

LEMAY CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER FAMILY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012

Proud member of



United Way
of Greater St. Louis

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 10
School-age Scrapbook
Night
6-7:30 p.m.

Feb. 24
Stand Up for Kids
Fund-Raising Event

Feb. 28
Healthy Kids Express
Dental Exams

March 2
Dr. Seuss' Birthday
Celebration
5:30-6:30 p.m.

March 3
Parent Café
9 - 11 a.m.

March 12-15
Parent/Teacher
Conferences

March 16
Family Field Trip
Magic House

Wanted: Chocolate Donations for Stand Up For Kids Auction



On February 24, we will host our 5th Annual Stand Up for Kids fund-raising event at the Royale Orleans Banquet Center. The event includes great stand-up comedy, music, dinner, drinks and an auction. We are asking Center families to donate chocolate items for a chocolate basket to include in the auction. Since the event is after Valentine's Day, please don't bring Valentine's candy! Donations can be dropped off in the office until February 15.

We are also selling tickets for \$45 each if you would like to attend the event. You can also help by volunteering at the event or by helping us get more gift certificates and items for the silent auction. Please talk with Megan in the office if you have ideas for baskets or other silent auction items, if you like to purchase tickets, or if you would like more information about volunteering.

Now Available: On-Line Tuition Payments!

You may now make your debit or credit card payments online from the comfort of your home.

Go to www.lemaychildandfamily.org
Click on: "Parents," "Current Families," and "Make Payment"
Fill in all of the information on the payment page ,
click "Proceed to Confirmation"
and a receipt will be emailed to you.

You may also continue to make your tuition payments at the front desk.

Thanks for Voting!

We appreciate the tremendous effort made by families to vote for our playground project in Monsanto's Grow St. Louis contest. Although we did not win the cash prize, we were thrilled to consistently be among the top five or six vote-getters out of more than 100 projects.

Thanks for recruiting your friends, family members and co-workers to help us out, too!

Child Fire Safety Tips:

From the Missouri Department of Health

- Designate two ways out of every room.
- Make sure windows are not stuck closed, that screens can be removed easily and that security bars can be opened.
- Escape ladders should be placed near second floor windows, and children should practice using them.
- Children should practice their way out of the home in the dark or with their eyes closed.
- Research indicates that children learn more when they are taught positive specific methods of fire safety.
- Install, check and maintain smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heat sources. Teach children to maintain this distance to prevent accidental burning.

Winter Weather Closings

It is unusual for Lemay Child and Family Center to close due to bad weather, but if conditions are unsafe for staff and families to travel, we may occasionally have a late start or we may need to close. Check the following places to see if the Center is open or closed on a bad-weather day.

Check our voice mail and website for announcements about closings: 314-544-3338 or www.lemaychildandfamily.org.

You can also check the following:

KMOX Radio (1120 a.m.) and kmox.com

KSDK TV (NBC, Channel 5) and www.ksdk.com

KTVI TV (Fox, Channel 2) and www.fox2now.com

KMOV TV (CBS, Channel 4) and www.kmov.com



Also, please remember that we take the children outside, weather permitting. So be sure to provide hats, gloves, coats and a change of clothes. It's really helpful if you label everything with your child's name or initials!

February is a Great Month to go to the Zoo!

Delta Dental's Winter Zoo 2012

At the St. Louis Zoo's Living World, Feb. 5, 12 and 19 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be fun for the whole family with live entertainment, giveaways, face painting, and exciting activities.

Celebrate Mardi Gras Zoo—February 19

Bring the family on this day to enjoy fun characters, a live band, crafts, contests and a Mardi Gras parade through the Zoo! A flyer is posted on the office bulletin board with a schedule of events.

Tina's Tidbits

Drink Milk and 100% Juice

- Children 1-2 years: 2 cups per day of whole milk
- Children 2-8 years: 2 cups per day of fat-free or low-fat milk
- Children 9 years and older: 3 cups per day of fat-free or low-fat milk
- Adults: 3 cups per day of fat-free or low-fat milk
- Infants: No juice before 6 months. Offer juice in a cup, not a bottle. Do not give juices at bedtime and limit to no more than 4 oz. a day.
- Children ages 1-6: Limit juice to 4-6 oz. per day
- Children ages 7-18: Limit juice to 8-12 oz. per day.
- Adults: Select whole fruits rather than juice to get enough fiber.

Volunteers Needed to Help Plan Our 2012 Community Fair and Tailgate Sale

On Saturday, May 19, the Center will host our second annual Community Fair. The first one, held last May, was a lot of fun, and we want to make this year's even bigger and better. The event gives families an opportunity to buy a space on our parking lot to sell toys, clothes and household items. The families who participated last year found that our visible location on Broadway brought a lot of traffic. We also offered games and activities for children, and we sold snacks and beverages.

To help make this year's event even more successful, we are looking for 5 or 6 parents to help plan the event and recruit volunteers. If you are interested in participating please email Debbie Bagy at dbagy@lemaychildandfamily.org, or stop by the front desk and ask to talk with her. We'll set up a first planning meeting later this month.



Parking Reminders: Please use the marked parking spaces in the lots when dropping off and picking up. The driveway in front of the building is a fire lane, and also used by school buses. We have also had instances when cars are lined up in front of the building and have blocked the handicapped parking spaces. The safest place for you and your child to park is in the marked spaces. Even when someone else is driving, please ask them to pull into a parking space to wait for you.

Free tax help from Gateway EITC Community Coalition and The St. Louis Tax Assistance Program

Taxpayers who have an earned income of \$50,000 or less in 2011 can qualify for free tax preparation and claim the EITC tax credit at **Gateway EITC Community Coalition** locations. To learn if you qualify or to find the nearest tax preparation site, call 1-800-427-4626.

The **St. Louis Tax Assistance Program** also offers free electronic income tax return preparation and tax information for a family with income under \$50,000. They have six locations and will be open every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. thru 11:30 a.m. on Feb. 4, 11, 18, and 25.

We will have additional information at the front desk and on our bulletin board.

Resources for You and Your Family

Every day when you come into the Center, you pass by our library shelf with parent and family resource books. Take a minute to review the books and feel free to check one out. If you take one of the resources for use at home, please put your name and the name of the book on the sign-out sheet (at the top of the bookshelf). We just ask that you return it so other families can benefit, too.

Sample topics include:

- Pregnancy and infant care books
- Divorce, death and other family changes that can affect kids' emotions
- Nutrition
- Parenting Challenges such as potty training, sleeping, and behavioral issues
- Diagnoses such as ADHD or autism
- Health and wellness
- Activities to do with children

At the Parent Meeting on January 31, we collected some ideas for additional resources or materials to enhance our library. If you are looking for information about a specific topic relating to parenting, families, children, or managing your household, let us know. We'll try to purchase items that are of interest to you!

Lemay Child & Family Center February 2012 Staff Listing

TEACHING TEAM MEMBERS

Adventurers Teaching Team Members:

Carla Goodwin, Teaching Team Lead
Kadina Nasic
Crystal Nobles

Curiosity Corner Teaching Team Members:

Angela Alexander
Monica Allsup, Teaching Team Lead
Karen Metzger

Explorers Teaching Team Members:

Jess Cunningham, Teaching Team Lead
Maria Weatherspoon

Dream Catchers Teaching Team Members:

Brenna Spisak
Angela Wagner
Karen Wadlow, Teaching Team Lead

Imagination Station Teaching Team Members:

Mary Boerschig, Teaching Team Lead
Jennifer Gapsh, Temporary Teaching Team Lead
Kim Richardson

Discoverers Teaching Team Members:

Maida Cannon
Maggie McCart, Teaching Team Lead

School-Age Teaching Team Members:

Mackenzie Rouse
Cheryl Twillmann, Teaching Team Lead

Additional Teaching Team Members:

Kate Ellis
Angelica Irizarry
Rachel Linneman

OFFICE, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND SUPPORT STAFF

Debbie Bagy, Development Assistant
Tina Cheek, Family Services Coordinator
Laura DeWoskin, Curriculum Coordinator
Megan Green, Development Director
Elaine Powers, Executive Director
Amanda Ribaud, Operations Assistant
Amanda Steska, Program Director
Melissa Tripp, Operations Assistant
Sharon Weingart, Contracts Administrator
Denise Wiese, Operations Manager
Debbie Zeller, Social Worker (Family Resource)

MEET OUR NEW STAFF!

We have three new team members who started here in January:

Crystal Nobles joined the Teaching Team in the Adventurers Room. She has completed several semesters of college courses toward a degree in early childhood education. She previously worked at early childhood centers in California, before moving to the St. Louis area.

Mackenzie Rouse has started working in the School-Age program both before and after school. She is a current college student, and is working to complete her Bachelor's Degree in early childhood education later this year.

Amanda Ribaud is working part-time in the afternoons as one of our operations assistants. She will be working to keep our Center clean and sanitized, and help us continue to meet Missouri Licensing standards.