

Patti's News!



(206) 232-4453

April 2008

A Note From Our Director

Hello Everyone! We survived the winter and made it to April. The children are blossoming along with the flowers: many are budding artists, and friendships are in full bloom. The children are playing so well with one another and enjoy their time outside. It is truly a joy to watch them grow.

From time to time, people ask me how Patti's Play Center got its name and if Patti really exists. Yes, in fact, she does! Patti Murphy founded the Play Center in 1984. She began with just a few children in her home, but within 2 years, the Play Center had grown to serve more than 80 families. When Patti moved to Issaquah in 1986, she considered closing the Play Center. At that point, a group of dedicated parents stepped in and formed a non-profit corporation. Today, the Play Center is run by a board of parent volunteers and continues to be a cornerstone of the Mercer Island preschool community. - Cathy Jankovich

Taming a Temper Tantrum

Temper tantrums and toddlers go hand in hand. When a temper tantrum does occur, it's important to stay calm. Remember that yelling will only make your child's behavior worse. The quieter you are, the sooner your child will settle down. Don't give in to demands. Giving in may teach your toddler to throw tantrums as a means to getting his or her way. Although tantrums sometimes occur at inopportune times or in public places, do your best to simply ignore the tantrum. Lastly, acknowledge your child's anger or frustration. Say to them, "I know you are upset. We can talk about it when you are calmer." Then stay within sight but go about your business. Many children will slowly calm down if ignored, and often just need a little quiet time in order to hit the "reset" button.

Earth Day Poem

Chief Seattle was a teacher
Who taught us how to care
For all the living things on earth,
Fresh water and clean air.
The earth does not belong to us,
Great Chief Seattle said.
We sometimes think it does,
But we belong to earth instead.

- Helen H. Moore

Worms & Dirt

- 14 OREO cookies, finely crushed
- 1 pint chocolate ice cream
- 1/4 cup chocolate syrup
- Gummy worms

In each of 4 dessert cups, place 2 tablespoons cookie crumbs. Top each with 1/2 cup ice cream, sprinkle with remaining cookie crumbs and drizzle chocolate syrup. Garnish with a worm!

Themes For This Month



Spring
Insects
Baby Animals

Call-In Reservations

Perhaps you need some time to run errands or volunteer in your older child's class? We still have room most afternoons, and for those who aren't aware, you can call in for a reservation.

The Circus Is Coming!



Saturday, April 26th
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Mercer Island High School

Don't miss MIPA's biggest event of the year! Carnival games, pony rides, cakewalk, bouncy house and lots more! Special appearances by Lego Man and Reptile Man. **FREE** admission plus the cost of \$.50 game tokens. Ages 0-8.



Earth Day Celebration

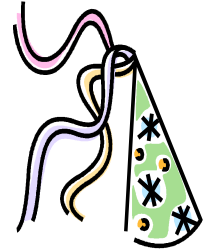
Saturday, April 19th
10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
Community Center at Mercer View

Kids of all ages are invited to "Leap for Green", a community event in honor of Earth Day. Activities include music, dancing, storytelling, gardening, live animal exhibits and more! You can also measure your carbon footprint and learn some easy ways to be kinder to the environment. Admission is **FREE**, so bring the whole family! For more details, call (206) 275-7609.

~ Happy Birthday To You ~



Ella Burlingame
Luca Galvin
Mason Chorak
Carl Schmid
Trevor Thompson



A special thanks to Erika Hobson and Lisa Lanctot for their help with Cathy's birthday celebration.



If you would like to make a fresh batch of playdough, we still have a few weeks to fill. Please look for the schedule posted on the bulletin board.

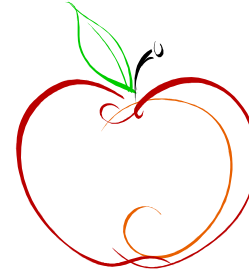
How Does Your Garden Grow?

Kids can create their own hanging flowerpots using recycled two-liter soda bottles. Simply cut a two-liter bottle in half, and the bottom portion will become your pot. Cover the rough edges with masking tape to protect little hands. Next, punch holes on either side of the top edge. Thread pipe cleaners through the holes and twist the ends together to form the handle. Punch holes in the bottom of the pot in order to allow for drainage. Next, it's time to decorate! Glue on jewels, buttons and glitter.

Another fun project is to make a watering can from an empty milk jug. To make one, punch a bunch of holes on one side of the jug near the top so the water will drain out like a gentle rain. Then use paint to turn the milk jug into a work of art!



Teacher Appreciation Day



A Tribute To Our Terrific Teachers
Tuesday, April 8th

We are planning a special luncheon in celebration of our wonderful teachers. Please look for a flyer in your cubby with more information. If you would like to help, please contact:

Trina Myklebust at myklebust4@comcast.net

Good News for Parents! Space Still Available for Next Fall!

We still have a few spots available on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings next Fall. All afternoons are still open, too! Please don't delay, as these spaces won't last long!

Send your registration form and \$75 deposit check (made payable to MIPCP, Inc.) to:

Karen Schmid
4057-86th Avenue SE
Mercer Island, WA



If you are interested in a board position for next year, please contact Lisa Beebe at (206) 232-8143.