

Schenectady Jewish Community Center
Early Childhood Center

Ellen Carpenter, Director
ellenc@schenectadyjcc.org
Andrea Leighton, Assistant
Weekly Newsletter
June 14, 2010

**This is the last newsletter of the
2009-10 School year.**

Dates to Remember:

June 15	ECE Family Picnic--- Reservations closed
June 18	Last day of Preschool; Waddlers, Toddlers and Preschool Parent Reception
June 22	PM Kindergarten Parent reception
June 23	Last day of AM Kindergarten Enrichment
June 24	Last day of PM Kindergarten Enrichment

You can also read our newsletter
online and print it!
www.schenectadyjcc.org

**SAVE THE DATE AND YOUR
COLLECTABLES**

We are planning on having an ECE garage sale on October 31, 2010. Please save all of your re-saleables until then and we will have a truck on the premises in the fall.

PLEASE

**REMEMBER TO TURN IN YOUR ECE
EVALUATIONS. THEY HELP US TO
KEEP OUR PROGRAM THE BEST THAT
WE CAN PROVIDE**

Our Final Programs

It is very important that parents attend the final programs scheduled for your child's class. The children will be "performing" and receiving certificates. They miss you when they see other parents and you are not here.

ATTENTION

**For parents of children in
Afternoon Child Care**

Please send in a bathing suit and towel in a bag labeled with your child's name. Also, please be sure that you send in sunscreen, also labeled, and a note giving us permission to apply it on your child. The children will be going to the outdoor pool, weather permitting. If you do not send in a bathing suit, your child may be sitting by the pool watching rather than playing.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

One of the painless fund raisers that we do is to collect General Mills box tops for cash. For each box top that we collect, we receive \$0.10. Please collect them and place them in the container in the Nursery Suite.

Registration for 2010-11

If you have not yet registered for the 2010-11 school year, please do so NOW.

IF YOU HAVE NOT YET SIGNED UP FOR ANY CLASSES, YOU ARE IN DANGER OF BEING CLOSED OUT FOR NEXT YEAR!

TZEDUKAH

For the month of June, we will be collecting for Camp Good Days and Special Times.

Camp Good Days and Special Times, Inc. is a non-profit organization that provides a camping experience and more for children and adults facing the toughest challenges of life. Children touched by cancer, HIV/AIDS, and violence gather at our recreational facility on beautiful Keuka Lake (Finger Lakes, central NY) to spark new smiles, re-ignite friendships and enjoy a week where they can simply be kids. The weekend camping programs for men and women with cancer become a place where old bonds are strengthened and new ones created. It is a place where smiles are the norm and hugs mandatory, a place where visions are born and dreams discovered a place where courage knows no boundaries. It is Camp Good Days and Special Times.

Ellen's Corner

Every year, my final message to parents is always the same--because my feelings are always the same--great joy, mixed with great sadness. We look at the children who came to us in the fall, many scared and clinging to their parents and we look at them now--WOW! Are these the same children? They have become independent, confident, motivated and have emerged from their cocoons into full-fledged butterflies!

As I get closer and closer to retirement age, I begin to think about my next venture. Yet, I keep coming back to what I do and cannot think of any place that I would rather come to on a daily basis. Seeing your children every day reminds me of the important work that we are all doing here at the SJCC.

It is always a miracle to me that the children change and grow so much in such a very short time. When my own children were this age, everyone said to enjoy it, because it goes so quickly! How right they were! Take the time from your busy schedules to become children again with your own kids! Get down to their level and discover the world through their eyes. What an experience it will be!

I want to thank all of the parents who have taken time out of their busy schedules to help us when needed. You are terrific and our program could not run without you! We appreciate your comments and concerns, and we do implement new procedures that come from your suggestions. We are always learning and trying to improve our program.

I particularly want to thank both Heather Rockwood and Michelle Osterlitz for, once again, co-chairing our Parent Committee this year. Special thanks, also, to Jeanmarie Quinn for continuing on as our treasurer. In addition, thanks to Roberta deLalla, Jessica McCloskey and Michelle Haney for chairing our various fund raisers

We are always looking for more parents to participate on our Parent Committee. Please see Heather, Michelle or me for further information. The more parents we have helping us, the more we can accomplish.

The ECE program works so well because of the dedication and devotion of our staff. Your children thrive because our staff gives them the love, security and tools that they will need to lead successful lives. So, thank you to all of my wonderful teachers and assistants. You make my job easy!

Sadly, Tanya Finn is leaving us after 29 years. We all want to wish her the very best in all of the wonderful ventures ahead of her. She has deserved the time to sleep late, travel and fill her days with whatever interests her. But, don't worry; she will be back substituting often!

To those of you who will not be returning to our program next year, for whatever reason, we wish you and your family the very best. Please come back and visit. Once you are part of our SJCC family, you remain part of our family. To all of you, we wish you a long and happy summer. May you relax and rejuvenate so that the next school year will be the best ever--educationally, physically and spiritually!

Toddler Playgroup

Andrea

Hello from Toddler Playgroup! It is hard to believe that the end of the year is already upon us. It seems like just yesterday that the children were getting to know one another and were adjusting to being in "school". Now the Toddlers have formed friendships and have become really comfortable with the daily routine. The children know that when they walk into the room in the morning there will be new puzzles and activities waiting for them. They know that when it is circle time we gather on the rug to greet each other, sing

songs and read stories. The children know that when we come up from the gym or from the playground that we wash our hands and then enjoy a snack together. They look forward to painting, gluing, and coloring, finger painting with shaving cream, rolling out play dough and playing in the rice table. The Toddlers start to put away the toys when they hear the clean up song and they know that their parents will soon be there to pick them up.

I have truly enjoyed working with all of your children and I am so proud of how much they have grown and accomplished this year. I look forward to seeing them in Preschool.

Matthew loved riding bikes and jumping on the mats in the gym. He can run around the gym pretty fast, too!

Helen is an expert at gluing. She glued so many colorful pom-poms on her letter H art project.

Shayna is a great classroom helper. She helped wash the table and even pushed in all the chairs.

Maggie still loves playing with the dolls in the dollhouse. The dolls have conversations together- what a great imagination!

Caitlin is a terrific singer. She knows all the verses to "The Wheels on the Bus" and "Where is Thumbkin".

Be sure to join us on Friday June 18th at 11am for a "Waddlers, Toddlers and Preschool Parent Reception". Your children can't wait for you to hear them sing!

ASEP Blue Room

Tanya and Eileen

June is always a sad and happy month. We still remember that special day in September, our first day of school. It really seems like it was just yesterday... and here we are, ten months later. Can you believe it?

Our days were filled with laughter and learning, songs, dancing. Many wonderful friendships were formed that will last a lifetime.

We have such a pleasure seeing the kids increase their ability to be independent and gain self confidence and still being wonderfully open to the world around them. Now, we have to reluctantly let them go to the care of others, knowing that their new teachers will appreciate their uniqueness as much as we had.

Eileen and I want to thank you for the privilege to be with your children. The year has been fun!

Please remember to join us for the family picnic and end of the year show. There are sure to be many "Kodak moments" you will not want to miss. We hope you have a safe and fun filled summer.

Good luck to all our friends!

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PARENT SURVEY

CLASSROOM TEACHER _____

1. Did the teacher(s) establish a warm and loving atmosphere? Were you comfortable and confident in leaving your child?
2. Was the teacher responsive to your concerns? Please explain.
3. Did the JCC Early Childhood program meet your needs? your child's needs?
4. Was your child's experience at the JCC a positive one? Please explain
5. Would you like to see the curriculum of your child's class modified? Please explain.
6. Was the Jewish content in your child's class adequate? What did you particularly like about the Jewish programming and what would you change?
7. What are the strengths of the JCC Early Childhood Program.?
8. Where do you see the need for change/and or improvement in your child's particular class?
9. If your child participated in the Enrichment classes, please evaluate the quality of those classes? Are there other classes that would be of interest to your child?
10. Was the director responsive to your concerns? Please elaborate.

FOR WRAP-AROUND CHILD CARE CHILDREN ONLY:

PLEASE TELL US YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH OUR WRAP-AROUND PROGRAM.

1. Were the teachers warm and caring? Did they provide the appropriate atmosphere for your child?

2. Were the afternoon activities appropriate for your child?

4. What do you consider the strengths of our day care program?

3. What changes would you like to see in the program?

Other than our program, what services offered by the SJCC do you utilize?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

NAME (OPTIONAL) _____