

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

### **Winter 2010**

The fall season was beautiful here at the Center. Our playground, surrounded by trees with colorful leaves, was a very pleasant and busy place to play and enjoy nature at its best. Our Trot and Halloween Parade event was well attended in spite of the weather (it is always held outside, rain or shine). It was cool and rainy, however, we still had a great group of walkers and runners willing to brave the elements. We also had many volunteers who helped us save the day and warm people up with warm hot dogs, coffee, juices and wonderful salads from Olivia's Organics. We are grateful to all who donated and volunteered.

Our December Holiday Party was also well attended and Santa had many gifts to pass along. He had some helpers from Central Catholic High School students, Wilmington, Methuen and Andover public schools. We thank everyone for their help. This year Vicor, Credit Suisse, and Cambridge Isotope Laboratories participated in our toy drive. They joined our old friends at Analog Devices, Inc. and, together, they donated over two hundred wonderful toys and games for our children.

Winter groups have started and our 2X3 preschool class has grown. They are having a wonderful time. In December, the Day School had a Winterfest Holiday Program with a great sing along with our music therapist, Meredith Pizzi. The children prepared all of the decorations including pine trees and sleighs. Even Santa stopped in for a visit!

This year, we kicked off our 37th year anniversary. The Board and staff attended the annual dinner event where we honored some of our staff and Board members for their years of service: **Sandy Levine, 30 Years and Linda Piette, 30 Years.**

On behalf of everyone at the Center, I want to thank all our friends and supporters in the community for all that you have done to make the expansion of the Center possible. Once again, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Board members, parents, staff, and everyone who has helped us reach our goal.

Stay tuned for more announcements as we move forward with the events we are planning for the coming months. Please remember to save the date April 30, 2010 for our Annual Swing into Spring Gala and Silent Auction.

## **Fall 2009**

The Summer season at the Center has been beautiful, (since summer actually arrived). Our playground has been busy with children and staff enjoying the warm sunshine surrounded by trees green grass, and a garden full of flowers and interesting plants. We hope to use our outdoor space as long as we can this fall/early winter.

The Developmental Day School's Arts Fair in June was fantastic. We had many parents, families and guests attend. Some of the children's art is still on display here at the Center. The Music Program was also very special. The children actually made some of the instruments they played as they accompanied their music therapist, Meredith Pizzi.

On July 29, 2009, we celebrated "Jane's Day" in honor of Jane Howe's (PCCD Health Coordinator) retirement. Jane retired after 32 years of dedicated service to the Center and its' staff and families. We had a continuous buffet and salad bar all day while her friends and family visited to wish her well. In the afternoon, we planted a beautiful Red Thread Leafed Japanese Maple Tree in a very special space on our playground. We also gave her a sister plant for her home. We will think of her every day when we see her tree.

In August, we celebrated the retirement of Delia Rinaldi. Delia and her family have been involved with the Center for over 20 years, and she gave the Center twelve and a half years of dedicated service as an assistant teacher.

We continue to add more equipment to our playground. The new musical sensory panel is very popular. Water play is especially popular during the summer months. Thanks to frequent "car wash days" our fleet of toy cars and trucks has never been cleaner!

We are working on our plans for this year's Trot for Tots and Costume Parade. Please remember to save the date October 18, 2009. The funds we raise will benefit all the children enrolled in our programs. All are welcome! I hope to see you there.

## **Summer 2009**

The Spring season at the Center has been beautiful. Our playground has been busy with children and staff enjoying the warm sunshine

surrounded by trees with colorful blossoms, green grass, and a garden full of flowers and interesting plants. Our long and cold winter is now a memory.

We had a very interesting visitor in April. Lemon the duck came to visit with Laura Backman, author (of Lemon The Duck), teacher, and Lemon's caretaker. Laura read her book about Lemon while the children, staff, and parents enjoyed petting and feeding Lemon. Lemon happens to have a disability and is a pet therapy duck. She and Laura are very special.

Our Swing into Spring Gala Event was exciting and fun. We honored Mr. John De Michaelis, founder of Olivia's Organics Foundation for Children's Charities. Priscilla Bartle and The Community Giving Tree were the "Children First" award recipients. Our fundraising efforts were successful with our silent and live auctions, and our basket raffles. We want to thank everyone who volunteered, the Gala Committee, friends, parents, supporters, and all who attended for making the evening a great success. We thank Lemon and Laura Backman for being our specials guests, and Laura for sharing her wonderful story with all of us.

We will continue to expand our playground over the summer months. Summer programming will resume after the 4th of July, following a brief break at the end of June.

Jane Howe, RN, our agency Health and Therapies Coordinator, was a TWIN (Tribute to Women) nominee at the Annual YWCA Luncheon. The event celebrates the work of women in the community who contribute their time and professional talents to improve the quality of life for all of us and serve as role models for women and girls who live and work in the community. We are very proud of Jane and all of her accomplishments and celebrated this event with her family. Jane will be retiring from her position at the Center after 32 years of dedicated service in August. She has worn many hats during her career at the Center and will be missed by all of us.

Stay tuned for more announcements as we move forward with events we are planning for the coming months. Please remember to save the date October 18, 2009 for our Annual Trot for Special Tots and Halloween Costume Parade. Have a safe and happy 4th of July.

## Winter 2009

The fall season was beautiful here at the Center. Our playground, surrounded by trees with colorful leaves, was a very pleasant and busy place to play and enjoy nature at its best. Our Trot and Halloween Parade event was well attended. It was cool to start, but warmed up as the sun rose and gave us a very bright and sunny day.

Winter blew in early this year, however, we were prepared. Our December Holiday Party was also well attended and Santa had many gifts to pass along. He had some helpers from the Wilmington and Reading public schools, and Central Catholic High School. We thank everyone for their help.

This year we added Vicor Corporation to our toy drive. They joined our old friends at Analog Devices and, together, they donated over two hundred wonderful toys and games for our children.

Winter groups have started and our 2X3 preschool class has grown. They are having a wonderful time. In early January, the Developmental Day School presented a play based on the children's book "Brown Bear Brown Bear What Do You See?". The students dressed in costumes of the various animals and used their specialized switch activated voice output devices to tell the story. The children in the 2X3 preschool also starred in the production.

This year, we kicked off our 36th year anniversary. The Board and staff attended the annual dinner where we honored Priscilla Bartle as she announced her upcoming retirement after over 30 years of service as our Office Manager and Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director. We also honored the following staff and Board members:

**Priscilla Bartle:** 30 Years  
**Roxann Nickerson:** 30 Years  
**Betty Saltzman:** 20 Years  
**Patricia Baines-Arndt:** 15 Years  
**Lisa Kwiatowski:** 10 Years  
**Andrea Larson:** 10 years

**Cindy Morrison:** 10 Years  
**Betsy Hazen:** 5 Years  
**Susan Johnston:** Board, 6 Years  
**Ellen George:** Board, 6 Years  
**Steven Caron:** Board, 7 Years  
**Grace Clancy:** Board, 3 Years

On behalf of everyone at the Center, I want to thank all our friends and supporters in the community for all that you have done to make the expansion of the Center possible. Once again, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Board members, parents, staff, and everyone who has helped us to reach our goal.

## **Summer 2008**

We had an early spring this year. It was perfect and helped us “swing into spring” using our newly renovated fully accessible playground. We continue to add new equipment and expanded opportunities for our children every week.

Our playground has truly come alive with the beautiful wall mural from local artist, Rob Surette. The gardens are being planted, and our friends from St. Matthews Masonic Lodge in Andover are installing our sensory play panels and garden terraces for the sensory garden. The new fire engine donated and constructed by the Lawrence Rotary Club members has been a huge hit with the children. The Spade and Trowel Garden Club members will help us plant and care some of our garden areas. Volunteers from Schneider Electric in North Andover worked with our landscape company, W.H. Ferris, to plant our hillside garden area. We are very grateful for all the support we have received to help us expand our playground and make it a unique and special learning place for our children to enjoy.

Our summer Groups are fully enrolled and we are looking forward to our special curriculum and more outdoor play and learning opportunities for the children.

This year, we are continuing to celebrate our 35th anniversary. Our Past, Present and Future Spring Gala was a wonderful “kick off” for this special time in our history. I was truly honored to be the honoree, and want to thank the Gala Committee, The Board of Directors, the Staff, Parents, and all those who worked so hard to make it such a very special evening.

On behalf of everyone at the Center, I want to thank all our friends and supporters in the community for all that you have done to make the expansion of the Center possible. Once again, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Board members, parents, staff, and everyone who has helped us to reach our goal.

Stay tuned for more announcements as we move forward with events we are planning for the coming months. Please remember to save the date, October 19, 2008 for our Trot for Special Tots 5K Race and Walk.

## **Spring 2008**

We have had a busy winter this year with plenty of snow to enjoy, and four "snow days" for our Developmental Day School and Groups. We are certainly hoping for an early Spring and no more snow days!

Our playground will soon come alive with new plans for garden areas and additional equipment. We received a grant from the Edith Glick Schoolman Children's Foundation to incorporate art in our new playground, and we are planning to have a beautiful wall mural designed by our staff and local artist Rob Surette. He will begin his work in April. The Lawrence Rotary Club and the State-wide Organization have given us generous grants to add a fire engine to the playground. They are planning to help us with the construction process joined by some students from the Greater Lawrence Technical High School. We will also have some helping hands from Andover's Saint Matthew's Masonic Lodge under the direction of Warren Burkholder. The Spade and Trowel Garden Club members will design, plant, and help us care for some of our garden areas. We are very grateful for all the support we have received to help us expand our playground and make it a unique and special learning place for our children to enjoy.

Our summer Groups have been scheduled and we are currently enrolling children. The children will spend more time outdoors this Summer enjoying the new play equipment and garden areas.

This year, we are celebrating our 35th anniversary. We have already started making plans for our Spring Gala and Celebration. Please join us for this very special time as we celebrate our Past, Present and Future together on May 2, 2008 at the Andover Country Club.

On behalf of everyone at the Center, I want to thank all our friends and supporters in the community for all that you have done to make the expansion of the Center possible. Once again, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Board members, parents, staff, and everyone who has helped us to reach our goal.

Stay tuned for more announcements as we move forward with our playground expansion and the events we are planning for the coming months. Please remember to save the date, May 2, 2008.

## **Winter 2008**

We have had an exciting fall season at the center this year. Our new playground opened in October in time for the children to enjoy the new swings, hillside slide, and refurbished sand box. The new play surfaces have added a new dimension to the larger more open space. The "real grass" is also very inviting to roll on and to feel beneath your feet. We will be adding the sensory garden, mural, and additional equipment to play both in and on. The ride on toys and new pathways provide an opportunity to learn motor coordination and to exercise our large muscles. All the planning and hard work of Fran Peterson and her committee has really materialized into a beautiful and unique place to play and learn and enjoy being outdoors. We thank all of our friends, Board members, staff, families, and community organizations and foundations for their generosity and encouragement during our expansion.

Our groups and Day School children have been very active in special art projects filling our walls and bulletin boards and surrounding us with colorful seasonal themes. The Day School students and staff have been moving forward with Curriculum Frameworks. We have also been re-licensed and approved by the Massachusetts Department of Education as a Chapter 766 Private School.

This year, we will be celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have already started making plans for our annual events and will have a few surprises for everyone. As we move into our anniversary year and the future we hope you will all join us in the activities and events.

We wish everyone a very Happy and safe Holiday Season!

## **Fall 2007**

We have had busy summer this year. Our playground committee, under the direction of Fran Peterson, has worked very hard in planning and scheduling the construction of our new playground. Our rainy spring weather delayed the project, and some of the equipment did not arrive as scheduled. Despite the set backs, we have solved the major problems and are on our way to a beautiful new playground. Our new swings and slide are wonderful and waiting for us to begin to use them when the surfacing, pathways and fencing are completed this fall. We have also made excellent progress in meeting our fundraising goal of \$100,000. We thank all of our parents and friends

for their continued support and encouragement. If you wish to make a donation, please contact Lisa Doucett at the Center at ext. 222.

Our summer Groups and Developmental Day school were full, and everyone enjoyed our special "theme weeks". The Day School celebrated with a well attended graduation party on August 10<sup>th</sup>. We wish our graduates well as they move on in their new school programs. This year, we will be celebrating our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have already started making plans for our annual events and will have a few surprises for everyone.

On behalf of everyone at the Center, I want to thank all our friends and supporters in the community for all that you have done to make the expansion of the Center possible. Once again, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Board members, parents, staff, and everyone who has helped us to reach our goal.

Stay tuned for more announcements as we move forward with our playground expansion and the events we are planning for the coming months. Please remember to save the date of October 21, 2007 for our Trot for Tots event. I hope to see you all there.

Welcome back and Happy Fall!

## **Summer 2007**

We have had a busy spring this year. Our playground committee, under the direction of Fran Peterson has worked very hard in planning and scheduling the delivery of equipment, and the construction of our new playground. Our rainy spring weather has delayed the project affecting the actual preparation and construction. The fundraising project, under the direction of Lisa Doucett, has been moving along. We have received many donations and grants to help with the project, and we are hoping to hear from some foundations and fraternal organizations soon. At this time, we are at the halfway point in meeting our goal of \$100,000. We thank all of our parents and friends for their continued support and encouragement. If you wish to make a donation, please contact Lisa at ext. 222.

We had a well attended Legislative Coffee on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Parents, staff and some of our children met their local legislators. We are very fortunate to have support from all of the legislators in our area.

Our Swing into Spring Gala event was well attended. We had almost 300 guests present for the festivities and silent and live auctions. It was a beautiful spring evening! We want to thank everyone for their generosity in donating items for the auction and beautiful baskets and for supporting the event. We reached our goal of \$50,000 dollars! On May 2, 2008, we will be celebrating 35 years of serving the children and families in our community and region.

On June 1, 2007, the Center received an award from the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce for Discovery and Education at its Annual Small Business Recognition Day. We also received a Special Congressional Recognition Award from Congressman Marty Meehan.

On behalf of everyone at the Center, I want to thank all our friends and supporters in the community for all that you have done to make the expansion of the Center possible. Once again, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Board members, parents, staff, and everyone who has helped us to reach our goal.

Stay tuned for more announcements as we move forward with our expansion and the events we are planning for the coming months. Please remember to save the date of October 21, 2007 for our Trot for Tots walk/run.

Have a Safe and Happy Summer.

## **Winter 2007**

We have had busy and exciting winter, so far, in 2007. We continue to refresh the East Wing of the Center with new paint, and classroom supplies and equipment. Our holiday toy drive was a great success. We thank the employees at Instron, UBS, and Analog for their very generous and continued support.

The capital campaign to help raise funds for the project, which includes finishing all areas of the new building and some necessary renovations to the current building and property, continues to move along. We have received some grant funds to expand our programs and to help us with our technology needs. Annual Appeal letters went out in December, and we thank all those who have contributed. Our major donor campaign is underway. I am available to give tours and provide information to anyone who would like to refer potential donors or to those who might be considering becoming a major donor. If you are

aware of other opportunities or grants that are available, please contact me at the Center.

It is still very exciting to me to realize the results of our long term strategic planning process, and to finally reach the ultimate goal of expanding our space and facilities to meet the growing needs of the children and families we serve. On behalf of everyone at the Center, I want to thank all our friends and supporters in the community for all that you have done to make this possible. Once again, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Board members, parents, staff, and everyone who has helped us to reach our goal of the expansion of our space and facilities. Every day, when I come to the Center, I realize how wonderful our facility is, and feel so grateful for all the support we have received.

We are very excited about the plans for a wonderful new playground for the children. Construction will begin in the Spring, and we will be looking for some volunteers to help us with part of the construction project. We are still seeking donations and grants for this project.

Many staff and families attended the Holiday Party this year. It was really nice to see so many of our families enjoying the festivities. We thank our generous friends at West Parish Church in Andover for offering their bright and cheerful facilities for the party.

Stay tuned for more announcements as we move on with our expansion and the events we are planning for the coming months. Our Legislative morning coffee event is scheduled for March 30, 2007. The Spring Gala and Silent Auction is scheduled for May 4, 2007. We hope to see many of you there.

## **Fall 2006**

We have had a busy and exciting fall at the PCCD. We have moved the Regional Consultation Program and the Day School into our new wing. Our other programs have newly refreshed classrooms and motor development areas giving everyone more space to grow and move around.

The capital campaign to help raise funds for the project, which includes finishing all areas of the new building and some necessary renovations to the current building and property, is also moving along. Several

large individual donations and grants for our expansion project, including a very generous matching challenge grant from the Gable Family Foundation have been received. We will be starting another level of fundraising which will include the solicitation of major donors and some of our alumnae families. If you are aware of funding opportunities or matching grants, please call the Center. We welcome your help and support.

It is still very exciting to me to realize the results of our long term strategic planning process, and to finally reach the ultimate goal of expanding our space and facilities to meet the growing needs of the children and families we serve. On behalf of everyone at the Center, I want to thank all our friends and supporters in the community for all that you have done to make this possible. Special thanks to parents, staff, and everyone who have helped us to reach our goal of the expansion of our space and facilities. It really is a dream come true! Our Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on September 29, 2006 and was very well attended by legislators, town officials, parents, and members of the community.

We continue to plan a wonderful new playground for the children. The Playground Committee has been very active, meeting with vendors of play equipment and special surfacing. We are very grateful to the members of the Andona Society for their generous donation to help us get started.

Our fall groups are full and are busy with over 80 children enjoying meeting new friends and playing. We thank the staff and our dedicated group of volunteers for making the season so colorful and so much fun for everyone.

The Annual Trot for Tots was held on October 22, 2006. It was a beautiful fall morning and a very successful event. Many of our alumnae children and families joined us for a special reunion and Halloween Parade. It was wonderful to see the Brooks School students attending again this year.

Stay tuned for more announcements as we move on with our expansion and the events we are planning for the coming year. We are planning a special Valentine's Day event for those who want to make this day very special this year.

We wish all of you a safe and happy Holiday Season.