

# SOUTHSIDE UPDATE

March 2011

Volume 19 Issue 3



Southside Child Development Center  
Southside Child Development Center

## NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

March bring winds and rain, in preparation for Spring flowers. It also is the time of year that we receive our annual inspections. I view these inspections as being analogous to the wind and rain that accompanies this time of the year. Although most people do not enjoy the wind and rain that late Winter brings; without it, we would not enjoy the beautiful flowers that bloom in the Spring. Without inspections, child care programs may not face their inadequacies and make improvements.

Most people do not enjoy being inspected by a state worker whose only knowledge about their business is what is seen in the few hours during the visit. One who must make sure that regulations on paper, no matter how impractical, are implemented. Yet, with these inspections we are forced to open our eyes past our daily tasks. We improve in areas that we may have neglected or have not given much thought. Inspections are an aspect of accountability. And after every inspection we experience improvements or

we feel good that no improvements are needed. Both outcomes have a positive impact on my employees.

During March we have been visited by all three state inspectors: State Fire Marshall, Department of Health and Hospitals, and Bureau of Licensing. In keeping with our goal to always provide the highest quality child care in Baton Rouge, we faced our inadequacies and are making the following improvements:

1. Two employees need to get updated physicals. We are waiting on those.
2. The diaper-changing areas in both the Nursery and Older Infant rooms must now have 4 inch walled sides to prevent babies from falling off the changing area. These will be ready for use by the end of March.
3. Two back-up emergency lights needed new batteries, which have now been installed.
4. Two fire extinguishers inspection tags were incorrectly hole-punched; which has been corrected.

5. The kitchen pantry and storage surfaces must be tidied and cleaned better. This has been done.
6. A checklist must be completed by all employees showing proof that we have annually reviewed all policies and procedures reflective of the Bureau of Licensing Regulations. That paper will be completed at our next monthly staff meeting.
7. New mats must be purchased for the Toddler class to replace the frayed mats.
8. Any frayed furniture or mats must be temporarily taped until able to replace.

While preparing for return visits from all inspectors we are also completing two workshops that all staff must take before we are able to earn our 4 stars. It's going to be a busy Spring season.

I am extremely pleased that all classrooms received NO citations. Congratulations to the Southside staff.

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### Special points of interest:

1. All fire extinguishers are fully-charged, inspected and ready for use.
2. The diaper-changing areas in both the Nursery and Older Infant rooms must now have 4 inch walled sides to prevent babies from falling off the changing area. These will be ready for use by the end of March..
3. New mats must be purchased for the Toddler class to replace the frayed mats.

## OPEN HOUSE

Southside's annual Open House is right around the corner! This special day is scheduled for **Saturday, April 9.**

**We will be celebrating our 19th anniversary with the famous Southside cook-off, a guest speaker, a Magician, spacewalk, Chef Ronell's famous bar-bequed meats, and many, many door prizes including several micro vacations! Come have some family fun!**

\_\_\_\_\_ Chef

### ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Please dress your child in green on Thursday, March 17, in honor of St. Patrick's day.

## CLASSROOM NEWS

### Nursery—From Ms. Tina

Another month has come and gone while our little ones make remarkable strides. It seems that the Infants are now trying to play follow the leader when one makes a sound, they all make sounds.

I would like to say goodbye to our little sweetheart, Kyle. He is ready to venture out into the Older Infants class, as proven with his recent attempts to crawl out on his own (smile). It will be a task to keep from peeking in on him.

I would like to welcome our newest baby boy, Aaron, who has been a joy to care for. He is fitting in very well. We also have a new infant starting later this month named Dylan Harlin. I would like to welcome you to our Southside family, also. We surely can not wait for you to start.

Hannah is now starting to crawl; and she's having fun doing it. John and Ellie, who are my twins in the Nursery, are beginning to compete for my attention. Chloe, who is my little alarm clock, is starting to turn over and trying to sit-up with a little assistance. Grace was one of my smallest babies, but has now caught-up with most of the other babies. She is starting to laugh at everything you do with her.

(cont. in next column)

## SPRING FUNDRAISER STATUS

To date, we have been saving all earnings from past fundraisers (except Fall 2010) toward building a water spray park behind our facility. This would provide a safe waterplay space for all of our children, including Older Infants, due to no standing water. So far we have \$13,000 in the bank. The cost is over \$40,000. We would like to continue to promote this project as an asset to an already high quality early childhood program. However, we only raise approximately \$1000 per fundraiser and priority at this time is to complete the purchase and installation of shades in the two play yards, which will cost approximately \$17,000. Therefore, we will have to use the past fundraiser revenues in order to pursue shades for the play yards. Based on feedback for parents, this may be a better alternative.

Several parents have shared their concerns that they are not seeing what the fundraiser revenues are being used for; and are concerned about return on investment with the water spray park. This may explain why this fundraiser received the least support from our parents.

Please remember that costs for improvements of this magnitude do not come out of the operating budget. We must raise this money separately. So

please continue to support this worthy cause for your children.

The Spring Fundraiser has come to an end. As previously stated, we did not do as well as we have in the past. But we did earn \$935. Thanks to all the parents and staff whose effort helped make this endeavor possible.

Our top seller was the Guasco family, selling 90 items. Congratulations! In 2nd place was the Francise family, selling 36 items. In 3rd place was the Szewc family, selling 26 items. Thanks again for your effort in making our Spring Fundraiser a success.

The top class, selling an average of 13 items per child was the Nursery. So this means Ms. Tina gets to choose some additional items for her Nursery. In 2nd place was the Lions class, selling an average of 10 items per child. In 3rd place, selling an average of 9.6 items per child, was the Teddy Bear class.

We will have extra chocolates available for sale when the order arrives on March 17. So we humbly request that you continue to help by purchasing the fresh World's Finest Chocolates when they arrive on the 17th of this month.

If you are privy to grants or any other method of raising funds for these types of improvements, please email Denise and share. We always welcome feedback from our parents. Email to [info@southsidechild.com](mailto:info@southsidechild.com).

Please welcome the following families to our Southside family:

Vishweshwar  
"Vishi" and Ruth  
Admal; and Older  
Infant daughter,  
Leyah

Josh and Betsy  
Norton; and Nursery  
son, Aaron.

*"All revenues earned from our fundraisers go directly towards purchasing items for your children."*

(Nursery—From Ms. Tina, cont.)

Kennedy is trying to pull-up on the furniture. I think she will start walking before she crawls!

Thank you, Nursery parents, for being the top sellers from our Spring Fundraiser. Your effort has paid off by providing revenue necessary for purchasing a shade sail for our play yard. And because my class was the 1st place winner, we will receive some items for our classroom.

And always remember that you can call me at anytime concerning your baby.

## CLASSROOM NEWS (CONT.)

### Toddlers—From Ms. Debbie

February was a sweetheart of a month. We celebrated Valentine's Day with a party. The parents enjoyed talking with each other. We enjoyed great food and drink. This month the children were working on different skills, physical, social, emotional, and cognitive.

Brian is new to our class. He graduated from the older infant class. He loves to play in the kitchen. He will pretend to cook using the play stove. Scott and James are learning to recognize pictures of different things. They will bring a book and ask, "What is it?", when looking through the books.

Mary Lynn is becoming our class mother hen. She will give pats or hugs to the children many times a day. Emmi is learning that talking is important to communicating her needs. She will point her finger and use her own language to get her point across. Jaxson has music in his soul. He will dance and sing many times a day to his own rhythm. Because Eli can use sentences and carry on a conversation, he moved up to the Tiger room. Congratulations Eli!

Oliver likes to run and pull the poppers around the yard with his friends. He loves to engage his friends in activities. Evan keeps the biggest smile on his face all day. He will laugh and clap his hands to his own thoughts.

Abby loves to dress up in a hat and boa. She is quite the little lady. Matthew is new to our class. He is exploring the centers to find out what he likes best. Connor likes to sit in our laps. We will show him different toys and how to play with them. He like the pop-up game.

Thank you for the support of the candy fund raising. We will soon be enjoying sun sails to keep off the summer sun.

Happy Mardi Gras!



### Lions—From Ms. Heather

Greetings! It's warming-up! The birds are chirping and the grass smells wonderful.

Music week was very interesting. The Lions were introduced to the symbols of music. We matched music sounds and felt each other's throats vibrate, as we talked. Lauriel stated that she sees music signs a lot on "Dora the Explorer". The letter "Nn" was also introduced. We named lots of items that start with the letter "Nn". The Lions used math skills to graph whether or not they thought the ground hog would see his shadow.

Valentines week was fun! We shared lots of love in the Lions classroom, by cutting out hearts; making heart prints; mixing red and white paint to make pink; and made Valentine's cards for the parents to show our parents and classmates how much we love them. We really enjoyed the Valentine's Party; and thank everyone for the Valentine's cards and gifts.

During Dental week we learned how to take care of our teeth. Nicholas stated that if we don't brush we will have monsters in our mouth. He was correct, meaning cavities. We painted with toothbrushes and dental floss, which the Lions enjoyed.

During President's week we discussed what a president is and the president's job. We made Abraham Lincoln's Log Cabin and George Washington's Cherry Tree. The letter "Qq" was introduced. We made a Lions' Quilt which included all the Lions artwork.

We are currently working on a number book in which the Lions are learning how to write, recognize, and pronounce their numbers.

Thanks to Mrs. Yolanda Johnson, and Mr. Mark Phillips for being classroom readers. Also thanks to Mrs. Peggy Morrison, Cassidy's grandmother, for sharing with the Lions on how to take care of their teeth.

Graduation information will be posted soon. I encourage all parents to read to their children because, "The more you read, the more they know. The more they know, the smarter they'll grow."

— Roaring Lions

### Older Infants— From Ms. Shirmelle

We had a great February. Our Older Infants learned many new tricks. Learning different sounds of animals was one of many new activities they encountered. We played many fun color games such as: "Red, Blue" and counting games. We also used our blocks to build and stack.

We have been blessed with a new face in our classroom. Leyah has joined our class and is doing well adjusting to all the daily fun we experience. We also welcome Benjamin to our class. He graduated from the Nursery. He is making new friends, as he tries to walk.

Devyn loves to sing and dance. She will get in the middle of the floor and just dance; and rock side to side. She is dancing with the stars. Diya has so much energy. She reminds me of the Duracell Bunny. She keeps going and going. She also know how to say, "More, please".

Amrita has demonstrated an affinity towards all the pull toys in the room. Juliette has found new ways to climb up on the toys backwards and to the side. She is too cute as she climbs.

Harrison is now learning how to walk and take steps. He is our little Olympiad! He is so proud to be able to take steps.

We are excited to be a part of the growth of your little ones and their lives.

### QUALITY NOTE

*All items we were cited for last year during our annual inspections, passed with flying colors this year. Thanks to all of our employees for always working so hard to provide high quality childcare to your children therefore passing inspections.*

*All Southside staff were treated to steak dinners because of the great results from our annual inspections.*

*Congratulations on a job well done!*

## CLASSROOM NEWS (CONT.)

### TIGERS—FROM MS. BETTY C.

Welcome to March with its unpredictable weather. We may begin the day needing a jacket and ending the day wearing no coat at all. Thank you parents for leaving a light jacket or sweater at school for just those kinds of days. Protecting our children is what we do.

This month has been a busy month. The first theme in the month of February was Music. We love to listen and dance to the music; and play our musical instruments. We made maracas using toilet paper rolls and tambourines using paper plates. Thank you, Peter Simon, Cohen's dad, for entertaining our children by playing your guitar.

The second theme for the month was Valentine's. We enjoyed preparing for our party. And we decorated with hearts, made necklaces and card holders. Thank you parents for contributing to our party. We could not have done it without you. We gave lots of hugs and kisses this week.

The third theme for the month was Dental Hygiene. Thank you to Dr. Matt Randle's dental hygienist for coming to our school to talk to us about eating healthy foods; the correct way to brush our teeth, and to brush twice a day.

The fourth theme for the month was Presidents. We talked about presidents from the past and our president today. We decorated apple trees and made American flags. Our pajama day was a hit, knowing you can get out of bed and come to school in your pajamas.

I would like to welcome my new assistant, Ms. Velma. She comes to us with three or more years of experience. And she has her CDA. She is doing an awesome job with your children; please welcome her with open arms.

All in all it was a fun and eventful month. Thank you parents for your support of our fundraiser.

Peter Simon, Cohen's dad, entertains the Preschoolers with his talent on the guitar.



### TEDDY BEARS— FROM MS. BETTY H.

We had a couple of cold days in February. Parents please keep warm clothing at school for your child.

For Music Week, we made shakers, musical wristbands, microphones, and guitars. Lucas drew musical notes in the sand. Nathan marched around the sandbox with a shovel and a bucket. He was playing in a marching band. Ben listened very carefully while I played a beat on the drums. He followed directions very well. Jack listened to the different kinds of music. But his very special song is "Country Roads." The children enjoyed playing "musical chairs".

For Groundhog Day, we made masks. We discussed Groundhogs and shadows. Adalee followed directions sequencing Groundhogs from larger to smaller. She placed them in the correct sequence.

For Valentine week, we made cards, hearts, necklaces, and kissing hands. We sang "Oh would you be my Valentine?". Adria made a very special card for her mother. She wanted Mom to know how much she loves her. Connor G. made a heart person. He said, "I want to give this to my Mom. I love her very much." I would like to thank all of my parents who helped out during the Valentine's party and supported our fundraiser.

For Dental Hygiene Week and the letter "Oo", we had a visitor from the Dentist Office. The ladies showed us the correct way to brush and floss our teeth. We read "The Tooth Book", "A Visit to the Dentist", and "Dora Goes to the Dentist." Connor P. wants to be a dentist now. He likes having his classmates open their mouths wide. Haydon and Maddock made head mirrors. They each wanted to check and see if all were brushing right. Great job! Ace painted an orange tree. He likes eating oranges.

The children had fun on our Picnic in the Park. We all ran down the hill side and watched the squirrels jumping from tree to tree. Thank to all the parents who came out and helped.

Happy Birthday to Maddock, 3-19 (4 years old). Happy Mardi Gras!

————— Mama Bear

### AFTERSCHOOLERS— FROM MS. MARILYN

February was a very short month and exciting month. The Groundhog did not see his shadow, so we learned that there will be an early Spring. This was a great opportunity for Zoe to learn more about the weather. She had a big exam on the subject of weather; and did very well. The flash cards we made were a hit!

We celebrated Valentine's Day with lots of candy, cards and small gifts for all of our sweethearts. We also enjoyed pink cupcakes and made arts and crafts.

For President's Day, Hadon lead the discussion. We talked about all of the coins and dollars with Presidents' faces on them. Alex, Annalise and Nada learned that February is also Dental Month. They learned about their teeth and how to take care of them, with special dental activities. Annalise lost her first bottom tooth.

We had a visit from Haley during Parent-Teacher Conference week. She enjoyed spending the day helping out in the PreK classroom, then joined the Afterschoolers for the afternoon.

Let's not forget we discussed Black History Month.

I am also sad to say we will miss Alex, this was his last month with us. We wish him lots of luck.

## Upcoming Events

**Monday March 17**  
**Wear green in honor of**  
**St. Patrick's Day**  
**And**  
**Chocolate arrives!**

**Saturday, April 9**  
**Southside Open House**

**Friday, April 22**  
**Closed in honor of**  
**Good Friday**