

# SOUTHSIDE UPDATE

Volume 18, Issue 8

August/September 2010 Newsletter

## NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Wow! What a summer! Hot, long days are now becoming a little shorter. It seems last year at this time we were celebrating new umbrellas in the Older Infant and Toddler play yards to shield that heat. Unfortunately, those umbrellas have not lasted even one year. In the process of returning them to the "Splash" store; I've been told by the owner that even though they are under warranty, the company that "Splash" purchased them from will not honor the warranty, claiming it was wind damage that caused them to not crank up or down. So for almost 3 months, I have listened to the owner tell me he is trying to fix them. It hasn't happened. So it's time for Plan B.

Plan B involves a new concept for shading a play yard called Shade Sails. This requires large upright poles which secure a large sheet of nylon. These sails are designed to withstand sun (ultraviolet radiation), heat (infrared radiation), wind and hail. As per parent suggestions we will be dedicating our Fall Fundraiser exclusively to this endeavor. This Fall we are using a new company for the sale of cookie dough with new flavors and sold in tubs or sheets; and really cool, large, beautiful polypropylene, 32 oz. LSU or Saints mugs! More information

may be found on page 4.

Checkout the new look on our website. Ms. Sarah has refurbished our website, which now includes the newsletter! So, we will become e-friendly with electronic newsletters, beginning with the October issue of *Southside Update*. We will be sending a memo out to you, letting you know that we will be going paperless. You will need to return this memo to us if you would still like to continue to receive the hard-copy of our newsletter.

At this time I will update you on the status of our Star rating. As you know, we have our 2nd star. Since receiving this star; we have been on a mission to pursue the 4th and 5th stars. In order to earn the 4th star, a certain percentage of teachers must have credentials. Our teachers have worked very hard towards achieving this goal.

As of August 3rd, Ms. Betty C., Ms. Tina, and Ms. Shirmelle have received their Child Development Associates, joining Ms. Vicki, Ms. Sarah, and Ms. Debbie, who have already received their CDA's. Congratulations to all of our ladies who earned this prestigious level of education. Once certificates are received, copies will be sent to Pathways. Pathways is the record-keeping

agency for every childcare center in Louisiana. Pathways must recognize that they have each received their CDA's. Once that has been achieved (which may take 6 months); the paperwork gets sent to Department of Social Services. Meanwhile, all of the staff will be taking two of three required workshops on *Understanding ERS* and *Training in Social Emotional Screening of Children*. There is a waiting list to take these two workshops. We are scheduled to take at least one of these courses in the Fall.

Upon completion, we will then schedule classroom evaluations. There are just a handful of evaluators in the state, which in turn creates a backlog that can take several months. Once that is complete; and we have done well; we will hopefully earn the 4th or 5th star.

Because we do have two stars, parents will be able to continue to enjoy a small tax break in April. There are larger tax breaks with the higher star rating. But even if we do earn the higher star in 2010, the tax break will not be effective until the 2011 tax year.

This Fall, be on the look-out for information about the book clubs; the new French and/or Spanish Class for Teddy Bears and Lions; new classroom supplies; and new Fall Fundraiser items.

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### Special points of Interest

- Checkout the new look on our website.
- Please be on the look-out for information about all the special activities and events which will resume in the Fall.

## ENRICHMENT CLASSES

### Spanish Class

We are currently pursuing a language teacher for the Teddy Bear and Lions classes. Our goal is to have a teacher ready to start classes the first week of October.

### Computer Class

Computer lab will resume for Toddlers through Lions classes. Toddlers and Tigers will visit our Resource room weekly. The Teddy Bears and Lions will visit bi-weekly in the Resource classroom. Lions



have the option to use the Resource room or the Computer lab in their classroom. Afterschoolers use the Resource room as their classroom, therefore have unlimited access to computer time.

Classes will begin with the Toddlers learning proper use of the mouse and recognition of some keys on the keyboard. All lessons are taught by using interactive, developmentally appropriate CD programs.

The Preschoolers are involved in learning more complex computer techniques such as learning similarities and differences, ordering, sequencing, solving problems, letter combinations, time concepts, pre-reading, pre-math, etc.

Afterschoolers will have access to the Internet and encyclopedias, as well as, word processing, emailing to parents; and a ton of educational and entertaining software. Wow!



## PRE K UNIFORMS

This year begins a new unprecedented year utilizing uniforms in the Lions class. Parents of our PreK class met at the end of July. By a very close vote, decided that uniforms would be appropriate for our Lions class.

Therefore on Monday, August 16, all nine of our preschoolers (Lions) joined the ranks of most other Preschoolers in wearing a uniform to school.

Southside's uniform for the girls is a purple polo shirt with preferably khaki short, skorts, or pants. They also have the option of wearing a khaki jumper, which may be purchased from Gymboree. Eventually, I would like to see an embroidered Southside logo sewn onto the jumpers.

Southside's uniform for the boys is a purple polo shirt with preferably khaki shorts, or pants. However, other shorts or pants may be worn by the boys and by the girls.

This will improve the professional look of our Lions children; make life easier for our parents; and help the Lions transition to wearing a uniform for Kindergarten. Because we do recognize this as a transition, the Lions will have free dress day on Fridays.

**Remember to  
wear LSU or  
Southern colors  
on every Friday  
this Fall!**

**Support our  
teams!**

## Welcome to Southside all of our new children:

### Gerry Arun (Tiger)

Dad—Lukose Arun

Mom—Jency Jacob

### Corrine Baumgartner (Tiger)

Mom—Michelle Livermore

Dad—Gerald Baumgartner

### Kyle Frederick (Nursery)

Mom—Heather Frederick

Dad—Aaron Bourgoyne

### Kyle Guidroz (Nursery)

Mom—Allyson and

Dad—Gerry Guidroz

Big "T. Bear" Brother—  
Connor

### Diya Hejamadi (O. Infant)

Mom—Gunjan Raina

Dad—Vasudev Hejamadi Tati

### Blakely Herrington (Teddy Bear)

Mom—Elizabeth

Herrington

Dad—Brennan Borel

### Hannah Powers (Nursery)

Mom—Jennifer Powers

Dad—Andrew Powers

Big "Tiger" sister - Lucy

### Benjamin Phillips (Nursery)

Big Sister— Charlotte  
(Lion)

Big Brother—Christopher  
(ex-Afterschooler)

### Amrita Sarangi (Nursery)

Mom—Sulagna Mishra

Dad—Sudipta Sarangi



# CLASSROOM NEWS

Visit us on Facebook  
and on the Web at  
Southsidechild.com

## Friendly Reminders

Parents, please make sure that when you have asked someone other than your spouse to drop-off your child; that they are aware that **drop-offs can NOT occur during naptime**. We have seen this occurring lately by unsuspecting grandparents, aunts and uncles.

When children are dropped-off during naptime, they disturb the sleeping children in their classroom. This in turn causes children not to get their full nap or no nap at all.

Please be considerate of your child's classmates and the staff. Thank you to all the parents and caregivers who are considerate and do demonstrate the effort to drop-off before or after naptime.

Also, when dropping-off after 9:00 a.m., children must be walked to their respective classroom.

Thanks again to those who do!

## Nursery Class—From Ms. Tina

I would like to thank Ms. Denise for promoting me to the Nursery Teacher position. I will truly miss the Tigers; but am looking forward to making a difference each day in the lives of our youngest members of our Southside family.

I have earned my CDA this month and am very grateful to have had the chance to do this while working at Southside.

I'm truly blessed to have become close to the Infants and their parents in the Nursery. Kyle Guidroz, Benjamin Phillips, Hannah Powers, Kyle Frederick and Amrita Sarangi are all doing very well in the transition.

Thanks for the opportunity to care for your babies during such an important stage in their lives.

Have a safe and happy Labor Day weekend. Feel free to call me at anytime with questions or concerns.

## Older Infants—From Ms. Shirmelle

Language in an infant's first year begins with the understanding of what is said. Gradually infants begin to sort out individual words and one day about the middle of the first year, you call your child's name and he/she turns around and recognizes words, names, objects, persons, and food. This will lead to understanding and speaking words. The Older Infants are developing language at an amazing pace.

Welcome Diya Hejamadi to the Older Infant room. She is quickly making new friends. Nathan loves the slide in the room, and the push toys. He has adjusted well. Zehr will ask to read a book by bringing a book to me; and saying "book". Brian will drop a toy and respond with "Oh oh." He is growing and learning so quickly.

Kimberly, Mary Lynn, and Oliver have graduated to the Toddler class. Congratulations! We will miss you. Have a happy Labor Day!

## Fall Fundraiser

As per parents' requests, this Fall Fundraiser will be dedicated to purchasing Shade Sails for the Nursery, Older Infants and Toddler yards.

This Fall, we will not only be selling delicious cookies in tubs; but also beautiful, 32 oz. LSU or Saints mugs. For every 10 sold, you get a Saints mug for free!! See sample on Denise's desk. Please support our fundraiser by sharing your fliers with coworkers, friends, family and neighbors.

**Our Fundraiser will be the week of September 20 through October 1.**

## Fall Assessments

Parents of Tigers, Teddy Bears, and Lions, be on the look-out for your child's Fall Assessment. Our teachers work diligently to create a Fall and a Spring Assessment each year. The purpose of this data is to enlighten parents as to where their children are in their physical, social, cognitive and emotional development.

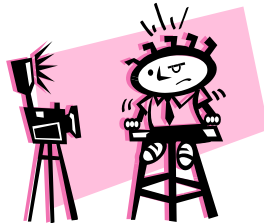
These assessments will be completed in early September and handed out the week of September 20.

Parents should request a conference to review the data with their child's teacher.

## FALL PORTRAIT DAY

Fall Portrait Day will be on Tuesday, September 14 at 8:00 a.m. On this day we request that you dress your child in his/her "Sunday best" clothes, preferably solid colors (instead of a busy printed outfit). Also, remember to pack an extra pair of clothes so we can change them after the pictures are taken.

Portraits will be taken in the morning hours. Purchases are made after you have reviewed your child's



proofs. There is no obligation to buy pictures.

We will be using *Kate White Photography* this year. We have been very pleased with the high quality of the pictures, the timely return of prints, and the service afterwards from this studio. A sample of what the backdrop looks like may be found on the front office observation window.

## BOOK CLUBS

Southside will continue with the popular, well-loved book club choices, which include Scholastic Firefly and Honeybee Book Clubs; and Click Software Club every month. This means you now have excellent books available for reading to your child at extremely low prices. Many of these books are Caldecott Award Books. Order forms are distributed monthly.

You also have access to books written by popular children's authors such as Steven Kellogg, Eric Carle, Alike, etc. If you would like to purchase books from any of these book clubs, simply follow these steps:

1. Choose which books you would like

to purchase.

2. Fill in the order form on the back of the book club flier. Include your child's name.

3. Total orders separately for each book club.

4. Make checks payable to the book club that you are making your purchase, i.e.: Firefly Book Club.

5. Staple check to order form and return to your child's teacher before the deadline on back of the flier. Books will arrive in 2 to 3 weeks; being placed in your child's cubby.

Information regarding ordering online has been distributed to parents with the last round of order forms.

## QUALITY NOTE

Last month Southside treated its employees to a weekend retreat to Flint Creek Waterpark in Wiggins, Mississippi.

Our staff enjoyed fishing, boating, swimming, stories around the campfire, and lots of great food and bonding.

Fun was definitely had by all who attended.

## Upcoming Events

**Mon., Sept. 6**  
**Labor Day Closure**

**Thurs., Sept 9**  
**Wear LSU/SU clothes**

**Fri., Sept. 10**  
**(remembering 9/11)**  
**Wear red, white, and blue; and Grandparents Luncheon**

**Tues., Sept. 14**  
**Fall Portraits**

**Mon., Sept. 20—**  
**Fri., Oct. 1**  
**Fall Fundraiser**

**Mon., Sept. 20**  
**Fall Student Assessments**

**Friday, Sept 24**  
**Kindergarten Bonanza**  
**(for Lions Parents)**

**Mon., Oct. 18**  
**Annual Parent Evaluations**

**Friday, Oct. 29**  
**Fall Festival**

# CLASSROOM NEWS (CONT.)

## TODDLERS—FROM MS. DEBBIE

The news from the Toddler class is showing how differently the children are developing. Some are working on movement or fine motor skills. Each is equally important to the development of the whole child.

The Toddlers welcomed James, Scott, Oliver, Kimberly, and Mary Lynn to our class.

Chloey tested her skills at putting 9-piece puzzles together. Once she understood how to turn the pieces around to fit in the holes, she repeatedly worked to put them together over and over again.

Eli used his creative skill at painting with feathers. He first felt the soft feathers and then dipped them into paint. As each feather was dragged across the paper, the feathers made different designs and streaks. He was excited to see the finished artwork and felt pride in his accomplishments.

Harper, Micah, and Patrick love to dance. The fun fast beat of the music brings a festive atmosphere to the classroom. They will jump, twirl, and wiggle to the music. They love to find a partner to hold hands with to dance.

Oliver, Mary Lynn and Kimberly are busy exploring their new environment. Mary Lynn likes to play in the kitchen. Kimberly enjoys playing with the pop-up turtles. James likes to push the fire trucks around the room. Scott enjoys naming objects in the word books.

Happy Birthday to Mary Lynn, Scott, and James. See you next month!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO SHIRMELLE, TINA AND BETTY C. FOR RECENTLY COMPLETING AND EARNING THEIR CDA'S.**

## CAMP SOUTHSIDE—FROM MS. RACHAL

Summer Campers have been "busy little bees". We have had Louisiana Culture week, Sport Clinic, and Cooking Classes. We have been going to the pool and the library regularly.

I saw our campers exhausted at the end of everyday. Zoe and A J were very excited for the remainder of Cooking Class with Chef Ronell. Jose excelled in our soccer games. Haley enjoyed our dance time and our imaginative play with all of her new friends. Tori loved finding those fish during the Sports Clinic. She even baited her own hook! Jaxon learned how to build intricate forts with the older kids in the classroom. Houston and Evelyn enjoyed getting to know all their new friends the last few days.

Summer is over. School is starting too soon. I want to thank all of the parents for their support and patience with me this summer. I have thoroughly enjoyed the campers. We have had some great times.

I hope your child will remember this summer for a long time to come. I also hope that the friends your child has made this summer will stick with them for a long time to come. Have a wonderful school year.

### Fall Parent Evaluations

Parents, please complete the Fall Evaluations that you will be receiving the first week of October. We not only publish the results in the January newsletter; but we also set our new goals for the upcoming year based on our strengths and weaknesses we acknowledge from these evaluations.

Help us to continue improving on excellence in early childhood education.

## FALL FUNDRAISER (CONT.)

Our sale will begin on Monday, September 20 and continues for two weeks, ending on Friday, October 1. Completed orders will be called in on Monday, October 18. Delivery will be sometime around the middle of October.

All payments must be made in advance, payable to *Southside*. Please help us raise money towards the addition of shade sails for the Older Infant, Nursery, and Toddler yards. The children would absolutely love the shade! We would again be setting the standards for quality childcare as it relates to outside play in Louisiana! Please be a part of this exciting event!

# CLASSROOM NEWS (CONT.)

## TIGERS— FROM MS. BETTY C.

Vacations are over, but the heat still lingers. There is no avoiding the heat but there are ways we can keep cool. The Tigers are spending shorter play periods outside with constant water breaks. Most of all, we look forward to Friday, when we shed those clothes and don our beach wear. Aah, it feels so refreshing to sit or slide into; or just soak your feet in the pool. To top it off, we have Koolpops to cool down.

During the month of August, we had many exciting events happen. We had so many friends leaving, we are sad. Connor, Ace, and Maddock graduated to the Teddy Bear class. We are going to miss you guys! Meanwhile, we have been very excited about welcoming our new friends. They are Sarah, Lucy, Chris, Cohen, and Micah from the Toddler class. And we welcome back Damion. Also, brand new to our center are Jude, Gerry and Corinne. Welcome to the Tiger den!

We are now starting our new Fall curriculum, with more hands-on projects, more expressive painting, and making decorations for upcoming holidays. Lastly, more developmentally age appropriate computer software will be enjoyed by our Tigers this Fall.

Happy birthday this month to Nathan, who will turn 3.

Have a safe Labor Day holiday.



## LIONS— FROM MS. HEATHER

During the first week in August, I did home visits to all my Lions families to get to know them better. The students were all looking forward to me coming; and I enjoyed every bit of it. I was delighted to see how inquisitive they were. The second week in August was spent seeing students for a few hours each day while they transitioned. The Lions enjoyed all of the activities that were done during the time I was there.

The first day of school was August 16, 2010. We got to know each other even better because the theme for the week was *All About Me*. The Lions made self-portraits and family portraits. They also did a star-gazing activity where they had cut-outs of stars and at each point of the star had something special about themselves and the things that they like. I really liked the activity because it gave me the opportunity to learn what each of my students likes and dislikes.

The Lions made space posters with their families during *Space* week which I thought were great because I love parental involvement.

During the last week in August the theme was fishing. The Lions made scaly fish; and fished with alphabetic magnets which they really enjoyed. They also were able to wear fishing attire.

The transition for the children and the classroom has occurred without a hitch. Everything seems to be running so smoothly. I truly enjoy teaching Pre-K here at Southside and looking forward to next month.

Have a safe Labor day weekend.

**Kassidy, Kaitlyn and Charlotte  
are modeling their new  
PreK uniforms.**

## TEDDY BEARS— FROM MS. BETTY H.

It is time to say good-bye to summer. We had a great time with swimming and eating Koolpops pops. The children are adjusting to their back to school routine.

We completed the lesson on "All About Me". The Teddy bears made pictures of their families and friends. We talked about body parts, weight, height, and families. Maddock's mom (Lindsey) came in and talked about Maddock's baby book. We were very excited to see the children as newborns.

In the next week, we learned about "Space". The children learned about the eight planets. They made their own posters. Jolie and Jack named the different planets. Connor P. placed the moons in sequence. Connor G. drew a lovely Big Dipper and Little Dipper.

During "Camping" week, we went camping on the playground. We made a pretend fire, a tent, and named outdoor animals. Ben named some of the outdoor animals. Ace had fun making a tent with the sheets. Adalee was observing the ants trail on the playground at a distance. Blakely loved going fishing and camping with her mom and dad in the woods.

I would like to welcome Jolie, Blakely, Ace, Ben, Maddock, Connor G., and Adalee to the Teddy Bears Den. They are doing a fabulous Job! Have a happy Labor Day weekend.

See you next month,

—————Mamma Bear

