



# PCHC Spotlight

January, 2010

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

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### End of Year Receipts

If you need a receipt for your tuition payments for 2009, please see Mia or Pat in the office. We will be happy to print one for you to use when filing your taxes.

PCHC accepts credit card payments for tuition. You may pay by Visa, MasterCard, or Discover. Credit card payments are processed on Mondays each week.

Happy New Year! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season! The holiday program was fantastic and Santa was the icing on the cake! The children had lots of fun! Each New Year brings new resolutions, new plans, and an affirmation of plans not yet executed. This New Year's resolution is to continue our resolve to do better and to improve our performance. Our focus this year will be to ensure that we improve teacher qualifications. In order to get our team on board, we are encouraging them to participate in the Maryland State Department of Education, Office of Child Care's **Maryland Credentialing Program** which encourages all teachers to take classes and then receive a bonus. The higher the level of qualification, the higher the bonus. Bonuses range from \$200 to \$1500.

We have encouraged all of our teachers to participate in this program as it encourages continuing education. The more educated our teachers become, the more effective their educational instruction of your children. Throughout the following months, we will announce the teachers who have applied for the program and what credentialing level they have achieved. It is our hope that we will have one hundred percent participation in this program. Please encourage your child's teacher to participate – it's a win-win for everyone!

Next, we have applied for the **Maryland State Department of Education Accreditation!** This is a huge step towards ensuring we are operating at a higher level. **Children** benefit from accreditation because their learning environments are exciting, positive, and growth-oriented. **Parents** benefit from this process because their children are enrolled in stimulating learning environments that reflect the research and best practices of the field. **Early care and education programs** benefit because their services are publicly recognized as being of the highest caliber. **Local school systems** benefit from this process because accredited programs increase the chances for young children to be better prepared to enter public school primary grades. **The state** benefits from this approach because it improves the quality of life for families with young children living in Maryland.

This will not be an easy transition. However, we are committed and will be seeking your help and support especially your involvement.

We will be looking to compile a list of parents to help us accomplish this goal. If you are interested in hands on help, please contact me directly at [ffreeman@homeworkcenters.com](mailto:ffreeman@homeworkcenters.com).

In order to accomplish our accreditation goal, we will need to change our curriculum to an **MSDE approved curriculum**. The new curriculum is state approved and thus aligned with the State's educational goals. You will be kept abreast of the changes as we select and develop a timeline to implement the new curriculum.

Beginning with this newsletter, look for our new column highlighting **community resources** that we hope you will find useful. If you know of any resources, please do not hesitate to share them with us so we can share with our entire PCHC family.

We are ramping up for 2010 and look forward to starting this new decade on the right track so that we can ensure a successful year ahead!

Florence Freeman, MBA  
President/CEO  
[ffreeman@homeworkcenters.com](mailto:ffreeman@homeworkcenters.com)



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday and I wish everyone a happy new year. I am looking forward to this New Year at Pasadena Child Care & Homework Center. As mentioned above, many upgrades are coming to the center and we are excited about several positive enhancements. Please do not hesitate to see me if you have questions. If you haven't seen it, PCHC has a bill board sign on Fort Smallwood road – tell your friends and family it's your child's center and encourage them to join our team! See below for details on our referral program.

### Brrr. It's Cold

January has arrived and the cold weather is here, also. Please make sure your children have warm coats, hats and mittens, because we hope to take the children outside whenever possible. Also, be sure to notify us if you see icy patches on the parking lot, so we can put down some ice melt.

### New Tuition Rates

Please remember that the new tuition rates went into effect on January 4<sup>th</sup>. If you are not clear about your new rate, please check with someone in the office.

### Referral Program

Reminder - We offer a \$50 credit to current families who refer new families to the Center. Please do not hesitate to contact me for more detailed information about the program.

### Advance Tuition Payment

As of January 1, 2009, you may pay 6 months tuition and receive a 5% discount or 12 months tuition and receive 10% discount. Please see us at the office for more information.

Ms. Pat  
Director  
[pseiple@homeworkcenters.com](mailto:pseiple@homeworkcenters.com)

## January Birthdays! Congratulations to:

Samuel Castiglione – 4th  
Cadence MacSherry - 11  
Madisen Lane – 12<sup>th</sup>  
Carly Harvey – 12th

Brennan Hatfield – 15<sup>th</sup>  
Presley Acton – 16<sup>th</sup>  
Caleb Moreau – 28th



## Classroom Updates

### Incredible Infants

Welcome to a new year in the infant room. All of our infants are on the move and love to explore in the room. They like to look at books and manipulate all the toys that play music. Also, everyone receives lots of TLC and cuddle time.

Our newest baby just celebrated his first birthday. Happy Birthday, Sam!

Ms. Darlene(Dar) Infant Teacher

### Tiny Toddlers

A New Year has arrived and the toddlers are busy learning. Our color for this month is Orange. We will be having orange sherbet and making crafts that are orange. We will read lots of stories to develop our word vocabulary and do many sensory activities.

We are excited to welcome Adam to our room. He is enjoying playing with the girls.

Ms. Shannon– Toddler Teacher

### Terrific Twos

Happy New Year! This month our Terrific Twos will focus on arctic animals, and the winter season. In our circle time, we will be talking about different types of arctic animals. We will talk about where they live and what they look like and why most of them are white. We will be doing lots of animal activities and winter projects too. Look for polar bears, penquins, snowflakes and ice skates.

Ms. Sarah and Ms. Tia

**Cosmic Threes**

The Cosmic Kids would like to say "Happy New Year" to our parents. The theme for the month of January will be Winter – How do I dress for the weather and Polar Animals. We would like to welcome Kathryn into our universe. We are having fun with our Yoga, Sign Language and also learning some sight words.

We will be raising the level of learning up a notch in the Cosmic Kid's classroom. We are going to start writing our letters which will lead us in to writing our names. Yes, you may be thinking that my child already knows how to write his or her name. That might be true, but remember it takes Practice, Practice and more Practice.

Reminders – Parents, the weather is cold, so please freshen up the clothing in your child's cubby. Also, we will start up our cooking projects every other Friday. The children really enjoyed making cookies and having their drop off date (parent or grandparent) sit and enjoy the cookies, juice or coffee with them. Thanks for making something so small so big in your child's day. Parents – remember to Practice, Practice and Practice with your children. If you have any concerns, questions, or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Ms. Kim and Ms. Jackie

**Fabulous Fours**

This month our weekly themes will continue to expand the knowledge of time, seasons and community awareness. We will also continue our focus on handwriting, phonics, math, and social awareness. In honor of Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday we will be taking time to discuss how we're all alike and different, making each and every one of us special. Our discussions will be turned into a beautiful collage for display in our classroom. Another exciting project we've planned this month is to make Rice Cake Bird Feeders and place them outdoors to help Birds bear the long cold winter ahead.

This month we will be assessing the children to gain a better understanding of their knowledge in various areas. We will be sending copies of these assessments home. These assessments help us to fine tune our curriculum to best meet your child's individual needs.

As always we are here to help. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to share. Thanks so much and Happy New Year!

Ms. Alicia and Ms. Mandi

**Sensational School- agers**

We hope you had an enjoyable holiday with your family and friends. The second quarter will soon come to an end and we hope that it has been just as successful as the first quarter. As always we are willing to help the children with any resources needed to better understand the concepts being taught in school. Please let us know which special area your child needs help.

We are planning some fun activities and trips for this month since the children will have a few days off school this month. Please keep an eye out for updates about the trips. It has been extremely cold recently – please remember to dress your child appropriately as we try to make it outside for short periods when we can.

Thank- you, Ms. Mac and Ms. Amber

## Community Resource Center

### Healthy Start for Pregnant Women, Infants and Toddlers Anne Arundel County Department of Health

Phone: 410-222-7177

Healthy Start provides case management, home visiting, outreach and other services that help to prevent injuries and deaths to prenatal, postpartum, and high risk infants and for children up to 2 years old. These services are provided by community health nurses and social workers. Referrals are welcome from the private sector.

[Medical Assistance for Families/MCHP](#) - Health insurance for children up to age 21, as well as parents and other family members caring for children. Eligibility depends on income and family size.

[Women, Infants and Children \(WIC\) Program](#) - Supplemental nutrition program for pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, postpartum women, infants and children up to age 5

[Healthy Moms and Babies](#) - Education, resource information and awareness campaign to help increase the number of healthy pregnancies and healthy babies in the County

[Lead Poisoning Prevention](#) - Program that offers information about the potential danger of exposure to lead paint

[High Risk Infants and Children](#) - Central referral point for infants and children at risk for medical, social and environmental problems

For more information, go to [http://www.aahealth.org/commhlth\\_healthystart.asp](http://www.aahealth.org/commhlth_healthystart.asp)

## Parent Education Tidbits Return Next Month



## Upcoming Events

### January 2010

Progress Reports due for 2's, 3's and 4's

18<sup>th</sup> AACPS closed for Martin Luther King Jr.  
Birthday/School-age children can attend PCHC

19<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> AACPS (2 hour early dismissal)

25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> AACPS Closed/ School age children can  
attend PCHC

#### **Administration**

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