

The Clay Center

The Fruit Basket

The Official Newsletter of the William L. Clay, Sr. Early Childhood Development/ Parenting Education Center

October

2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Adorable Apples	2
Toddler Tangerines	2
Busy Bananas	2
Passion Fruits	3
Purple Papayas	3
Shining Starfruit	3
Pictures	4

From the Director Dr. Patricia Johnson

The last few months have been rather busy at the Clay Center. On August 4, 2010, we celebrated our one-year anniversary with more than 250 parents, other family members, friends, and HSSU faculty and staff in attendance. It was at that time that our first "graduating" class left us for much anticipated experiences in kindergarten.

Increased interest in our infant/toddler/two year old program has resulted in a waiting list of the infant and toddler classes and the addition of a new 2 year old classroom. The Pre-K classes are growing as two year olds are rapidly transitioning to the mixed ages. This rapid move is creating an even longer waiting list for our Head Start partnership program.

The center has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Shearwater Educational Foundation to work with 18-24 interns who are interested in the early childhood education profession. These students, who are interested in enrolling in the College of Education here at HSSU, will work around 10 hours weekly as student assistants. We welcome the opportunity to work with the Shearwater students as they move to a higher level in their educational pursuits.

We have applied for and are working toward Missouri State and National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation and have engaged the services of parents and others to assist in the process. Clay Center staff members are appreciative of the support and encouragement provided by ARCHS and its very capable staff as we move through these endeavors.

Finally, the Clay Center has been featured in the Korean *Architecture Art Space 612* and Argentina's *Summa+106*, two foreign prestigious architectural magazines. The building is a finalist for a highly competitive international award from Buenos Aires Architecture Bienal to be announced in mid-October 2010 and the American Architectural Award from Chicago Atheneum. We certainly appreciate the exposure this brings to the great Harris-Stowe State University.

From the Front Desk

Parents, if you are receiving state subsidy, please be attentive to the subsidy end date. You will be charged at full-rate if your subsidy has not been renewed. Also, parents, please remember to sign your child in and out; it is crucial to our Accounting Department that we have that information. Finally, tuition is to be paid the Friday prior to the services or the Monday before the services. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop at the front desk.



Adorable Apples

Hello everyone,

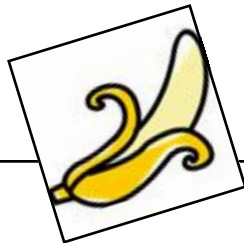
Well, we certainly hope everyone had a grrrrrreat summer. The Adorable Apples certainly did, here at the Clay Early Childhood Center. We have been enjoying exploring in our classroom. As you know, when we are exploring, we are learning. We have been playing peek-a-boo, playing tracking games and pulling up on anything and everything. During the month of September, we learned about our body parts and our senses. When we learned about our body parts we sang "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes." When learning about our senses, we played with ice....brrrrrrrr it was very cold. During the month of October, we will be talking about all of the beautiful fall colors. Be sure to stop by our room. We love visitors to come by to read and play with us. Well, until next time bye, bye.

Miss Kelly and the Adorable Apples



Toddler Tangerines

The Toddler Tangerine class has been very busy! We have added many new students from outside our center and also new toddlers who have moved over from the infant room. All of the additions have been great for the learning environment. The younger students have been watching the older students, and they have really adjusted well to our schedule. We have been learning about families and friends and have been doing many new activities as partners. Last week we painted, colored, read and blew bubbles with a partner. The students really enjoyed working together and learning from one another. The next topic we will be covering is the colors all around us.



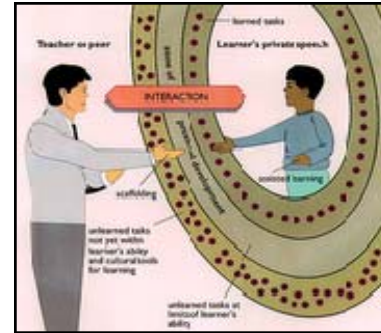
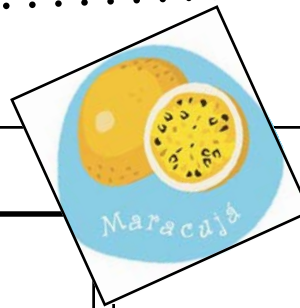
Busy Bananas

The Busy Bananas have been working on the alphabet. We are busy learning the sounds of each letter. The children are also beginning to learn about opposites such as big and small. We enjoy having volunteers read to us during circle time. The Busy Bananas enjoy messy art activities as well. We often use recycled materials to complete our art projects. I enjoy hearing the students say, "What are we going to make today, Ms. Keyonna?" It always puts a smile on my face. I am proud to say that some of our Busy Bananas are potty-trained and ready to join the pre-k students. Feel free to come in and join us while we are learning, playing and making friends each day.

Passion Fruits

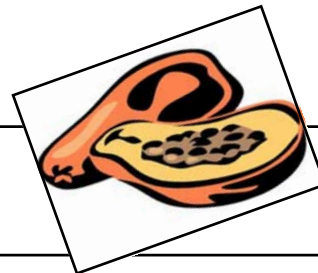
The students will develop their curiosity and creativity through the influence of play. Motivated in this manner of enjoyment, the Passion Fruits will personally be seeking stimulation and cognitive challenges and being conscientious, industrious, open-minded, spirited, critical thinkers, consensus seeking, and able to have perspective of future time (Ormrod, 2008, pp. 472). Our inquisitive learners have been learning how to play in a friendly culture of differentiated two-year-old students.

We have also been practicing how to socialize, imagine while exploring and construct individualized learning. This will provide development of both our senses of self as well our interests as members of the group. As you can see in the picture, the students' learning depends on both the confidence of the individual and the humility of the members to contribute proximal development.



Purple Papayas

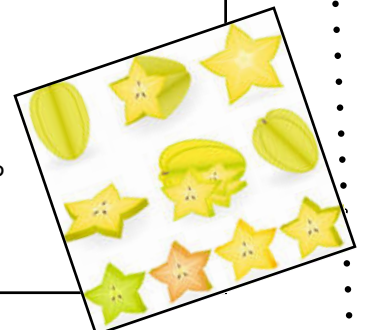
The new school year has begun, and we are busy preparing for kindergarten and learning new skills that will prepare us for lifelong learning. The first week in October was fire prevention week, and we learned the importance of not playing with items that cause fire; how to stop, drop, and roll (in the event of clothes catching on fire); how to escape a building that may be burning; and how to dial 911 in the event of an emergency. Each child was given a family assignment to complete at home to ensure that their smoke detectors are working and that each family has a fire escape plan. Also, we are building our pre-math skills learning the value of numbers and adding them. We are learning how to identify sight words and finding them in books.



Shining Starfruit

The Shining Starfruit have been busy learning sight words, reading pre-reader books, cutting with scissors, writing letters of the alphabet and learning how to be good friends. We are enjoying family-style dining and using appropriate table manners. During gross motor play, we are riding tricycles, pulling wagons and climbing all the way to the top of the climber while watching out for our friends. Our theme for the month of October is fall. We have been learning fruits and vegetables that are harvested during the fall, and we went on a nature walk to collect leaves for collages and leaf rubbings.

We have enjoyed our family members that came to read to us. If you have not scheduled a time, please stop by to sign up. We would love for you to visit. Please remember to send your child to school with a jacket, and make sure that your child has two changes of weather-appropriate clothes just in case of accidents.



Pictures

