

Kiddie Academy of Greenlawn

Third Quarter 2006



Volume 3

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Happy Birthday . . . to Us!

On August 16, 2004 we opened our doors to the public for the first time! We had six children enrolled and had a few staff members on hand. We had two classrooms opened and couldn't wait to get started! Since then, our center has grown bigger and stronger...just like our children! Our first set of infants are now turning two! And our first set of four year olds are entering 1st grade! We just completed many sets of transitions and will continue moving children as they age out of their current classrooms, and their birthdays approach!

We now have 10 classrooms open! We had a successful Before and After Care program this year and our summer camp program, Kamp Adventure is closed out for July and some of August! We have many new friends who have joined us this year, but lots of old friends are coming back for the summer! We look forward to new adventures, new field trips and making great memories!

We had 15 Dolphins graduate this year—what a celebration! The graduates, their classmates and their families gathered for a wonderful performance and then enjoyed refreshments. The Dolphin teachers did a wonderful job preparing the children and displaying their art work and photographs!

But the best news of all is that we have completed the renewal process for our NYS license and passed with flying colors! The Office of Children and Family Services is in the renewal process now!

Over these past two years, we have met wonderful new friends. Some became staff, some became our children, but all of you have become part of our family here at Kiddie Academy of Greenlawn! We have worked hard to make our center exceptional, as we set the bar pretty high in the beginning and strive each day to exceed the standards set by New York State.

We approach our second birthday with 110 children enrolled at the center and 28 staff members! Along the way, we have made many memories, met lots of people, supported many families and have become a part of this community. We have had our share of triumphs and hardships...but always remain dedicated to the cause.

I'm often asked what has been most challenging these past two years. Although we've had some bumps along the way, the answer remains simple! Finding and retaining professional, caring staff to work with our children has been and remains the most challenging task! Our building speaks for itself, it's clean, bright, cheery, and colorful!

But the staff are the ones who radiate the warmth that you sense when you enter the building! Their hugs, kisses and true passion for working with young children is what

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Birthday Babies

Let's all wish our July, August & September Babies a very Happy Birthday!

Sea Stars

7/19 Dillon H.
7/24 Mikah S.
8/13 Savion A.
8/31 Anna T.
9/14 Ciara G.



Clown Fish I

7/8 Gabrielle B.
8/1 Thomas M.
8/8 Nigella T.
8/11 Sarah S.
9/8 Jack F.

Harp Seals I

7/27 Sean M.

Harp Seals II

7/24 Jason R.

Manatees I

7/22 Kristen L.
8/13 Stephen K.
8/22 Brendan C.
9/10 Addie B.

Manatees II

8/12 Dmitriy I.
8/14 Sabrina L.
8/17 Peter V.
8/20 Sebastiano L.
9/24 Connor T.

Dolphins I

7/3 Ewan M.
7/15 Sasha R.
7/29 Alyina A.
9/19 Joseph G.



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makes our center a warm, cozy home away from home! So, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate those who have been with us since the beginning... Miss Karen (Sea Horses), Miss Irene (Dolphins I) and Miss Lisa (Floater) will have their 2nd Anniversary with us in August!

We'd like to invite you to celebrate our growth and accomplishments at a birthday celebration on Friday, August 11th from 5:30-7:30...so save the date! We'll have a chance to mingle together and share memories with the staff and just may see some familiar little faces from the past! It's sure to be a great evening! We'll be sending out some more information in the next few weeks.

Yours in fun and learning,

Alissa



Curriculum Corner

Over the summer the curriculum takes a more relaxed approach to learning. Although the academics are still there, the themes are more summer related. For example, some classes will be working with bugs, some on the Wild West, some on Agriculture, etc., and all will be doing outdoor water fun and picnics.

In September, we will be talking about "Magnificent Me". September is the beginning of a brand new school year. There is no better time to focus on a new environment than now. The children will embark on a journey into respect for their classroom, friends and themselves. They will do fun activities in small groups to foster cooperation and begin to gain self-esteem through independent activities that promote their sense of self.

Our Center Value for July is "Pride." Children should be encouraged daily to be proud of their accomplishments. Each day as children complete projects, help their friends, or complete daily tasks we need to reinforce their accomplishments with praise. The children will gain an understanding of self-worth and the genuine pleasure of self-satisfaction when accomplishing a task or goal. Our August Center Value "Loyalty and Commitment." Loyalty is often thought of as the "forgotten value." Loyalty is love of family, respect for the land, equality and integrity. We must show children through daily activity the importance of completing tasks, committing to projects and helping our friends. Children gain the understanding that making a promise means we make a commitment and must follow through on that promise.

"Cooperation" is our Center Value for September. Combining our energies to work with others towards a common goal. With cooperation we can accomplish tasks more quickly than by ourselves. Also, enjoy each other's company in the world around us. Cooperation doesn't just happen. It takes willingness on all sides. As children discover ways to cooperate with one another, they will find that working toward a solution can be as exciting and challenging as finding a good solution in which everybody is a winner. Through cooperation all children become winners as they work together to achieve a common goal. Please make sure to take a look at our Center Value presentation, headed up by the Sharks classroom!

Quarter 3 Birthday Babies, cont.

Sharks

7/19 Sara G.
8/7 Jake D.
8/10 Harrison G.
9/28 Madison R.

Staff

7/19 Miss Karen
7/19 Miss Irene
8/3 Miss Luz
8/16 Miss Sara
8/19 Miss Michelle
9/4 Miss Mary Jane
9/21 Miss Alicia



Birthday Snacks

If you would like to bring in a snack for your child's birthday, it must be purchased from a store. Unfortunately, due to Health Code Restrictions, we cannot allow home baked items. Please check with your child's teachers for any diet restrictions within their room. Under no circumstances should any items containing nuts be brought into the center, we are a "Nut Free" school. Please be aware of products that are manufactured on machines which also manufacture nut products. A nice and very easy alternative is Ice Cream or Italian Ices.

Movies on the Lawn

The Town of Huntington is sponsoring free movies again this summer. The Schedule is as follows:

- Thursday, July 20th - Drive in at Crab Meadow Beach featuring: Yours, Mine & Ours (Rated PG)
- Monday, August 7th - Lawn Performance at Hecksher Park (by the Tennis Courts) featuring: Charlie & The Chocolate Factory (Rated PG)
- Thursday, August 24th - Drive in at Crab Meadow Beach featuring: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit (Rated G)

Movies are NC and begin at darkness. In the event of inclement weather, performances will be held indoors at John Glenn High School on Elwood Road and begin at 7:30. Bring chairs in case drive-in lot fills early.



Parent Referral Bonus



Don't forget about our Parent Referral Bonus! If you refer a child to our center, you will receive a FREE WEEK after 90 days of their enrollment, full or part time, equivalent to that child's tuition rate. Thank you to all who have already referred new clients!

A reminder to all that we are closed on Monday, September 4th in observance of Labor Day!

Got the Rainy Day Blues?

Here's a list of places to go and things to do!

Summer Sundays at Brookhaven National Laboratory on William Floyd Parkway (County Road 46)

FREE! No reservations needed! Arrive anytime between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. All visitors age 16 and over must bring a photo ID.

- ♦ July 16 - Investigate Our Living World
- ♦ July 23 - Playing with Science
- ♦ July 30 - See with Invisible Light
- ♦ August 6 - Watch Us Go and Grow Safely
- ♦ August 13 - Energy and the Environment for All
- ♦ August 20 - A Perfect Liquid Exists at RHIC
- ♦ Also available every Sunday: The Whiz Bang Science Show! And "Natures Numbers" Hands on Exhibit
- ♦ For additional information call: (631) 344-2651 or visit www.bnl.gov

Atlantis Marine World (Aquarium) at 431 East Main St. in Riverhead

Open daily year-round from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Adult admission is \$17.50. Admission for children 3-11 is \$15.50.

For additional information call: (631) 208-9200 or visit www.atlantismarineworld.com

Cradle of Aviation Museum at Charles Lindbergh Boulevard (Mitchell Field)

East Garden City, NY 11530-6743

Open 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday - Sunday. Closed Monday, except on holidays and school breaks

Museum tickets are \$9 for adults and \$8 for children 2-12. There are special combination prices for museum and Imax film admission. For additional information call: (516) 572-4111 or visit www.cradleofaviation.org

Dave and Buster's located in Westbury, Farmingdale and Islandia

Open 11:30 a.m.- 12 a.m. Sun.-Wed., 11:30 a.m.-1 a.m. Thurs and 11:30 - 2:00 a.m. Fri. and Sat.

For additional information visit: www.daveandbusters.com

Boomers Family Fun Center at 655 Long Island Ave., Medford, NY 11763

Open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri.-Sat.

For additional information call: (631) 475-1771 or visit www.boomersparks.com

Fun Station USA at 40 Rocklyn Ave., Lynbrook, NY 11563

Open 11 a.m.- 9 p.m. Sun.-Thur.; 11 a.m.-10p.m. Fri. -Sat.

For additional information call: (516) 599-7757 or visit www.funstationfun.com

Fun Zone at 229 Rte. 110, Farmingdale, NY 11735-4802

Open 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Mon.-Thur., 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Fri., 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Sun.

For additional information call: 631-847-0100 or visit www.funzoneamusements.com

Fun4all at 200 Wilson St., Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776

Open 10 .m.-8 p.m. daily; closed Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas

\$8.99 ages 2-12 unlimited play, half price for children age 1, free for adults

For additional information call: (631) 331-9000 or visit www.fun4all-ny.com

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Sports Plus at 110 New Moriches Rd., Lake Grove, NY 11755

For additional information call: (631) 737-2100 or visit www.sportsplusny.com

Chuck E. Cheese located in Commack, Hicksville, West Islip and Patchogue

Open 9 AM to 10 PM Sunday through Thursday and 9 AM to 11 PM Friday and Saturday

For additional information visit: www.chuckecheese.com

Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium at 180 Little Neck Rd., Centerport, NY 11721

Open Noon-5 p.m. Tue.-Sun. April 29-June 23., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. June 24-Sept. 4; closed Mon. (except holidays)

Museum grounds and exhibits: \$7, \$6 seniors, \$3 under 12; \$3 extra for house tour or planetarium show

For additional information call: (631) 854-5555 or visit www.vanderbiltmuseum.org

Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery and Aquarium at 1660 Route 25A,

Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, year-round, closed Easter Sunday, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day. Memorial Day - Labor Day extended hours open until 7 p.m on the weekends.

For more information call: (516) 692-6768 or visit www.cshfha.org

Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum at Route 25A, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724

Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily (closed Mondays from Labor Day to Memorial Day)

\$4 (donation 11 a.m.-noon Sundays), \$3 ages 5-18 and seniors, \$12 families

For more information call: (631) 367-3418 or visit www.cshwhalingmuseum.org

Garvies Point Museum and Preserve at 50 Barry Dr., Glen Cove, NY 11542

Open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tue.-Sun. Preserve 8:30 a.m.-dusk daily

\$2 adults, \$1 ages 4-14; preserve free

For more information call: (516) 571-8010 or visit www.garviespointmuseum.com

Dinosaur Walk Museum at 221 E. Main St., Riverhead, NY 11901

Open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Adults: \$10.95, Seniors 62+: \$8.95, Teens 12-18: \$8.95, Children ages 3-11: \$7.95

Children 2 and under are free

For more information call (631) 369-6556 or visit www.dinosaurwalkriverhead.com

Long Island Reptile Museum at 70 N. Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801

Open daily 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Adults \$9.95, Children \$7.95

For additional information call: (516) 931-1500 or visit www.reptilemuseum.com

Battle of the Dinosaurs (Sands Point Preserve) at 127 Middle Neck Rd., Sands Point, NY 11050

Open daily and weekends 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. through Nov. 5

\$8 adults, \$6 children

For additional information call: (516) 571-7901 or visit www.nassaucountyny.gov



Announcements



Kiddie Academy of Greenlawn welcomes the following new students who started with us in Q2:

Sea Stars

- Carly N.
- Gavin L.
- Anna T.

Sea Horses

- Evan W.

Clown Fish I

- Thomas M.

Harp Seals I

- Zachary Z.

Harp Seals II

- Jason R.

Manatees I

- Juliana B.
- Emma G.
- Alexis H.
- Abigail L.
- Hannah P.

Dolphins I

- Andrew G.

Staff Service Anniversaries that occurred in Q2:

Miss Danielle - 1 year on 4/4/06
Miss Noel - 1 year on 4/28/06

New Staff Members who started with us in Q2:

Miss Heather - Asst. Teacher Dolphins I
Miss Bridget - Lead Teacher Manatees II
Miss Jessica - Asst. Teacher Clown Fish I
Miss Tracey - Lead Teacher Harp Seals I
Miss Melissa - Asst. Teacher
Miss JoAnn - Asst. Teacher
Miss Sara - Asst. Teacher Harp Seals I
Miss Christin - Food Service Manager
Miss Michelle - Lead Teacher Dolphins II
Miss Oneika - Asst. Teacher Manatees I

Congratulations to the Lauro Family!
Christina Angela was born on April 8, 2006, weighing 9lbs, and was 21" long!
Sabrina has become a wonderful big sister!

Staff Perfect Attendance:

April

- Jennifer Novatt

May

- Maria Caracciolo
- Patty Fordyce
- Michelle Hamilton
- Jennifer Novatt
- Heather Quigley

June

- JoAnn DeLuca
- Michelle Hamilton
- Bridget Moreira
- Jennifer Novatt
- Irene Vignali

Parents and staff, we would love to post family news in our newsletter, such as arrivals of new babies, weddings, etc. If you have some news you would like to share in our next issue, please give all the particulars to Karen, in writing, and we will include it!

Healthy Bites

The healthy eating trend is as hot as a summer's day. Unfortunately foods found at summer get-togethers like coleslaw, burgers and brownies are loaded with calories and can wreak havoc on the waistline. Making sensible food choices and simple substitutions can turn summertime fare healthier, without sacrificing taste. Here's how to do it:

- Eat your veggies. With produce at its peak in the summer, indulge in corn on the cob, ripe tomatoes and homegrown cucumbers instead of coleslaw and potato salad, which are often drowning in fat and calories. Try starting your next summer soiree with a salad featuring fresh vegetables and a tasty homemade dressing.
- Choose lean meat. Opt for lean cuts of meat like fish fillets, ground turkey and chicken breast and grill them for a traditional barbeque taste. Soaking meat in a marinade the night before your feast is an easy way to add flavor and tenderize the cut.
- Fruits are a powerhouse of nutrition, have few calories, almost no fat, are full of vitamins and fibre. The fibre in fruits helps lower cholesterol and keeps the digestive tracts running smoothly. After months and months of the same old apples and bananas, sweet watermelon, pineapple and berries are hard to resist. Fruit is good for health in many ways, good for the immune system, digestion, healthier skin, hair and eyes, heart health and better circulation, good for the nervous and respiratory system. Children are more likely to eat fruits and vegetables if they see their parents enjoying them daily and if there's a plentiful supply in the house.
- Substitute wisely. Adjusting the recipes for traditional summer dishes can transform calorie laden foods into more nutritious options. Yogurt is a great substitution for salad dressing, oil and sour cream and adds calcium and protein to the dish while eliminating unnecessary calories. Whether you are limiting fat intake or counting carbs, there is a yogurt perfect for your recipe.



Sunglasses...Are Sunny Day Safety for Kids

Most parents make sure their children wear sunscreen on sunny days. Yet they're far less likely to protect their children's eyes with sunglasses.

A recent survey of more than 2,000 US adults found that 82% of parents make their children wear sunscreen while outdoors in the sun, but only 32% outfit their offspring with eye-protecting sunglasses. Extended exposure to sunlight in childhood can lead to cataracts and age-related degeneration. Both of these disorders can cause impaired vision or blindness. Bottom line is, if your child is going to be exposed to sunlight for long periods of time, they should be wearing sunglasses.



What to Wear:

Doctors recommend that your child's sunglasses, whether prescription or nonprescription, carry an ultraviolet (UV) sticker. Look for the American Optometric Association Seal of Acceptance - it means the sunglasses block 99 to 100 percent of UV radiation.

Other things to consider in buying your child sunglasses:

- ♦ Don't buy toy sunglasses. Buy real ones with UV protection. Shatterproof polycarbonate lenses that don't pop out of frames are best.
- ♦ Lenses should block 75 - 90 percent of light. Look at your child with the sunglasses on - if you can see his or her eyes, the lenses probably aren't dark enough.
- ♦ Sunglasses shouldn't change the color scheme. Gray lenses are recommended because they absorb light across the color spectrum equally. That means they won't distort the colors of objects you're seeing.
- ♦ Lenses should block peripheral UV radiation. Purchase eyewear that is large enough for your child's head or extends out to the sides to block peripheral UV rays.

We will be sponsoring a Trike-A-Thon for St. Jude's Hospital on July 28th, details to follow.

Work is scheduled to be completed at the end of July on a new awning for the Infant/Toddler Playground.

European Hand Drawn Portraits will be coming to our school on September 26th & 27th. More details to follow

Spotlight on Staff



Irene Vignali

Lead Teacher Dolphins I (4 Year Olds)

How long have you been working here?

Two Years this summer.

Why did you choose early childhood education as your career?

Because I love working with children and helping them learn.

How many years have you been working in this career?

Three years plus babysitting and camp counseling with younger children.

What is your favorite activity to do with the children?

Creative Arts.

What is your symbol and why did you choose it?

Sunshine Face - because it's bright and cheery!

What is your favorite children's book?

There are so many, but I really like Dr. Seuss' Horton Hatches the Egg

What is your favorite children's song?

"If You're Happy and You Know It", "Five Little Monkeys", I like many

Why did you choose to work with this age group?

They're becoming more independent. I enjoy working with them on letters, words and beginning writing skills.

What are the most challenging things for you during the day?

Trying to get it all done - we have so many fun activities planned!

What accomplishments are you most proud of in your classroom?

Artwork we've worked on together - our murals, paintings and 3D Art. I especially love our "Chicka Chicka Boom Boom Tree"

What are some of the funny things that the children in your class have done/said?

There are many, but recently two come to mind.

One child said to me, "I was practicing my graduation songs at nap time but I couldn't" I said, "Oh, you couldn't remember?" He said, "No, I lost the pages"

Another child said to me, "Miss Irene, when I'm forty, I'm going to invite you to my birthday party!"

What is your educational background?

BA Psychology with Education credits.

What do you like to do on your free time?

Spending time with my family, playing with my niece and nephews, writing poetry and children's songs and stories.

Anything else interesting you would like to add?

I love Creative Arts and Music, have sung in choral groups and have done Community Theatre in the past.