

# SOUTHSIDE UPDATE

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May 2011



## NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR

The May edition of *Southside Update* brings us memories of our 19th Annual Open House; and excitement about PreK graduation and *Camp Southside*.

This year Southside is graduating 10 Preschoolers, who will take their place among Kindergarteners all around the Baton Rouge area.

Southside's graduation is scheduled for Friday, May 6 at 3:00 p.m. Our Southside graduates are listed on page 2.

Congratulations to Ms. Heather and a wonderful group of hard-working and playing children who I know will become the leaders of their classes.

Our Open House was again a huge success. Our guest speaker, Ms. Rebecca Wisbar of Akers and Wisbar Law Firm. She shared her wisdom with our families about preparing a will.

The space walk continued to be a big hit with the young and the old. "Dr. Magician" entertained all with his special tricks that I could not explain. He was great! And we had a special visit from Dr. Steve Ripple's Pediatric Dental office. The dental hygienist had a special character to let the children know how important

it is to brush their teeth.

Once all of those events came to an end; it was time to judge the best in the Pot Luck competition. Our parents did not let us down. Everything was so-o-o delicious. For a finale, we were rewarded with Chef Ronell's delicious barbequed chicken. Thanks to Ronell and Kenny. They were awesome!

Lots of door prizes were given away. Thanks to Ms. Sarah for organizing and retrieving the following prizes. The lucky recipients were:

Gift Certificate to the *Melting Pot Restaurant*— The Schmitt Family;

One night "Staycation" at Crowne Plaza Hotel— the Eldredge Family;

Catered Intimate Dinner for 4 by Chef Ronell — The Binns Family;

World's Finest Chocolate Basket—The Norton Family and the Binns Family, respectively;

Free babysitting service for one night—The Szewc Family;

La Madeline's Gift Certificate— The Harlan Family;

10 lb ham from Sysco's— The Sario/Molina Family;

We had three winners for the **Dessert** Pot Luck competi-

tion.

1st Place— The Shepherd Family w/Baked Brie & Pecans

2nd Place—The Powers Family w/ Apples & Caramel/Pecan Dip

3rd Place— The Binns Family w/ Homemade Oatmeal & Chocolate Chip Cookies

We had three winners for the **Appetizer** Pot Luck Competition.

1st Place— The Powers Family with Quiche Bites

2nd Place— the Szewc Family with Spinach Dip

3rd Place— The Sario/Molina Family w/ Spanish Omelet & Olive Oil Bread

We had three winners for the **Side Dish** Pot Luck Competition.

1st Place—The Bogan Family w/ Oriental Cabbage Salad

2nd Place— The Harlan Family w/ Corn Vegetable Mix—Maque Choux

3rd Place—The Eldredge Family w/ Macaroni & Cheese

Graduation is the next big event at Southside, taking place on Friday, May 6 at 3:00 p.m.. You're invited!

Camp Southside will follow quickly after graduation. Be on the look-out for "big kids"!

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### Special Points of

#### Interest

- Southside's Open House was a huge success.
- Southside gave away 8 door prizes, 9 Pot Luck Awards, and honored 7 employees for over two years of employment.
- This year Southside will be graduating 10 Preschoolers, who will take their place among Kindergarteners all around the Baton Rouge area

## GET WET DAYS

The month of May brings warm weather which is perfect for getting wet. Southside has shallow wading pools to be utilized by the Toddlers, Tigers, Teddy Bears, and Campers. The swim schedule is as follows:

Toddlers—Wednesday afternoon

Tigers—Friday afternoon

Teddy Bears—Monday afternoon

Campers—Tuesday and Thursday afternoons

On *Get Wet* days please bring the following labeled items for your child: **swim suit, beach towel, and sunscreen.**

If your child is not potty-trained you will also need to bring swim pull-ups.

Nursery and Older Infants will create their own schedule for "Get Wet" days.

**And still again, our PreK graduates are accepted into Kindergarten at schools that some parents actually believe their children can not get into unless they are in the PreK there.**

## CLASSROOM NEWS

### Nursery—From Ms. Velma

Babies are learning to communicate and socialize with their bodily movements, facial expressions, and sounds. I've been observing and listening to each child carefully, and in a short time I was able to distinguish a hungry, tired, or bored cry.

The Infants are very interactive. Interaction helps to strengthen bonds. Therefore everyday we read, hug, and rock your babies. We also sing and talk during feeding times. Chloe and Kennedy are very mobile. They can pull themselves up to stand; cruise around

the toys; and crawl. Grace can sit up with support, and is starting to laugh out loud. Dylan is grasping for objects; and putting the objects in his mouth. He is developing eye-hand coordination. Ellie is cooing and babbling frequently. John is starting to imitate the things he sees. Aaron holds his head up when placed on his belly.

Always interact with your infant. It enhances their development. You can talk and babble with your baby, back and forth daily; read daily; lay baby on back and hold a colorful toy over his/her chest to promote reaching;

## PREK GRADUATION

**When: Friday, May 6, 2011**

**Time: 3:00 a.m.— 5:00 p.m.**

**Where: At Southside**

Come join us as we watch the Lions recite and comprehend French & Spanish; act out nursery rhymes; and receive well-earned diplomas and character awards.

Ms. Heather has worked hard this year to prepare our preschoolers for Kindergarten. Thank you, Ms. Heather!

Who are our graduates and where have our graduates been accepted for Kindergarten next year?

**Kevin Wintz Crow**

St. Aloysius School

**Kaitlyn Ann Francise**

St. George School

**Abby Elizabeth Francise**

St. George School

**Lauriel Marie Johnson**

Bellingrath Hills Elementary School

**Jacob Holden Jones**

Walker Elementary

**Nicole Liu**

Our Lady of Mercy School

**Charlotte Calcote Phillips**

University Laboratory School

**Kassidy Ryan Smith**

Dutchtown Primary

**Nicholas Joseph Vidrine**

Runnels School

**Mason Joseph Wild**

Dunham School

## Mother's Day Prayer

Hands

Thank you Lord for dirty hands

That touch my stove and fridge;

For sticky little fingers that

Try to build a bridge.

For careless hands that go astray

In search of something new;

For hands to hold and show the way

As mothers often do.

For precious little hands in which

Great faith so abounds;

For silly little hands that reach

To touch a mother's frown.

And thank you for your guiding hand

That leads me to the light;

That lifts me when I stumble

And points me to the right.

As little hands reach out to me

To show them what to do,

I'm steadied, reassured and loved

As I reach up to you.

Judith Peitsch

and introduce new things to allow exploration.

We create a safe environment for exploration and learning. Always feel free to contact me at anytime concerning your precious little one.

Thanks for participating and attending the Easter Party. It was a blast! And please remember that sunscreen forms need to be filled out.

## CLASSROOM NEWS (CONT.)

### Older Infants—From Ms. Shirmelle

I hope everyone had a great Easter. It's hard to believe April is over, and we are starting May. Happy Mother's Day from the Older Infants.

During the month of April we focused on fine motor skills; and learning how to grasp the paint brushes to do our art work. Look around the room to see your child's work.

During the month of April we painted with the colors pink, white and yellow. We also talked about the colors as we painted with them. Ms. Vicki and I also introduced the word "more" during lunch time. Our babies learned it in sign language.

Moving to a rhythm is a lifelong skill. Music is important for children because it promotes listening skills. The Older Infants love hearing the same music over again. Juliette continues to "boogie down" daily on the floor.

We welcome Hannah to our room. She is fitting in great. Leyah is now taking steps all around the room. Kyle has begun attempting to pull-up. He pulls up on every piece of furniture he can, to assist himself with new found skills using his legs and feet. Emma is our little loco motor, moving so fast. She will be walking soon. Amrita is becoming very vocal as she works hard towards understanding her environment and verbally communicating new found words. Benjamin has learned how to use the cribs to push around and support himself.

It was great to see all the parents and grandparents who attended the Easter party. Thanks for sending sunscreen and bug spray. Happy Mother's Day!

*Happy Mother's day to all those who have the privileged obligation of being Mom!*

### Toddlers—From Ms. Angela

I have truly enjoyed working with your children. Watching them grow and develop has been such a joy. Abby's vocabulary is expanding. She's now putting words together to form short sentences. James enjoys looking at picture books. He points to objects within the picture and ask "what's that?"

Nathan can be found in the sand box exploring with his senses. He uses hand-eye coordination and small muscle control to dig, pour, sift, and scoop the sand. Devyn engages in a parental role play by taking care of the dolls. Evan and Jaxson are developing self help skills. Both boys have shown an interest in learning the proper hand-washing techniques. Connor has enhanced his gross motor function by climbing up the ladder to go down the slide.

Matthew is becoming more aware of his surroundings by exploring the environment. Brian is interacting more with the group. He is developing hand-eye coordination by assembling puzzles. Emmi is now discovering cause and effect by using the pop-up toys. Scott enjoys participating in group activities. During music and movement, he claps and moves along to the music. He is also developing a love for books. He enjoys listening to stories at story time.

Happy Mother's Day!

### *Upcoming Events*

*Lions' Graduation  
May 6*

*Mother's Day  
May 8*

*Camp Southside  
begins  
May 16*

### Tigers—From Ms. Betty C.

The year is passing quickly. It is now May! The weather is beautiful. The birds are singing. Butterflies are flying. And mosquitoes are out. What a great time of the year! Thank you parents for sending bug spray and sunscreen for your little ones.

During the first week of April, our theme was Creepy Crawlies. We learned that insects have 6 legs. The Tigers enjoyed looking at lots of insects in books and outside on our play yard. You can see some of our creepy crawlly bugs around the room.

The second week of April, our theme was Shapes. We found lots of shapes in our room, especially in our block center. We have shapes in all colors and sizes. We decorated and painted various shapes. The Tigers' favorite shape is the circle.

The third week of April, our theme was Easter. Thank you parents for a great party and Easter egg hunt. The Tigers enjoyed decorating the room with flowers, bunny rabbits; and dyeing hard-boiled eggs. I hope your Easter was memorable, too.

The fourth week of April, our theme was Dr. Seuss. We celebrated by reading lots of books by Dr. Seuss. Our favorite story is "Green Eggs And Ham"; because after the story we ate green eggs and ham.

I would like to welcome Mary Lynn Crow to the Tigers' den. She came in with a big smile and has been smiling ever since.

Now that the weather is getting hot and muggy, it is time for us to cool off by playing in the pool and eating popsicles. Send swim clothes, swimmers and a towel to school. We will start swim day this month.

*Parents, please remember to bring sunscreen and bug spray to protect your children. Thanks.*

# CLASSROOM NEWS (CONT.)

## Teddy Bears—From Ms. Betty H.

I would like to welcome Kendall Daily, our new Teddy Bear, to the Den. She is enjoying her new surroundings. Keep up the good work, Kendall!

Language is a beautiful thing. It allows us to share our wants, needs, thoughts, and feelings. I believe it is very important to nurture this aspect of child development. This month the Teddy Bears have been concentrating on a great deal on language development. They are beginning to use more words to express themselves. We get to read their favorite books from home.

During Gardening Week, we planted flowers, beans, and adopted a tree. Ace painted a lovely tree with great precision. Ben and Nathan increased their counting skills. Haydon and Jack are doing quite well being the message deliverers to the different teachers. Adalee made a beautiful corn-on-the-cob with construction paper. The kids made lovely garden posters. Thanks parents for the hard work you and your children put into making the posters.

The children enjoyed the "KITE FEST." The Teddy Bears had lots of fun. They had the chance to fly their kites on the field. They were excited about the big kites that were there.

During the Creepy Crawlies week, we made ladybugs, butterflies, spiders, and caterpillars. We worked on the letter "Uu". We painted underneath the table and did the umbrella dance on the patio.

Adria painted her favorite fruit. Connor G. had fun doing the umbrella dance outside. Maddock named the body parts of an ant. Connor P. was brave, bringing a live bee in a jar. He was very proud of his catch.

For Shapes week and the letter "Vv" we made shape booklets; counted triangles; made shapes with rocks; and made shape posters. We observed each other's voices; and made vases. Lucas listed all the different kinds of shapes we discussed for the week. Great Job! Jack found shapes on the playground.

Parents please keep a change of clothing at school. We are still having accidents during nap time.

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(Cont. from column 1)

For the week of Easter and the letter "Ww" we made Easter baskets, bunny rabbits; dyed eggs; made a wagon and enjoyed water play. We had an Easter party, hunted eggs; and participated in a bunny race.

The children visited Ollie Steele Retirement Center. We had two Easter egg hunts. Jack, Ace, Connor P., Haydon, Kendall, and Nathan each won chocolate rabbits. Great job! We had three categories: The Most Eggs; The Silver Egg; and The Golden Egg. The children sang "Country Roads" to the residents.

Happy Birthday to Adria. She will be 4 years old on May 24.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

## Afterschoolers—From Ms. Marilyn

The Spring Season has arrived! The month of April has passed us by. We welcomed the beautiful blooming flowers, birds chirping and we enjoyed watching the earth come back to life. Spring brings many beautiful days to enjoy long walks in the park.

The Afterschoolers celebrated Easter Break with Holiday Care. They participated in numerous Easter projects. Houston, Nada, Evelyn and Christopher came for a visit during the Easter Break. They had such a blast at the movies watching "Rio". It was a great hit and they enjoyed it. Our group went fishing. Nada successfully caught a fish! They also enjoyed having a picnic and playing in the park. Haley came to Southside for Holiday Care, also. She enjoyed hanging out with the Lions. She also enjoyed writing and telling fairytale stories.

Haden has an intellectual hunger for science and discovery. He loves to experiment on the playground. Zoe is the architectural one in the class. She builds and designs several projects within the classroom. Nada and Annalise are learning more responsibilities since they are about to graduate from Kindergarten.

## Lions—From Ms. Heather

During the month of April, the Lions were very busy. The first week in April the theme was Creepy Crawlers. We discussed the different kinds of insects; the different ways insects help us; and the different ways in which they move. Mason found a caterpillar and put it in our insect jar. They watched as the caterpillar metamorphosed into a beautiful butterfly. The Lions also enjoyed their special treat: worms and dirt (which were really gummy worms and crumbled Oreo cookies). It was delicious!

Shape week was awesome. We looked for shapes all around us; and played shape BINGO. Everyone won because we are all winners in the Lions classroom. What really made shape week so fun for the Lions, was the field trip to Louisiana Art & Science Museum. The Lions really enjoyed it! They learned about the different shapes, lines and colors. This was great because it was the same lesson we were on in class. They also made collages and flowers out of coffee filters, being very creative.

For Easter week, we read the book, "The Best Thing About Easter". The Lions really enjoyed reading the book because it stated that Easter is not all about eating colorful jelly beans, and dying Easter eggs. It was a great biblical lesson. We made paper plate Easter bunnies; Easter baskets out of milk jugs, and dyed eggs. The Lions thought the glitter eggs were really cool. The Easter party was wonderful. Thanks for all of your help! I would also like to thank Mr. Casey Crow, Kevin's dad; and Mr. Ryan Smith, Cassidy's dad, who helped out with hiding the eggs for our Easter egg hunt. The Lions found lots of eggs. Lauriel was sad because she had stopped to eat her candy, so didn't collect as many eggs as her classmates. But everyone shared their eggs because we had more than enough. In the Lions classroom, we share. The Easter art work was outstanding! The Lions worked very hard using their fine motor skills.

The Last week in April was Dr. Seuss week. The Lions enjoyed reading all the Dr. Seuss books. They made a chart on which books they enjoyed the most. It was "The Foot Book" and "What was I Scared Of?" by Dr. Seuss. Our Letters for this month was "W, X, Y, and Z." Throughout the year the Lions have been practicing writing their alphabet. They each now have a wonderful Alphabet Keepsake as proof of their hard work.

After graduation some of our preschoolers will become Summer Campers. I am quite excited about this because I will be the Camp Counselor. Yeah!! Congrats to our PreK graduates!

Happy Birthday to Mason Wild who made 5 on April 13, 2011.