

June  
2009

# Center News

**Wow! It has been like Christmas around here!!!** Most of the equipment and materials that were purchased with the auction money have arrived and are being enjoyed by the children. We will have our shade installed early in June, just in time for the hot summer weather we have all been waiting for!

I recently had the opportunity to attend a conference for three days. The emphasis was on training and educating early childhood professionals. Our rural location in eastern Washington poses challenges when it comes to accessing high quality training and furthering education opportunities. I have always been committed to supporting and helping the staff at Building Blocks obtain whatever level of education they desire. My time at the conference not only provided me additional knowl-

edge and strategies for delivering in house training sessions, I also had the chance to network with other professionals within our region in Washington who are willing to be guest presenters to the staff here at Building Blocks. I am very excited about what this opportunity will mean to our program.

As you all know, our program is nationally accredited. We achieved this high standard nearly 5 years ago and plan to continue to provide high quality curriculum in years to come. We are currently accredited through NAEYC, one of several national accreditation systems. In the past few years NAEYC has undergone several changes and modified their process programs must go through to become accredited. The staff and administrators here at Building Blocks have studied the changes and

it caused us to really examine the root of why we as an organization feel committed to being accredited. The answer is that we want a system in place that sets our standards high and helps us monitor our quality consistently. After weighing out several options, we have decided to pursue accreditation through a new system called National Accreditation Commission (NAC). We have begun our self-study process, and plan to submit our package early in the fall. If you have any questions regarding our decision, please feel free to stop in and see me any time.

Have a good month!  
Kerri Jo



CHILDREN CALL IT FUN,  
WE CALL IT LEARNING!

# Building Blocks

## June Events

### June 2nd

Kindergarten & Preschool graduation

### June 12th

Summer camp for K-6 begins

### June 19th

Father's Day Ice Cream Social



## Upcoming Events

### July 3rd

Center Closed for Independence Day

### July 23rd

Silverwood trip



### October 23rd

Center closed for professional development

# Infants



As May leaves us and June approaches we are very excited to say hello to summer and the nicer weather. As this change comes along we will be focusing our

curriculum activities to the great outdoors. Submersing the children in nature opens up a world of learning experiences and vocabulary building that is not possible indoors. Opportunities like these create a curiosity behavior within children that helps boost their excitement about learning. Please make sure that your child has the appropriate clothing and sun protection for outside time.



In May our classroom was definitely

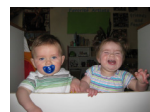
“where the wild things were” as we explored the jungle through art, literature and music. We really enjoyed being outside, creating our own jungle animals, experiencing the joys of bubbles and playing with the puppets.



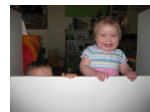
The biggest highlight for this last month was without a doubt the Mother’s Day social. Thanks to all the moms who came and participated. We always enjoy have parents in the classroom and sharing ideas with one another. Of course the cookies weren’t bad either. ☺

Another of the highlights of the month for the teachers was watching Lily and Brandon learn how to play peek-a-boo over the back shelf. Object permanence is one of the ma-

ior ideas that we work on with young infants and these two really had it down. As you can see it was quite the fun time for everyone.



Don’t forget ! ☺ An important part of linking home and school comes from the family picture collages.



Please bring in a picture collage of the important people in your child’s life. If you need help with this or simply don’t have the time to put something together, just bring us the photos and we will do the rest. Thanks for all your support in this matter.



Denise, Fiona, Mandy, Ginger & Toni Jo

# Waddlers

Summer is finally here! And with it comes a reminder about the upcoming months. First, please check your child’s extra clothes and make sure that there are some cool options in it. Second, please bring a pair of shoes (or dress your child in some) that are waterproof as we will be playing in water outside whenever possible. Third, it would be greatly appreciated by your child if Little Swimmers could be brought in. They are not absolutely necessary, but it is easier on your diaper supply if we

have a pack of them for your child. It is also helpful if a swimsuit is brought in, but if one isn’t we just sunscreen their backs and tummies and let them play with water in their diaper!

That said, can you believe it is June! May was absolutely fun exploring dinosaurs. Now we are on to transportation! We will spend time learning about trains, planes, & automobiles (and boats)! It will be so much fun participating in activities from sailing boats to

exploring ice cream and the ice cream truck!

Now that it’s buggy riding weather, we will once again be scheduling a Friday buggy ride. These will occur around 9:45 am and will usually consist of a stroll around Bishop Place. After school is out, look for sign-ups to “chaperone” a “play date” to Franklin’s playground.

-Stephanie, Kayla & Anna

# Toddlers

The toddlers had a wonderful time learning about plants the first few weeks of May. We played with seeds in the sensory table, painted with flowers, and even planted some seeds.

Next, we headed down to the pond. We learned about frogs and how they change while growing. We were even able to get some live tadpoles; it was fun watching them change from day to day! We also talked about the different animals that live in ponds, ask your child what some of them are and what sounds they make!



June will be just as exciting! We will be learning about bugs and the book [Barn](#)

[Dance](#) by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault. We will finish out the month by going camping. We will be making s’mores, playing with flashlights, and bringing in a tent and sleeping bags to play with. It should be lots of fun!



We also want to take a minute to welcome Videep into our classroom! He has been a wonderful addition and we look forward to getting to know his family better!

With summer approaching, we have had some staff changes in our room. Martha has also joined our classroom; she will be opening and closing the room through out the summer.

One last reminder, with the weather warming up, we will be doing a lot of water play outside. Please make sure your child has a swimsuit, towel, water shoes, hat, and a change of clothes in their cubby. We will also be taking some walks to Safeway and to Kruegal park through out the summer months. We will let you know more details about those as they come closer. If you have any questions feel free to let me know!



Thanks,  
Megan, Aubrey, and Martha

# Jr. Preschool

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This month in Jr. Preschool we said good-bye to Ms. Terri. We are very sad to see her go, but excited for what's to come.

Ms. Christina took over as lead teacher and Ms. Andrea will be the assistant Lead for the summer. We are also happy to welcome two new teachers to our room: Ms. Veronica is working in the morning from 7:30-9:30 and Ms. Donna will help

from 3:00- 5:30. They are both very nice and we are extremely excited to have them!

Our up coming themes for June will be Safety, fathers, and Space, so be sure to ask your children what they are learning. We would also like to wish Payton, Codi, Natalie, and Orin a happy birthday for the month of June. Also, keep listen-

ing for our Father's Day event coming up at the end of June.



-Miss Christina, Miss Andrea, Miss Veronica & Miss Donna

# Preschool

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DEAR PARENTS,

Summer time is fun and exciting. With the weather warming up the preschoolers will be taking our curriculum outside as much as possible. This will give the preschoolers opportunities to explore nature and provide a balance of activities to stimulate their physical, social, emotional, creative, and cognitive growth.



The preschoolers will begin swimming weekly as well as going to Vil-

lage Centre Cinemas to watch movies. To begin the summer, the preschoolers will begin a theme of "Under The Sea". They will be able to explore sand, water and play with different types of beach toys. We will be making flip flops, sand castles and decorating beach towels.



We would like to congratulate the preschoolers who will be heading off to Kindergarten next fall: Henry, Jacob, J.D., Jaxon, Joshua, Michael, Nicholas and Tyler, Congratulations!

We are looking forward to another fun filled summer. Be sure to keep an eye on the calendar so you will be able to know when and where we will be going.

As always if there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to let us know.



-Sincerely Ms. Juanita, Miss Heather, Miss Jessie & Miss Susan.

# Kindergarten

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I can't believe that the school year is almost over! Where has the time gone? We have definitely had a busy last full month of school here at Building Blocks. Throughout the month of April we learned about the following themes: "Bubbles," "Plants and Flowers," "Space," "and "Sea Life!" The students really enjoyed each theme but their favorite was Space! They loved learning about the planets, especially Earth!



During the next couple of weeks, we will fill in our time with a variety of art projects, activities, and field trips that we weren't able to get to earlier in the year! We will celebrate all that we have accomplished as a class and commemorate our time together with an "End of the Year Party!" Shhh....it's a surprise for the kids!



Remember Kindergarten graduation is June 2 at 6:00. If the weather permits, we will hold our celebration outside on the center's lawn, but in case of inclement

weather, it will be held in Bishop Place's Social Room! I hope you are all able to make it as this will be a *very* special day for your child!

As always, thank you for all of your support! We have had a phenomenal year full of many adventures!

Mrs. Cann, Miss Jackie, & Miss Brigitta

# Pip Pops

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Throughout the months of April our "Author Study" was all about Mem Fox!! The students really enjoyed all of her books! Mem Fox's books fall into one of two categories: super funny or very sweet! Students loved both of the genres and were able to relate to many of her stories! She is an excellent author and I encourage you all to check out her books! Be sure to ask your child which of the Mem Fox stories was their favorite!

As the school year comes to a close, we will finalize all of our loose ends! We are really close to earning another Precious Stones Party AND since the weather has finally decided to cooperate, we are playing lots of fun large motor activities outside!



Once school is out, we will begin our Summer Pip Pop Program entitled, "World Wide Wonders!" This summer we will travel around the world visiting a variety of countries. Students will learn about the history, geography, art, and music from each country as well as preparing a traditional meal. We also have numerous field trips and activities planned! We will launch our voyage on June 15th by visiting Canada followed by a trip to Mexico! If you have any interesting artifacts or experiences from either of these countries that you would like to share with the class, let me know and we can schedule a time that you can come and visit! Watch your sign-in/out folder, as we will be sending home a packet with more information on the summer program in the next week or so!

Thanks again for all of your support!



Mrs. Cann, Miss Ashlee & Mr. Dusty

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# Cougar Kids



Thank you to all the mothers who were able to attend the Mother's Day event. We were so happy to see so many wonderful mothers there. As teachers, we were so proud of your students and the way they presented their etiquette skills; they chose which subjects to talk about and basically put the presentation together. They are amazing children and we are really happy to be their teachers.

June brings joy and sadness to our hearts. We are excited to have the beautiful sun and warm weather. We have the opportunity to be outside more and playing many activities and games. With this fun times also comes the realization that some of our students graduate from our program and move on to middle school.



Right now there is only one who will be leaving us after June 11<sup>th</sup>. We want to say goodbye, congratulations and good luck to Tanmay. He is a great individual. He has touched many of the children's and teacher's lives while attending the Cougar Kids. He is a very intelligent child and will always get his work done. Tanmay has the ability to accomplish what he wants to do through his amazing skill of strategy; this makes him a very desirable person to have on your team when wanting to compete. He is the only person who continues to beat Keoki in strategy games. Tanmay has a wonderful laugh that is truly fantastic to hear and brings joy to your life. He has an incredible arm and should look into playing baseball, seeming to always hit his target. We thank Tanmay and his family for being part of our lives for so many years. We will truly miss our Tanmay.

I hope everybody was able to receive their summer packets. Please read these and take the calendars off to hang on your refrigerators. We are gearing up for this really exciting and eventful time. If you have any questions, please come ask Keoki or Torey.

Here are a few questions to ask your child:

- How are your plants growing? What types of plants are they growing? How tall are they? What are they doing with their plants?
- Can you demonstrate the knots you learned to tie?
- What is sprout ball and how do you play?

We want to thank you parents. With you being so involved with in your child's lives they truly are the greatest children in the world and we are indeed grateful and honored to work with the best.

-Keoki, Torey & Kelsey

