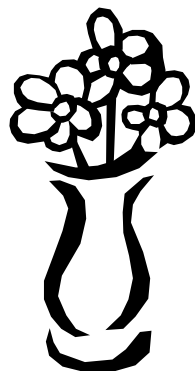


SBCCSI Newsletter

August 2004



From Lucille

Dear SBCCSI Parents,

I am writing this letter with many mixed emotions. In the past few years there have been many positive changes in my life, and now after 19 remarkable years I have decided that this is the right time for me to retire as Executive Director of Stony Brook Child Care Services. I know what an outstanding center we have become, due in great measure to our exceptional staff. We have accomplished the impossible dream of our new building, which is a warm and welcoming place for children and their families.

I fully appreciate the opportunity I have been afforded for an incredible experience that enabled a rather naïve cooperative nursery school teacher/director, mother of four, an opportunity to work, learn, grow and interact with many Parents, Staff, Board Members, University colleagues, Early Childhood Professionals from across the State and Nation, and above all the wonderfully diverse children of SBCCSI.

I plan to do parenting and administrative workshops, teach a class or two, and some consulting, but primarily take time with my husband Joe, to savor our large extended family of 9 children (and all of their significant others), and 13 grandchildren.

I will continue as Executive Director of Stony Brook Child Care Services and retire effective March 18, 2005. I am looking forward to a full schedule, including some exciting fall events, a number of new

initiatives, and the Swing summit, our new play yard, for all the children to use, which begins construction on August 30th.

One of the earmarks of what has made us different is that we are a community of Parents, Staff and Board, working together to reach our goals. I trust that the SBCCSI community will move forward together to ensure a smooth transition to new leadership.

Warm Regards,

Lucille Curcio
Executive Director

Did you know....

There is a
"mailbox" in the
entry hall to leave
messages for your
parent representa-
tives to the SBCCSI
Board?

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SBCCSI's Parents Host First Annual Center Appreciation Day

On Friday July 23rd, 2004 parents treated staff to an incredible breakfast buffet with coffee, teas, juice, quiche, bagels, muffins, fresh fruit, sweets.... and their warmest appreciation. In a short program, parents spoke to staff of their gratitude and respect and presented staff with a giant thank you card signed by many, many families. Many staff were in attendance in the Multi Purpose room, joined by many of the children. In addition parents had contributed goods and money for the staff. Parents to be used for staff appreciation raised \$700. (The decision making process is ongoing, staff have submitted 25 idea son how to best spend the money, voted for their top 3. As soon as all those votes are in we will have the final vote on the top choices.) At

the event boxes of goods towels, kitchen supplies, toys were raffled off to the rooms. In addition, a staff member in each room was the recipient of a gift bag raffle.

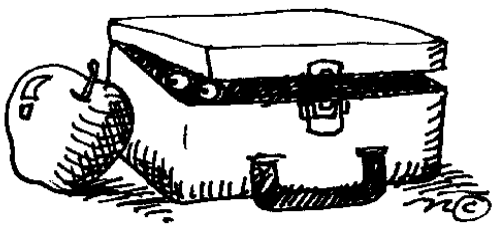
Many thanks to all the families who participated by giving their time, energy, money, food and materials to make this event so special. We love our work and we love your children, hearing your "thank you's" add another dimension to our very rich work experience.

A special note of thanks to former GSO Rep Jamie Page who started this off by engaging the other parent reps Mindy Webb, Elena Polenova and Sue Walsh. Jamie completed her doctoral dissertation at Stony Brook and has relocated to Texas with her son Jaron. She will be sorely missed.

Book Fair Update

A heartfelt thanks to all the parents and staff who worked at the **Scholastic Book Fair in April**. And thank you to all the families who purchased books for home and for their child's room from the wish list board. The rooms received many wonderful new books and the center realized a profit.

We look forward to an **even bigger book fair on: November 7-12, 2004**



Parents-

Refrigerator space is at a premium! We need to store lunches and daily snacks. **Please be sure that the lunchbox you send is the smallest one that can fit everything your child needs.** We also

ask that everything be stored inside the lunchbox. We do not have room for extra drink containers.

So as you look for your next lunchbox, keep in mind that the fun, unusual shaped and roomy lunchboxes create storage problems for the rooms. Thanks!

Board Profiles...

I am a new Board Member and work for State Bank of L.I., I can be contacted by email at obelleau@statebankofli.com, by mail at C/o State Bank of L I, 234 Rt. 25A, East Setauket, N Y 11733, Tel 631-941-3000.

I enjoy reading biographies. I love playing golf, tennis, walking and gardening. I love spending my free time with my family and friends. The best time is having fun with my four grandchildren.

If you have any questions, let me know.

Regards,

Olga

Notes from the Rooms...

Room 1 welcomes newest team member Kim Stagg. A generous parent donation has provided a beautiful shade tree in our yard. On Earth day the staff and children planted flowers. We all enjoyed our annual summer potluck and great food. **Room 4** is changing. There are a few grads and new students coming in the early fall. But we still have some summer fun left. We really enjoy being outside and especially playing with water. We have made rivers and a water park in our sand box. **Room 6** welcomes our new team member Jennifer. Danielle has received her Masters in Human Resources Management. Noor is expecting a baby girl in December. September 10th is our goodbye POTLUCK for our big kids moving up, Paul Ezra, Samuel and Dennis. Happy Birthday to Sam Fastenberg and Jayanti Kumar. **Room 7** is sad to say goodbye to Jessica Medina as she begins her leave of absence to complete her student teaching requirement for her Masters. Sean Keane and Melissa Clement will be stepping up to share the staff replacement position. We've been very busy exploring activities from The Ooey Goey Handbook and The Fizzle, Bubble, Pop and Wow Book by Lisa Murphy. We've experimented with food

coloring, made flubber, painted in the dark with homemade paint roller flashlight. Come see our “mountains of Junk” a landscape display of crumpled newspaper and paper mache.



Swingset Summit

Exciting news for all of the children of Stony brook Child Care Services. On August 30th we will break ground for a play yard we have called “the Swing Summit”. When we left our old buildings we were most sad that we needed to leave behind swings...We just did not have room in any of the individual the play yards. Children and staff spent many a happy hour on the swings at Toscanini, Clark, Benedict and ECC. So in our conceptual design for the yards, we had envisioned a place up on the hill for swings. Thanks to a generous donation by the Rifkin Family Foundation, it will now become a reality. The Swing Summit, adjacent to Room 6, will have 10 swings, one that is handicap accessible, a winding trike path, sandboxes and eventually picnic tables and plantings. We will utilize it like the Multi-Purpose Room, shared at various times by all the classrooms. Keep your eyes on the yard, and also look for a family planting day some time later this Fall.

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Wish List for Rooms



A parent suggested that we post wish list for items wanted or needed in the classrooms. What follows is a generic list of items that many of the rooms use and need to replenish regularly for daily routines as well as activities like cooking or making playdough. Ask the staff in your room if they use any of these items and consider donating materials you no longer need or picking up one item one your next shopping trip.

- Towels,
- Bibs
- Kids socks and underwear
- Flour
- White rice
- Cornstarch
- Oil
- Salt
- Cream of tartar
- White vinegar
- Food coloring
- Eyedroppers
- Bubbles or Dawn Dish detergent
- Dramatic play clothes and accessories (phones, keyboards, cameras, menus, order pads / forms, stethoscope, scrubs, ...)
- Kitchen utensils (serving spoons, measuring cups...)

Reminder

Income verification forms were due Friday August 20th. If you have not already handed them in please do so as quickly as possible.



Do you have music that is special to your family? Share your favorite music with the classrooms on CD or Tapes. We are especially interested in music from around the world.