

Patti's News!



(206) 232-4453

September 2008

Welcome From Our Director

Welcome to Patti's Play Center! We are excited for a new year, and we look forward to meeting all of our new families and visiting with our returning families! We can't wait to spend time with your children and we have many exciting activities planned for this fall. We will be having fun with art projects, table toys, play dough, snack time, story time and lots of outdoor play. It will be a wonderful year of growth and fun for your child. Let's get ready to have some fun!

- Cathy Jankovich

Patti's Welcomes Teacher Kim

Kim Strange is starting her first year at Patti's and we are all very excited to welcome Kim to the team. Kim's past experience includes working as a kindergarten Sunday school teacher at MIPC for two years, as well as working as a volunteer in the classroom and in the office at West Mercer Elementary. Kim and her husband Greg have raised four kids of their own and their youngest, Alli-Rachel, is headed into her junior year at Mercer Island High School. They recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary and spent a long vacation in California to honor their commitment. Kim also enjoys playing games with her family, traveling and reading. Kim is a perfect fit for Patti's and she is looking forward to meeting all of you and your children.



1. Please label all of your child's belongings, including coats, lunchboxes, backpacks and shoes.
2. Do not allow your child to come to school with snacks or toys hidden in their pockets.
3. Dress children in play clothes with the expectations that things might get messy.
4. Don't forget a jacket. Our weather is unpredictable, and the children enjoy playing outside rain or shine.
5. If your child is not yet potty-trained, please be sure to provide us with a few spare diapers along with an extra set of clothing.
6. Please do not send your child to school if they are not feeling well. A fever, bad cough, green runny nose or a stomach ache is better cared for at home.
7. Call the center if your child will be absent - we worry if we don't hear from you, and often have other children on the waiting list in case a spot opens up.
8. Pick-up time is promptly at 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Themes For This Month



Fall

Transportation

Afternoon Openings

Patti's still has openings available in the afternoon for 3-5 year olds. The afternoon session runs from 12:00 - 3:00. Children are welcome to bring a sack lunch and eat with friends.



Summer Celebration

Yee Haw! A special thanks to the many cowboys who showed their support for Patti's by marching in the Parade.

Clean-Up Party

We greatly appreciate Trina Myklebust for organizing the clean-up party, and all those who volunteered their time. The play center looks ship shape for the start of our new school year.

Thank you to... Erika Hobson, Janelle Honeycutt, Charity Aiken, Tamara Nedell, Sophy Yang, Jen Dougan, Andrea Chatalas, Angie Chatalas, Beth Bruels, Cathy Jankovich, Kim Strange,

Patti's Play Dough

- 5 Cups All Purpose Flour
- 4 Cups Water
- 1 - $\frac{1}{4}$ Cup Salt
- 5 Tablespoons Vegetable Oil
- $\frac{1}{4}$ Cup Cream of Tartar
- 2 Tablespoons Food Coloring

Mix flour, salt and cream of tartar in a large pot. Add water and oil. Cook and stir over medium heat for 5 - 8 minutes. Add food coloring to arrive at the desired shade, and continue cooking until the time is up. The mixture will look like a gloppy mess and you'll be sure it's not going to turn out, but it will! When it forms a ball in a pot, roll it onto a generously floured surface. Knead, adding flour only as necessary, until it looks like play dough. It will be a little stickier than store bought play dough at first, but wait 24 hours — perfect!

Happy Birthday to...

July

Kailey Blank, Hugo Derennes, Nathan Eide, Carter Gribble, Elise McDonald, Jaidyn Richter, Julia Sommerfield, Greta Weeks

August

Noah Bruele, Liliana Castle, Austin Cupic, Macy Dennon, Isabella Ferrari, Jack Honeycutt, Syver Lanctot, Gian Manhas, Hailey Peterson

September

Zachary Borda, Miles Defebaugh, Gabriella Moline, Brandon Peterson, Abigail Sun



Back To School Blues

Sometimes the first few days at school can be very difficult, especially for children who may not have spent much time apart from their parents. Please feel free to stay a few minutes with your child. At Patti's, we find it easiest if you engage your child in an activity, tell them that you'll be back, and then just leave. If your child cries, the staff is prepared to soothe them. Even if the good-byes are tearful at first, know that your child is in safe and loving hands. Soon your little one will be feeling right at home.

Here are a few tips to help ease separation anxiety:

1. Establish an easy good-bye ritual, such as a hug.
2. Stick to your ritual.
3. If your child is upset when you leave, wait 10 minutes and then call the center for an update.
4. If your child has a special blanket or security item, you may wish to bring it.
5. If your child has difficulties separating, it is best to keep your ritual and drop-off time short.

Board of Directors for 2008 – 2009

Patti's is run by a board of parent volunteers. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact one of the board members listed below.

Co—Presidents	Jen Dougan	206-236-2477
	Lisa Beebe	206-232-8143
Vice President	TBD	
Treasurer	Lisa Lanctot	206-230-6970
Registrar	Karen Schmid	206-232-0306
Personnel	Nicole Dennon	206-232-6922
Payroll	Jane Moffitt	206-232-8300
Volunteer Coordinator	Trina Myklebust	206-524-6338
Communications Coord.	Emily Ferrari	206-232-3990
Special Events / PR	Angie Chatalas	206-275-1985
Safety	Erika Hobson	206-621-0681
Fundraising	Andrea Chatalas	206-232-2104

School Holidays for 2008 – 2009

Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving	November 27 & 28
Winter Break	December 22 - January 2
Martin Luther King	January 19
President's Day	February 13 & 16
Spring Break	March 30 - April 3
Memorial Day	May 25
Last Day of School	June 11



Join MIPA Today!

Since 1937, the Mercer Island Preschool Association has been an incredible social network for parents of young children. Enjoy the benefits such as discounts to local retail shops, playgroups, preschool guidance, and much more. A one-year membership is only \$40. Join today online at www.mipreschoolassociation.org.