

# LEMAY CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER FAMILY NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2012

Proud member of



United Way  
of Greater St. Louis

## Supporting Lemay Child & Family Center

### Upcoming Events

**Jan. 18**  
**Magic House at LCFC**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Jan. 31**  
**Parent Meeting**  
**6:00 p.m.**

**Feb. 24**  
**Stand Up for Kids**  
**Fund-Raising Event**

As a non-profit center, we rely on the community to help fund our scholarship program and other services for families at Lemay Child & Family Center. Here are two ways you can help!

1. Participate in Monsanto's "Grow St. Louis" competition. Between now and January 29, Monsanto is sponsoring an on-line competition to collect votes for projects at non-profit organizations around St. Louis. You can vote for the Center at [www.monsanto.com/stlouis/Pages/GrowSTLContest.aspx](http://www.monsanto.com/stlouis/Pages/GrowSTLContest.aspx) once a day. If you email the link to your friends and families, or post it on your Facebook page, others can participate, too! If we win, we will apply the \$15,000 prize toward our new playgrounds.
2. Support the Center's annual Stand Up for Kids fund-raising event on Feb. 24, at the Royale Orleans Banquet Center. If you'd like to attend, tickets cost \$45 each, and include dinner, drinks and live entertainment including stand-up comedians Mark Sweeney and Dan Chopin. There are also opportunities for volunteers if you are interested in helping with the event. Finally, we are seeking gift certificates and other items to include in our silent auction during the event. If you have connections at local restaurants or stores, we can give you a donation request letter. Please talk with Megan in the office if you have any questions or want more information.

### HELP WANTED

The Center is seeking a part-time employee to help with cleaning, maintenance and other duties. The position requires a high school diploma or GED and a Class E (commercial) driver's license. The hours would be in the late afternoons every day. Please talk with Denise or pick up an application from the front desk if you know anyone who might be interested in this position.

Many of you have asked for updates on our young student who is battling a brain tumor. He is currently undergoing radiation treatments at St. Louis Children's Hospital. His family was extremely grateful for the generous outpouring of support from the families at Lemay Child & Family Center. You contributed more than \$600 toward his trust fund during our winter concerts, and some of you have made additional contributions since that time. Landen's mom has provided some flyers which we have placed around the Center in case anyone wants to make additional contributions to the trust fund.

There is also a Facebook page set up called "Team Landen Rush" where you can get regular updates. Some of their friends are organizing a benefit for him on February 18. We will hang flyers with additional information about the benefit.

## Headed to Kindergarten This Fall?

We currently have 25 children enrolled in preschool at Lemay Child & Family Center who will be starting kindergarten in the fall. This is an exciting time for children and their families, but it can also be overwhelming. In addition to preparing your children for success in kindergarten, the staff here at the Center is also ready to help with the transition process. For starters, we are gathering kindergarten registration information for several schools including Hancock Place, Mehlville (Forder, Bierbaum, Beasley), Bayless, St. Louis City Schools, and several private and charter schools. Once we have all of the information we will share it with you. We are also scheduling a meeting with parents and a kindergarten teacher to answer common questions about kindergarten.

Some of the preschoolers may also transition into our school-age program here at the Center. They typically remain in their preschool classroom throughout the summer and transition to school-age when school starts in August. We offer before and after-school care for children attending Hancock Elementary, and the Hancock bus provides pick-up and drop-off services here. We also offer before and after-school care for children at Forder school, and after-school only care for children at Bayless Elementary. We provide the transportation for children from Forder and Bayless.

Children who attend other schools may enroll in our school-age program; however, families must find their own transportation for those schools. We also offer an option for “seasonal” enrollment, on a space-available basis, so that children who are not normally here before and after school can attend on school holidays and in the summer.

## 2012 Dates to Remember

We have a lot going on this year, and here are a few dates to mark on your calendar now. We'll add more events and activities during the year, so keep your eyes open for announcements and flyers!

Jan. 18 Magic House at LCFC 6:00  
Jan. 31 Parent Meeting  
Feb. 24 Stand Up For Kids Comedy Night  
Mar. 12–16 Parent/teacher conferences  
April 14 Spring work day  
April 23-27 Week of the Young Child  
April 24 Parent meeting  
May 19 Community Fair  
May 28 Center closed  
July 4 Center Closed  
Aug. 31 Center Closed  
Sept. 3 Center Closed  
Sept. 18 Parent meeting  
Oct. 22-26 Parent/teacher conferences  
Nov. 9 Trivia Night  
Nov. 22-23 Center Closed  
Nov. 27 Parent meeting  
Dec. 24 Center Closes at 3:30  
Dec. 25 Closed  
Dec. 31 Center Closes at 3:30  
Jan. 1, 2013 Closed

## Tina's Tidbits: Eating Together as a Family

Mealtimes provide a great time to come together as a family to catch up on the day's activities. Family schedules can be hectic, but experts recommend scheduling a family meal at least three times each week. During the meal, turn off the t.v., put away the newspapers and cell phones, and keep the conversation pleasant and unstressful. This is a great place for children to learn what their parents think is important, to learn good manners, and to learn how to hold conversations with adults. It's a great way to connect! Studies have shown that children who eat with their families are less likely to have problems in their teen years, according to an article in “Color Me Healthy” news.

Here at the Center, we also practice “family style” dining, where children and teachers sit at the tables together to promote conversation and manners.

### Staff News:

We are pleased to announce that Ms. Jessica is moving full time into the Explorer's two-year-old room to work with Ms. Maria. We'll miss her in the Adventurer's Room, but look forward to having her working with the two's! We hope to have a new teacher for the infant-toddler room, as well as another part-time teacher for the afterschool program, in place by the middle of January.