



Special point of interest:

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The Child Care Program will be closed on:

**AUGUST 24:
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
DAY**

community connection

August 2007

The Ohio State University

Buckeye Village Staff Participate in Chinese Culture Study

By Jean Dodson

On Tuesday mornings the sounds trickling through the halls of Buckeye Village this summer are taking on different tones - the five tones of Mandarin Chinese.

Buckeye Village teaching and administrative staff is participating in a seven week workshop on Chinese Language and Culture. Chinese culture was chosen because it is the largest non-American culture represented in Buckeye Village; over 20% of the families are Chinese or Asian. "I had no clue there were tones in the Chinese language before this workshop," said Ashley Carpenter, assistant teacher in room 160. Ashley's comment reflects the goal of the workshop, to create sensitivity and appreciation for cultural differences. No one is expected to master the language!



Chinese Language and Culture teacher Ching-Hsuan Wu leads staff in speaking practice

Workshop teacher, Ching-Hsuan Wu (known as Cola), believes Chinese language and culture must be taught together because they are interrelated. She dynamically illustrates the connection through discussions and information on music, history, and everyday life. Rasauna Wilborn, assistant teacher



Melanie Kerr, teacher in Room 109, practices writing Chinese characters

in room 140 commented, "I knew education was important in Chinese culture, but I didn't realize to what extent before this workshop. Everything revolves around education."

The Chinese Culture and Language workshop is funded by the Supporting Teachers - Strengthening Families Mini-Grant of the Ohio Association for the Education of Young Children and is part of a larger project that includes a forum on parenting across cultures, purchasing multi-cultural classroom

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TEACHER
IN-SERVICE
DAY

The Child Care Program's Ackerman Road and Buckeye Village facilities will be CLOSED on Friday, August 24th for our Professional Development Day. Thank you in advance for your support.

August Staff Professional Development Day

Twice each year, the entire fulltime staff of the Child Care Program engages in a Professional Development Day. These days are vital to our community as they allow us to build relationships and learn and grow together. Recent developments in the field of early childhood education in Ohio have helped us determine the course of our professional development. Preschool, infant and toddler teachers each have prescribed continuing education mandated by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services and the Ohio Department of Education.

On August 24, 2007, the Child Care Program will be closed. The staff will gather at the Agriculture Administration Building for a day of goal-setting, learning and even a little fun. All the staff will be trained to administer the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, a de-

velopmental screening tool that they will share with families in the fall.

The infant and toddler staff will attend the second module of training in Ohio's new Infant and Toddler Guidelines. The guidelines will be used in the coming year as an alignment tool for infant and toddler curriculum.

The preschool staff will attend a session introducing a new on-line program from the Ohio Department of Education especially designed for families to learn more about the Early Learning Content Standards. This program helps parents learn about things they can do everyday to help prepare children for school entry.

We look forward to this "day apart" as it helps us do our very best for your children every day. Thank you for supporting our staff in this way.

Director's Corner By Maggie Summers



Maggie Summers
Program Director

An optimist is nothing but a day-dreamer more elegantly spelled. - Mark Twain

During our Professional Development Days, our staff engages in something called "dream-storming." It's a lot like day-dreaming, only it actually serves as the basis of much of our work during the following year.

In our work, it is important that we are realists, understanding the nature of things as they are. But, it is even

more important that we are optimists, having the vision, courage and willingness to change, to convert problems into opportunities.

Last year, we created a full page list of "dream-storms" and over half of them have been accomplished or are in process. And, so, as we do with children, we encourage the next day-dreaming storm that will lead us to fantastic and unexpected opportunities for growth.

Q and A

I work at the OSU hospital so I don't have a BuckID. Will my hospital ID be programmed to work with the card reader at Ackerman? We have been informed that hospital staff employees' identification cards will work with the Lenel card reader system.

Our daughter's Aunt Julie sometimes picks her up. Once the card reader is installed, how will Julie get inside the building? Visitors who do not have a door access card can request entrance using the intercom located in between the front doors. Families will have the option to purchase additional door reader "contractor" cards at their own expense; each card costs \$5.00. We recommend that cards be purchased only for family members or friends who frequently pick-up.

When will the card reader system be ready for use? Installation of the system is almost complete. The administrative staff is currently gathering identification numbers from full time teaching staff. After this step is complete it will be necessary to get the same information from part time staff and families as well as assign "contractor" cards to the non-affiliated parent in most families. All this information must be entered into the system before the card reader is activated. At this point we expect the system to be in use by the beginning of fall quarter.



Preschoolers in A4 explore velocity with blocks and cars

Tuition Assistance Programs

Three tuition assistance programs are available at the Child Care Program: Funded Child Care, Early Learning Initiative, and Champion of Children. Families who meet established income guidelines may be eligible for enrollment in one of these programs and receive assistance with their child care tuition.

Employed or undergraduate student parents/guardians may be eligible for Funded Child Care or Champion of Children, a privately funded program administered through Franklin County Department of Job & Family Services.

Early Learning Initiative is for 3, 4, or 5 year old children who are not yet eligible for kindergarten. Eligibility in this program is based on income.

There are a limited number of spaces available in some programs and not all programs are available at our Buckeye Village location. Visit the Tuition page of the Child Care Program's website for income and other guidelines. Those families with questions may contact Kathy Cochran at kcochran@hr.osu.edu or 4-6952.

REMINDERS

- The last day for summer school age programs KIKS (Kids In Kindergarten-Summer) and Club Create, is Thursday, August 23rd
- Kindergarten class begins Wednesday, August 29

Did You Know?

The following quote is reprinted from a Starbucks coffee cup~

The Way I See It #273

All children need a laptop. Not a computer, but a human laptop. Moms, dads, grannies, aunts, uncles - someone to hold them, read to them, teach them. Loved ones who will embrace them and pass on the experience, rituals, and knowledge of a hundred previous generations. Loved ones who will pass to the next generation their expectations of them, their hopes, and their dreams.

~ General Colin L. Powell
 Founder of America's Promise
 The Alliance of Youth

Building on the legacy of their founder, General Colin Powell, America's Promise Alliance is the nation's largest multi-sector collaborative dedicated to the well-being of children and youth. Alliance partners dedicate themselves to working together for the success of our nation's young people, using the Five Promises framework to shape their efforts and improve the odds for youth. The Five Promises are those developmental resources — wrap-around supports— that young people need for success in life:

- Caring Adults
- Safe Places
- A Healthy Start
- Effective Education
- Opportunities to Help Others

Children who receive at least four of the Five Promises are much more likely than those who experience only one or zero Promises to succeed academically, socially and civically. They are more likely to avoid violence, contribute to their communities, and achieve high grades in school. Receiving at least four of the Five Promises also appears to mitigate gaps across racial and economic boundaries. To experience the full power of the Promises, young people must experience these critical supports throughout their lives — in their families, at schools and out in their communities.

Alliance partners - corporations, nonprofit service organizations, foundations, policymakers, advocacy organizations, and faith groups - work collaboratively to ensure that America's young people receive the Five Promises.

Through increasing awareness, advocating for children and engaging in powerful initiatives, the strength of the partnership network enables children and families to have the resources they need to lead happier, healthier and more productive lives and build a stronger society. For additional information please visit <http://www.americaspromise.org/>

MARKET DAY

August Market Day fliers are now available! "Perfect Picnic" items featured this month include honey wheat pretzel sandwiches, chicken bacon ranch sandwiches, colby jack cheese snack sticks, and root beer float cups! Orders are due by Monday, August 6th and pick-up is scheduled for Friday, August 10th from 5:00pm-6:00pm in the pre-school large muscle room at the Ackerman Road facility.

ENJOY!

The Healing Project By Amy Brandon

The community of each classroom at the Child Care Program is unique. The experiences and everyday life in each room is shaped by its inhabitants. Those inhabitants, children, families, and staff, bring their own rituals, norms, and needs to the program. And as the word "family" can be defined as "a group of people living together and functioning as a single household", each classroom becomes its own family of sorts. The family member's experiences outside the program are brought in and shared as part of the daily curriculum of all the other family members. So when assistant teacher Amanda Beane, one of the family members in C6, experienced the loss of a loved one, her classroom community, as one might expect of a family, became part of her healing process.

Sheri, Amanda's sister, recently passed away due to cancer complications. Wanting to involve their entire classroom in Amanda's healing process, Pamela Keller, teacher in C6, and Amanda considered how they could do something to remember Sheri. The project began with a journey. About halfway down the pathway connecting the Child Care Program's Ackerman Road and Buckeye Village facilities lays the Children's Healing Garden. The Ohio State University College of Arts and Knowlton School of Architecture collaborated with the James Cancer Hospital to build a labyrinth for children in the hospital grief programs. The garden features a mazelike walk for quiet contemplation

and a ceramic tile wall created by children to memorialize their loved ones. Amanda, Pamela, and their children took their first trip to the healing garden in June. As the garden was created for children who had lost a loved one to cancer or who had cancer themselves, the visit to the garden seemed a logical first step in Amanda's healing process and at the same time a fun, interactive space for children to explore. After their trip to the Children's Healing Garden, they decided to create a permanent sculpture to be donated to the garden in remembrance of Sheri. Starting with a wooden base, the children and staff have been spending part of their time this summer adding wire, metal, and natural elements. When finished, the structure will be mounted to a stake and added to the garden.



There is still work left to be done on the sculpture and trips left to be made to the garden but the project goal of helping Amanda heal from the loss of her sister has been accomplished, as a family. "This project has been an incredible experience for all of us. It allowed us to share what was happening in Amanda's life, and build community while providing us all with a wonderful healing experience" says Pamela.

RESOURCES

Books can a helpful resource for families coping with the loss of a loved one. Reading a story about death with a preschool age child will affirm feelings of sadness and provide an opportunity for expressing emotion. Two good books:

• [The Tenth Good Thing About Barney](#)
by Judith Viorst

• [Badger's Parting Gifts](#)
by Susan Varley

PROGRAM CALENDAR

CLOSURES:

August 24

Child Care Program Staff
In-Service Day

September 3

Labor Day

November 12

Veteran's Day

November 22-23

Thanksgiving Day,
Columbus Day observed

December 24-25

President's Day observed,
Christmas Day

EVENTS:

October 27

Harvest Celebration

For a complete list of
closures and events
go to
[http://hr.osu.edu/
childcare/resources.htm](http://hr.osu.edu/childcare/resources.htm)
to view or print the
Child Care Program's
2007 Holiday and
Event Calendar

Customer Service Awards

Elika Keller: C4 staff Jamie Roseberry and Laura Boesch nominated teaching aide Elika Keller for "going above and beyond what is expected" in her work in their classroom. In their nomination Jamie and Laura describe Elika as "a constant source of support" and site her "endless enthusiasm for the children".
Congratulations Elika!



To recognize a member of our child care community for demonstrating outstanding customer service, please email Amy Brandon at abrandon@hr.osu.edu or complete a nomination form available in our program offices.

...Chinese Culture Study

(Continued from page 1)

materials and a cultural celebration. The project goal is to build community within Buckeye Village families and staff in a manner that values different cultures. The Chinese Language and Culture workshop occurs over a seven week period to allow time for reflection. The focus is on one culture and language, but the larger goal is to create a paradigm shift.

Through understanding how one culture is different in language and customs, it is hoped participants will find it easier

to think outside the box of an American cultural perspective when interacting with families from any other culture.



**Staff practice identifying
Chinese characters**

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