talents over the weekend please check in with her.

I'm hoping everyone has received their Family Handbook and Acknowledgement of policies form, along with your updated Tuition and Payment Agreement. Please look these over and return signed forms to Nicki's mailbox outside the office door.

It's time to conduct our annual Family Survey so please watch for these to appear in your box. All families who return their surveys by the deadline will be entered in a drawing!

I would also like to take this opportunity to mention and introduce new support staff that is present in the center during your child's day.

*Alyson Randall* is a local high school student who is attending the two-year Early Childhood Education program at The Sugar River Valley Technical Center. She arrives here via school bus about 2:15, takes a little break, and then whips the center into shape before she assists Heidi from 3:30 to 5:30.

*Naomi LaBrie* is a graduate of the two-year Early Childhood Education program at The Sugar River Valley Technical Center. She comes to us in the role of qualified substitute as well as supporting the teachers by

covering their breaks and planning sessions.

*Molly Dykeman* has recently come to us hoping for a full time position working with young children. She is easing into the center's hubbub by covering breaks, and being available to offer support when teachers need substitute coverage.

*Jessica Gobin* is working part-time supporting our teachers by covering breaks and planning sessions. She is also a part-timer at Ascutney Resort's childcare center.

I know I am speaking for all the teachers when I say that we appreciate these young people who are willing to try out what they've learned about child development and to place themselves in the position to learn more from Cinnamon Street's educational experts. Please join me in welcoming them to our center, and certainly stop by to introduce yourself, since some of them are rather shy with adults!

On a sad note, the Infant Toddler team said 'see you later' to Ashley Richardson. The 'see you later' is because Ashley is still able to come in to cover planning and breaks, just not able to spend full days anymore. In the interest of continuity of care, we certainly are pleased that she and the children of the Little Bear room can still maintain their friendship.

## Little Bears by Liz Bates

The Little Bear classroom hosted their first open house on Wednesday November 28<sup>th</sup>. The evening was planned as an opportunity for our families to come and witness firsthand what their children are learning. The children explored a water table filled with bubbles as parents mingled and admired wonderful displays of artwork. The evening was also offered as an opportunity for parent-teacher conferences. About half of the families requested a conference! The open house was a huge success and we are already looking forward to the next one which is planned for next spring.

We also had a very successful

literacy event in our room this month when we had the amazing opportunity to participate in a literacy event named "Teddy Bear Day". We all brought teddy bears from home and Judy Stewart, Clinical Educator, visited. She brought her bear themed activities ranging from songs to crawling through a 'bear cave'! For participating each child received a kit including a book and activities. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the event. We would like to express many thanks to Judy, not only for the wonderful experience, but also for all that she does for the children in our community. Thanks Judy!

**"Judy brought her bear themed activities ranging from songs to crawling through a 'bear cave'!"**

## Newport Out-of-School Time News by Heather Blake

Hello everyone! Everything is going well at the Richard's and Towle sites and we are growing more each day. I thought that I would write a little about the staff at the different sites, so you can get to know them a little better, I'll start with me.

I am Heather Blake and I'm the Elementary Program Coordinator. I have B.S. in Childhood Studies. I've been working at Cinnamon Street in many positions for four years. I'm enjoying the challenges of starting a new program.

The Towle Program Leader is Melinda Quillia. She is a positive, out-going and energetic person. Melinda has a B.S. in Elementary Education from UVM. She currently is a substitute teacher in third grade at Richard's Elementary during the day. In addition to being Program Leader, Melinda also runs quite a few clubs in the program.

The Program Assistants are Pauline Watts and Amanda Rines.

Pauline is friendly, dependable and ran the Homework Club before NOST came on the scene. Amanda is out-going, energetic and full of fun. They are both such big assets to the program, spreading their creativity around to the program and into the community.

The Homework Club's certified teachers are Deb Beaupre and Teriko MacConnel. They have so much experience teaching and keep the children motivated and doing their homework.

The Richard's Program Leader is Michelle Swenson. Michelle is currently attending Granite State College degree program for Mathematical Education and a Para-Educator at Richard's Elementary. Michelle is known for her organizational skills, endless patience and is always willing to take on a challenge.

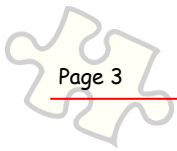
The Program Assistants at Richard's are Miranda Toliver, Kelly Kiblin, and Jenn Moses.

Miranda is creative, fun, and ambitious. Kelly is known as the easy-going and free spirited one at Richard's. Jenn is determined, caring, dependable and the chef for NOST preparing snacks every day.

At Richard's, the Homework Club Certified Teachers are Wendy Dyke and Kim Tocci. The teachers get the children on task and make homework go smoothly.

This quarter the sites are going to be working on some Service Learning. Service Learning is when the children develop a project to help their community or chosen organization. NOST is looking to make "tie" blankets and pillows for David's House at CHaDs.

If you have any questions or comments about the program please feel free to call me. As well if you know of anyone that would be interested in or benefit from NOST, call Heather at 504.4828. Thank you.



### **Polar Bears** by Amy MacIntyre

This month our theme was beach and ocean. The children practiced self-help skills in dramatic play as they changed into bathing suit and flip flops. We practiced snipping and cutting straight lines with our rainbow fish and starfish art activities.

At the easel we discovered that yellow from the sun and the blue from the ocean mixed together and made green. In the water table we compared the different sizes of sea creatures. At group time we discussed the many different sea creatures and counted

how many arms they have. We added Velcro names at the writing shelf for the children to recognize match and write the letters in both their own names and those of their peers.

**“The tree branches were bare and the geese flew overhead in formation heading south. All the children were bundled up in warm coats, hats and mittens. Each child carrying a bag for treasures”**

### **Class Presentation Final** by Jenn Moses

#### **Tips to promote Self-Worth in Children**

- Watch what you say
- Be a positive role model
- Identify and redirect your child's inappropriate behaviors
- Be spontaneous and affectionate
- Give positive and accurate feedback
- Create a safe and nurturing environment
- Help children become involved in constructive

### **Panda Bears** by Lyndsey Boulton

*“Outdoor play can contribute to children's overall development by giving them chances to explore with all their senses, practice fine and gross motor skills, develop language and social skills, and begin to appreciate the world around them”*

- Creative Curriculum

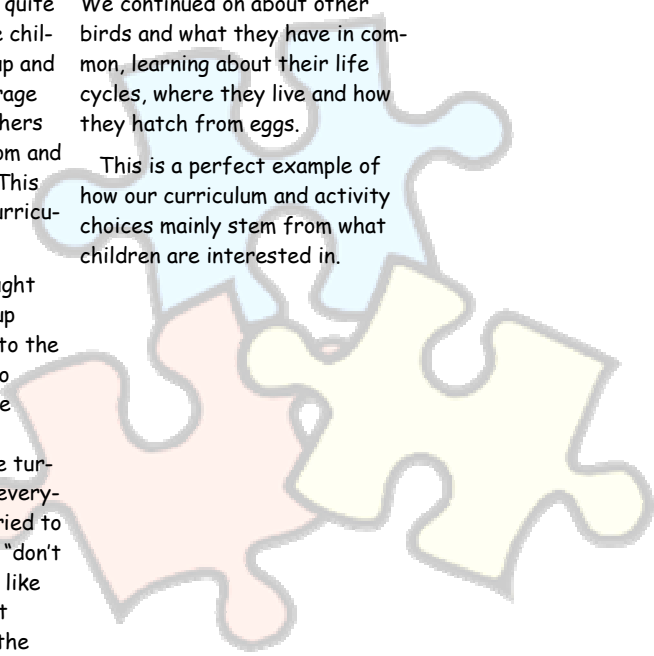
Winter weather is here and we are glad to have gone on a few nature walks before the first storm of the year hit us with nearly a foot of snow. One afternoon when the children were particularly energetic we decided to take a long walk out into the wilderness. The signs that winter was coming were all around. The tree branches were bare and the geese overhead in formation heading south. All the children were bundled up in warm coats, hats and mittens. Each carrying a storage bag for treasures they would find on the way. We finally made it quite a ways and Isaiah yelled “Feathers!!” We all hurried over to where he was standing and crowded around. He picked up the feathers that were

lying on the ground and showed them to the other children. They turned out to be turkey feathers. As we continued to look around us we noticed that there were quite a few turkey feathers. The children started picking them up and putting them into their storage bags. We brought the feathers back with us to the classroom and cleaned them with bleach. This was the start of our bird curriculum.

The next day when I brought the turkey feathers to group with me I posed a question to the children: “Why were there so many turkey feathers on the ground?” The children responded: “A hunter shot the turkey and the feathers went everywhere,” “when the turkey tried to fly some feathers fell out,” “don't you know that turkeys shed like dogs,” “the feathers fell out when a coyote tried to eat the turkey,” and “turkey's grow new feathers when they lose old ones, like teeth.” We continued exploring this theme by discussing how turkeys move their bodies and how they live in flocks. We

used the feathers in the art area as quills and as paintbrushes, and we looked at them under magnifying glasses in the science area. We continued on about other birds and what they have in common, learning about their life cycles, where they live and how they hatch from eggs.

This is a perfect example of how our curriculum and activity choices mainly stem from what children are interested in.



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### The Officers

President - Michele Caccavaro  
Vice President - James Akerman  
Treasurer - Marcia Pirone  
Secretary - Melissa Pollari  
Members at Large:  
Mike Pollari  
Sherri Bonfiglio  
Angela Patno  
Ex-Officio - Karen Little

## From the Board President by Michele Caccavaro

I can't believe another month has flown by and we are in December! The last board meeting was November 14<sup>th</sup> (a week early due to the holiday). Karen Little (a long time former board member, president and current chair of our Publication Relations committee) was voted in as an ex-officio executive board member. Karen comes to us with knowledge of Cinnamon Street's history and the ability to see the many sides to our issues. So, I am happy to report that we have a full board for the first time in many months!

We spent a great deal of time discussing salary increases and our desire to come up with a merit pay increase system. Patti, Melissa Pollari and I are working on this and are also looking for a staff member to be part of this endeavor. If you are interested in taking part in this as well, please drop a note in my box. The board voted to give all staff members a 3% cost of living increase this year. As I explained in my letter regarding tuition increases, it is imperative that we stay competitive in order to keep the highly qualified and educated staff that we have.

Another discussion that took place was an update on our building. The board voted to step back from our pursuit to purchase the building. Two parents who have a long association with Cinnamon Street approached the board and said they would like to purchase the building in order to give us time to raise the funds to purchase the building from them within five years. We felt that it would be easier to approach a bank in the future if we already had raised a sizable down payment on our own. The purchase of the building by our parents is proceeding as planned it is expected to be finalized mid December. So, this means fundraising will need to be kicked up a notch and we really will need the help of as many parents as possible. A capital campaign will be starting soon as well as an active pursuit of grants and hopefully the planning of a large fundraising event. Please put a note in my box if you are interested in helping.

Another issue that was discussed was the fact that Cinnamon Street Policy is to collect a two week deposit from all parents upon enrollment. When a child leaves Cinnamon Street families are expected to give a two week notice. This notice allows us time to advertise and call any family on our waiting list. The hope is that we can transition smoothly and not lose money. Families that have given a two week notice are expected to pay their child's tuition for those two weeks and then will receive their deposit back after meeting their financial obligations to Cinnamon Street. In the past, some families have believed that they could give their two week notice and use their deposit as their last two weeks tuition. This is not our policy and creates quite a bookkeeping nightmare.

As you can see our two hour monthly meeting was packed with discussion and decisions. Please know that all of you are invited to attend the monthly board meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month from 6-8 pm. This week's board meeting is a potluck so please bring your favorite dish! Please let Patti know if you will need childcare and she will arrange it for that evening.

## Announcements

### Little Bear Assistant Replacement

There is an ongoing search for a suitable replacement for the Little Bear Assistant position that is open.

### One-Thousand Dollars Raised

The Fundraising Committee raised over \$1,000 through sale of the pizza kits and Square 1 Art. An enormous thank you goes out to Melissa Prunier, Beth Louder and all the volunteers who lent their helping hands!

### Label Your Children's Clothing

Please label all your child's belongings with a permanent marker on the tag or anywhere visible. The

winter clothing is very hard to keep track of and we want every child to hold onto their warm clothing.

### Polar Bear Wishlist:

- Two shoe caddies for shoes and winter boots
- Magnifying glasses for object exploration
- Toothbrush and toothpaste for each child