May 13, 2009

Dear CFDC Families,

It’s hard to believe that we’re midway through the second full week of May, the last day of classes for UMES students was yesterday, and Memorial Day is about ten days away. Time doesn’t stand still; that’s for sure! I sincerely hope you enjoyed and celebrated all of the mothers in your family last weekend…with my son entering his teenage years, my mother in her mid-seventies and me another year older and getting closer to 40, I am certainly noticing how fast life passes us by. There’s a song out now by Darius Rucker (formerly of Hootie and the Blowfish) entitled, *It Won’t Be Like This for Long* that really hits home…one particular verse makes me think about our Center each time I hear it on the radio…

> Four years later ’bout 4:30  
> She’s crawling in their bed  
> And when he drops her off at preschool  
> She’s clinging to his leg  
> The teacher peels her off of him  
> He says what can I do  
> She says now don’t you worry  
> This’ll only last a week or two

> It won’t be like this for long  
> One day soon you’ll drop her off  
> And she won’t even know you’re gone  
> This phase is gonna fly by  
> If you can just hold on  
> It won’t be like this for long

The time you allow and trust the teachers and me to have with your child each weekday is precious. We are blessed to see the children’s changes and their growth…as always and most sincerely, thanks for trusting our program with the care and early education of your child.

Let’s talk about what’s happening this month:

**Lifetouch Preschool Portraits**: Please return the portraits you do not wish to purchase and payment for those you wish to keep **no later than this Friday, May 15th**. I think Mr. Frank did another great job this season with the portraits!

**Kinderman Returns to UMES**: We have been fortunate for the past several years to be able to invite the Kinderman (Emmy Award winning children’s performer) to UMES’ Performing Arts Center to entertain our friends and local Head Start and Somerset County children cared for by licensed providers with familiar tunes and a “Say No to Tobacco” message through a grant from the Somerset County Department of Health. This year is no exception. The Kinderman returns to us on Tuesday, May 19th at 1:00. A permission slip will go home asking for your permission for your child to walk to the PAC to see the show. If you’ve heard your child sing, *Friends, Friends, One, Two, Three or Colors, Colors Everywhere* then you already know a little about the Kinderman. We will continue to share preschool-appropriate information with our children about second-hand smoke and the dangers of tobacco throughout the summer.

**Tuition Reminders**: I sincerely enjoyed the experience of mentoring Ms. Sheena and Ms. Cherrell this semester and I look forward to watching them walk across the stage to receive their diplomas on Friday, but without them and finalizing grades for this semester, my paperwork is a little behind. I hope to have tuition reminders to you by tomorrow. Please make sure your child’s tuition is paid in full by month’s end…May 29th by noon.
Memorial Day Holiday: As a reminder to you, the Center will be closed on Monday, May 25th to celebrate Memorial Day.

Congratulations Graduates: Ms. Ashely has worked tirelessly over the past several years toward her Master’s Degree at Salisbury University. Her hard work has paid off…she graduates with a Master’s of Arts Degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages on Thursday May 21st. Congratulations Ms. Ashely…we are so proud of you and your accomplishment! We extend our congratulations as well to two of our very dedicated student workers, Ms. Claudine Jean-Baptiste and Ms. Darcel Walker who will graduate from UMES this Friday, May 15th. Claudine’s last day at the Center (she’s worked with us each semester since spring semester of her freshman year). Darcel intends to remain with us for a portion of the summer…both Claudine and Darcel are graduating with degrees in Social Work.

Update on Jasmine: What a very difficult and frightening time it has been over the past several weeks for Shashanna and Jasmine and their family. I was actually writing the May newsletter on May 5th thanking everyone for their prayers for Jasmine when I heard from Shashanna only to learn that Jasmine had experienced another seizure and was on her way back to PRMC. Although I haven’t heard from Shashanna since the end of last week once Jasmine was back at home, I do know that Jasmine is responding well to her anti-seizure medication, rested well this past weekend and was scheduled to see her doctors at Johns Hopkins yesterday. We are all hopeful that things went well in Baltimore yesterday, and I will certainly share more information regarding Jasmine as we are made aware. I want to publically thank Ms. Jauntae who has managed with finesse and great skill both the Pre-K group and the school-aged group during Ms. Shashanna’s absence.

Summer Plans: Please keep me informed about your intentions for your child(ren)’s enrollment throughout the summer and into the fall. If you plan for your child to withdraw for a period of time or permanently or begin attending full time when public school dismisses, please let me or your child’s teacher know as soon as you can.

I almost forgot our May birthdays: A’Neiya’s on the 8th, Kamira’s on the 10th, Mason’s on the 16th, Jacob’s on the 19th, Ian’s on the 24th, and Alexis’ on the 25th. Happy Birthday to each of these friends!

…Lily of the Valley
May’s birthflower.

Circus Tickets: I’ve just been given a stack of free tickets to admit one child accompanied by a paid adult ($12) to the Cole Brothers’ Circus of the Stars…the show is today and tomorrow at 4:30 and 7:30. Please see me if you are interested.

We’re looking forward to great learning opportunities to continue for your children in May (please see attached article about our swimming program from UMES’ The Key magazine); in addition we’re continuing to improve our program through the Maryland State Department of Education’s Accreditation Self-Study process…we’ll be updating you regarding our progress toward this goal throughout the summer.

Enjoy the remainder of the month.

Ms. Donna ☺