



ELIZABETH MASCIA CHILD CARE CENTER

Monthly Newsletter January, 2010

MUSIC WITH DELORES

There is music in the air twice a month when Delores Jiji comes to EMCCC to conduct interactive music sessions with the toddlers and the preschoolers. This is a component of the EMCCC Education and Enrichment program.

Delores is an early music specialist with a degree from the University of California at Berkley who has been entertaining and teaching the EMCCC children for the past several years. She began her early music career more than thirty years ago. Delores is well known in Westchester and is often called upon to present at early childhood education conferences. Many of the EMCCC teachers have attended her training sessions.

You don't even have to see her to know that Delores has arrived at EMCCC when you hear the toddlers excitedly calling out her name from the first floor classrooms. They wait eagerly as she tunes her guitar, puts on her "musical" slippers, and organizes her bag filled with the surprises she has selected for that day. She comes equipped with an arsenal of musical instruments procured from countries throughout the world.

Delores weaves singing, puppets, rhythm instruments, dance, and movement into each session. She is able to effortlessly involve and command the attention of each child. Delores has the unique ability of remembering each child's name even though she only sees them twice a month for about thirty minutes each session. She does it all with a smile on her face. Delores obviously loves music and is ably promoting a love of music within the children she teaches.

(Visit her website at www.toddlerssongtime.com to learn more about Delores Jiji.)

NEW RUGS AND RAILS

New carpeting has been installed in three of the classrooms and new tile flooring has been installed in a fourth. Safety railings have been installed in the preschool playground entrance. This has all been done with the support of a grant awarded to EMCCC by Work/Family Directions, Inc. (WFD). IBM is the participating client. The grant was specifically given for building and grounds improvements. The rest of the classrooms should be receiving new carpeting or flooring later this year with the support of a new grant also from WFD. EMCCC is thrilled to be participating in this program and is thankful to WFD and IBM for this generous grant support.



GOODBYE DOROTHY

After a twenty plus year career as an assistant teacher at EMCCC, Dorothy Inzar is leaving the Center on January 29th. We thank her for all that she has done for EMCCC for so many years. Her loyalty and longevity are applauded and appreciated. We wish Dorothy well as she embarks upon the next chapter of her life. She will be missed.

This is some of what what Dorothy has to say as she departs EMCCC:

"Thank you for enabling me to nurture the early lives of countless children all of whom have touched my heart throughout the 20 plus years of my employment. I treated the children with the same level of care as I did my own children. There were many great experiences shared and I will fondly remember them all. I cannot express the sincere gratitude I feel toward the Center."



ANGELS AND BEARS

During the month of December, Sherrill Garvin's class of three year olds participated in a very exciting project. As part of a holiday season lesson about respect, sharing, and giving, each child crafted a patriotic angel that was sent along to an organization called Give2TheTroops. Give2TheTroops in turn sent the angels along to military service men and women in combat zones and military hospitals. The class received a very gracious thank you letter indicating how much the angels will be loved by their recipients.

Sherrill's class has just finished making Valentine's Day cards that have been sent along to that same organization for distribution to the troops. Give2TheTroops features such gifts and thank you letters from the military service men and women on their website, www.Give2TheTroops.org, so it is possible that the efforts of the children in Sherrill's class might some day be posted.

As a follow up to a lesson about hibernating animals presented at EMCCC by The Nature of Things, Sherrill's class has been following the progress online at www.bear.org of a hibernating wild bear named Lily. The children are able to watch the bear on the computer as it hibernates. As an added bonus, Lily gave birth to a healthy cub on January 22nd so the children are now able to watch mother and baby hibernate together via "den cam."

(The Nature of Things is a component of EMCCC's Education and Enrichment Program. They bring various animals to the Center a few times during the year and conduct interactive lessons with the children. The lessons have themes such as "rain forest animals", and "hibernating animals.")



THANK YOU

The Elizabeth Mascia Child Care Center thanks all of our 2009 business and individual supporters. We applaud your generosity and thank you for your commitment to the EMCCC children and their families.

We look forward to collaborating with all of you during 2010. We wouldn't be able to do all that we do without your support.

Happy New Year.

