

# THE NURSERY NEWS

A Publication of The Nursery at Our Lady of Sorrows

March 5, 2010

## From The Director's Desk-Fire Drills, Why and How.

Each month we have two fire drills at The Nursery. Although fire drills can be disruptive and frightening for the children, they are a very important requirement. When we have a fire drill, the South Orange Fire department is onsite and observes the procedure every time. In cold weather we give the infants a head start so they can get the children's coats on or bundled up in warm blankets. As soon as the alarm sounds the infants are placed four in a crib (which are equipped with a heavy duty evacuation frame) and rolled out the back door, down the ramp and up the sidewalk to the back of the Parish building.

The toddlers do not get a

warning before the alarm sounds. The toddlers line up at the back door and walk down the ramp, up the sidewalk to the Parish Building as well. I then perform a "sweep" to assure that all children are out of the building.

No, the toddlers do not get their coats on before leaving the building because in a real fire there would be no time to do so. During the drills the children are outside for a very short period of time. If it were a real fire the children would immediately be taken inside the Parish building or the elementary school.

The South Orange Firefighter who is observing the drill, times us and makes sure that

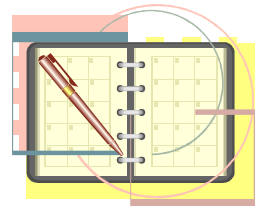
all procedures are properly followed. We were fully evacuated from the building in less than 60 seconds in both drills this month.

Yes, they are frightening to the children at first because of the loud sound the alarm makes. The more we practice the less frightening it becomes and this is important since we do not want the children or Caregivers to panic in a real fire.

Fire drills occur twice each month by order of the South Orange fire department and The Nursery gladly complies with this requirement. It is after all the safety of our children which is at stake.

## Important Dates

March 17-Dress in Green  
April 2-Center Closed Good Friday  
April 12-15-Week of the Young Child  
May 3-7-Caregiver Appreciation Week



## News and Notes

### Become A Parent Ambassador

Parent Ambassadors are a combination between room mother, hospitality chair, sunshine committee and classroom representative. It would be ideal if each classroom had two ambassadors. We already have one volunteer for the toddler room, Sammy's Mom, Justine; and Evan's Mom, Spring has volunteered for the infant room. Any one who is also interested in helping out with this important volunteer position please stop in and see Bonnie. It won't take a lot of time and will be very appreciated. I hope to have a meeting with the Ambassadors in the next few weeks. One of the upcoming events is Caregiver/ teacher appreciation week, May 3-7.

### Parking

We are still having a few issues with the parking at The Nursery. There is absolutely NO PARKING ON ACADEMY STREET. This is a stipulation placed on us by the Village of South Orange and our C/O is contingent upon us making sure that it is followed. Reminder that your family handbook states that after three warnings your child's enrollment will be terminated. We will begin enforcing this policy immediately due to complaints from neighbors.

The school has asked us to remind our parents that you must park on the Prospect side of the yellow line in the parking lot and until a new crosswalk is created you must cross at the crosswalk marked by the cones. We realize that the present crosswalk is inconvenient so we are working with the Village to get a new one approved. Thank you for understanding and following all of these rules.

### T-Shirts

We have a few adult and children's t-shirts left for sale. They are really cute with the rocking horse logo on the front and the adults say "Ask me about The Nursery" on the back.

### OLSS Preschool

For those toddlers who will be moving on this fall, the preschool at OLSS is a wonderful program. Spots go quickly so don't delay-call for an appointment to see the program-973-762-5169.



## UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

March 7-Enzo (1)  
March 8-Sebastian (2)  
March 9 Miss Gail  
March 18-Miss Josie  
April 3-Shreya (3)  
April 12-Miss Rosie



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## Meet Miss Gail

Miss Gail is one of our afternoon infant Caregivers. Her nickname is Pat. Gail grew up in a small town in Tennessee. She and her daughter, Robin moved to Teaneck, NJ in 1980 which was a culture shock for both of them but was also very educational. Gail left New Jersey five years ago to spread her wings in Chicago where she attended Olive Harvey College studying Child care and development.. Then after receiving great news from her daughter that she would soon be a Grandmother, Gail

ventured back to New Jersey. She now has a Granddaughter named Raven who is her heart! Raven is four years old and very talented and smart. Raven is the youngest praise dancer at their church in Newark, Gail enjoys spending weekends together with Raven playing school, visiting parks and dramatic play. Gail feels very fortunate to be working at The Nursery at Our Lady of Sorrows. She truly loves working with children because they are so honest.

Gail also enjoys her coworkers. Some of Gail's pastimes include jazz, cooking and plays.



## Infant Insider

The infant room continues to grow!! This month we welcomed Riley to the infant room. Riley just turned one in January and seems to have acclimated very quickly, making many new friends. The Infants are learning many of the circle time songs and it is so much fun to watch the older ones dance and do the hand motions to the songs and fingerplays. Playdough continues to be a fun activity for the

***Every day each of the babies grow in development and skills.***

children. Some love to squeeze it between their fingers and others pull little pieces off the larger ball they are given.

We have been using the balls to help develop eye-hand coordination, grasping skills, cause and effect and also have so much fun! Using crayons is also a fun art activity. Check out their "Waiting for Spring" pictures on the door.

The children are again working on their grasping skills and their pincer grip. The young infants are working on rolling over, tummy time, reaching for objects. Our next age group are working on crawling skill and some are beginning to pull up and get ready to walk. And our oldest group are learning many self-help skills such as feeding themselves and problem solving skills such as what should I do when I can't quite reach something. Every day each of the babies grow in development and skills.

## Center Safety Notes

### Be Careful when opening and closing Doors

So often there may be a little one behind a door or little fingers just waiting to get pinched when a door opens or closes. We ask everyone to be extra careful both when entering the classrooms and also when leaving the rooms.

### Icy Patches

Our maintenance crew works very hard to clear the sidewalks and the parking lot and to keep them clear but sometimes places can ice up quickly after melting. This is especially prevalent in the parking lot near where the plows mounded the snow. Please use extra caution when walking especially early in the morning and in the evening when icing can occur.

### Medication Safety

If your child needs medication (including ointment, teething gels, etc.) a Medication Administration form must be filled out and the medication must be left in the office-NEVER IN A DIAPER BAG OR CUBBY.

## Meet Miss Kathi

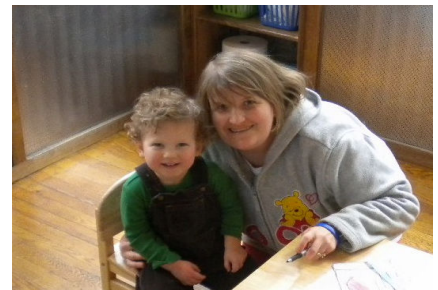
Kathi is one of our Toddler Caregivers. She is the proud Mom of Gabriella who is seven and Michael (Mikey) who is five. She is also honored to be a special needs parent. Since Mikey was 6 weeks old they have been in and out of the hospital trying to figure out his health issues. Each day Mikey wakes up and is able to live his life and enjoy himself is also a day they must watch for signs of respiratory issues, overheating, exhaustion and the list goes on. This is Kathi's normal. Their family is finally beginning to get some answers which hopefully will allow them to start a new chapter in their lives.

Now that Mikey is stable enough for Kathi to return to work in the field that she loves most, Kathi is delighted to be working at The Nursery with the toddlers. Kathi has taught children for 12 years including toddlers and elementary aged children. Kathi says the toddlers are her favorites, for that is the age when most learning occurs.

Kathi's education includes a bachelor's degree from American University and an Early Childhood Education certification.

Kathi has learned so much from having a special needs child and it has helped her realize that all children

are special in their own way. Kathi's priority is children come first and her philosophy is that all children are equal based on their strengths and weaknesses. Every child is unique and can be successful. Kathi treats all children with respect so parents can feel a sense of security knowing their child is being well cared for during the day.



## Toddler Tidbits

The toddlers Valentine's celebration got a bit mixed up due to all of the snow. Their mailboxes and crafts were put off until the days following but the children still had fun creating all the activities and projects. The dramatic play area remained a post office for the rest of February and the children have been "checking in" the mail and writing letters to be "sent" out. The computer keyboards make it seem so official!

Next the class spent a week learning all about dental health. The children had fun singing songs about brushing

*Giving boundaries to toddlers help them to be more content in play.*

their teeth, doing art projects based on teeth and smiles and pretended to be dentists. Individual toothbrushes complimented the activities and old toothbrushes were used to paint some masterpieces.

Now it is onto rainbows. The children are using their handprints to create a large rainbow for the classroom and smaller rainbows to take home. The study of rainbows allows for work on learn color names, matching and mixing.

Special snacks have also been included in the lesson plans this

month. The children made Smile Pizzas, Valentine cookies, and are planning on shaking up some butter to spread on homemade pumpkin bread.

The Caregivers are working to help the children understand the "house rules" and the routine of the day. Giving boundaries to toddlers help them to be more content in play. Providing them with a visual outline of the day has helped them to feel in control of what will happen next. The routine for the day and the house rules are now displayed in pictures along one of the classroom walls.

The toddlers have welcomed back Shreya after a two month absence.

## Our Pajama Party was a Big Success

On Tuesday March 2nd twenty seven people were here to have a great time eating pizza, listening to Dr. Seuss books read aloud and then singing Happy Birthday to him. We had many types of pajamas and the children found it so silly to wear their

pajamas at school! A couple of really cute Teddy Bears also joined the group. Miss Mary Beth did an outstanding job reading the books aloud. In honor of Dr. Seuss's birthday we chose *The Cat in The Hat* and *Green Eggs and Ham* as our stories. We also sang Happy Birthday to Dr.

Seuss. Everyone was allowed to make a "Cat in the Hat" hat to wear. Although many of us were yawning before the evening was over, everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. Watch for our next family activities coming up sometime this spring.

## Parenting Tip: Creative Uses for Everyday Containers

Vegetable and meat trays, yogurt containers and cups, fruit containers, bottles, jars, milk and egg cartons, wipe boxes — Containers in every shape and size come into a household on a regular basis. Consider re-using these in creative ways. Vegetable trays and fruit containers come in handy to put paints and craft materials; cups and jars are great for water play; bottles and cartons can be used to store the many craft and small items that children bring into the house. And sometimes the container holding the materials can become the canvas or craft itself.

## Parenting Tip: Cooking with Children

Make children a part of the cooking tradition in your home. Pounding and rolling dough, dusting cookies with sugar, or helping wash vegetables and fruits can be great for the younger child's fine and gross motor development. Older children can practice many skills when they help make a list, read the recipe,

## Parenting Tip: Child Proofing Your Home

**Author:** Jess Chamberlain

Making your home childproof is essential when- you have children in your home whether you are a parent or grandparent. As soon as they are able to scoot, crawl, walk or run they will be interested in everything. Here are some tips and products to -help you ensure their safety.

- \* Put safety locks on windows upstairs and down
- \* Cover all outlets in the home with outlet covers
- \* Install Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in the home but especially near a child's room
- \* Put corner protectors and edge cushions on all sharp corners in your home (fireplace hearth and furniture)
- \* Cover Power cords
- \* Install a baby gate in front of all stairs.
- \* Keep all batteries, cleaning supplies and medicines out of reach.
- \* Do not leave a space heater near a baby for it can cause burns.
- \* Make sure all doors have a key so a child cannot accidentally lock themselves in a room.
- \* Make sure the toy box and doors have finger pinch guards and cannot fall quickly on a child's head or hand.
- \* Buy a baby monitor so you can view or hear your child.
- \* Put locks on all cabinets and drawers that hold chemicals, poisons and more
- \* Cover stove and oven knobs.
- \* Never put your baby on the counter top.
- \* Use back burners on the stove so a child cannot reach up and pour the hot liquid on themselves
- \* Lock the toilet seat so a child can not fall over into the toilet or drop items down the toilet
- \* Cover the bath tub spout so a little one does not hurt their head
- \* Use a nonskid mat in the tub so the child doesn't slip and fall.

