

# Communication Link

CESA #11 Head Start

October 2011

Volume 7 Issue 2



## WELLNESS GRANT

CESA 11 Head Start has been selected to participate in the **CACFP Child Care Wellness Grant!**

Last July, we had the opportunity to apply for a new grant being offered through the USDA/CACFP program. Our program will receive \$18,000 to provide healthy meals and activities to children and their families during home visits. We will also be able to provide additional training to our cook staff. We intend to bring a chef in to demonstrate healthy cooking and provide tips on how to use herbs in place of salt, etc.

This is a great opportunity for us to enhance what we already do to promote and support healthy eating habits for our Head Start families. Deb Toycen and I will be traveling to Madison next month to learn how to develop and implement a plan for this grant. There is still a lot to do, such as; work out a budget, provide quarterly reports, and submit claims for the actual payment; but most importantly, we will be providing you with the resources and guidance necessary to implement this Wellness Grant.

More information will be coming soon!

*Brenda Rouzer, CACFP Manager*

REMEMBER TO **FALL BACK.**



*Sunday, November 6, 2011*

*Daylight Savings Time ends.*

## GARDENING WORKSHOP AT COLFAX



Last May, families at Colfax Head Start participated in a gardening workshop to create a magical garden. A local greenhouse provided us with everything we needed, except the dirt!

We then participated in a poster contest about our gardening experience.

The poster was shown in the agriculture building at the Northern Wisconsin State Fair, in Chippewa Falls, with over 20 other schools participating. Representatives from the fair board judged the posters; our Colfax Head Start poster received a first place!

Congratulations to our children and families that participated in this exciting experience!

*Chris Hulback, Home Visitor*



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## CORNELL HEAD START PLAYGROUND ADDITIONS

The Head Start children were excited to find a playhouse on the playground when they started the new school year. The playhouse was built by the construction class at Lake Holcombe High School. It was funded by the **Head Start Body Smart Grant**. Other items purchased for playground improvements with the grant money were: stepping stones and blocks, a log beam, two children's picnic tables, a child-size park bench, two wind chimes, decorative garden plaques, a wonderful butterfly garden, and a music station (pictured to the right).



The children are even more excited than before to get outdoors to enjoy using all the new play items.

We are all looking forward to the butterflies in the spring!

*Melody Peloquin, Center Assistant*



## THE DALLAS EARLY LEARNING CENTER PLAYGROUND PROGRESS!



Thanks to our **Head Start Body Start Grant**, our new playhouse and trike track are almost finished.

*Marcia Link, Center Assistant*



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### A NOTE FROM HUMAN RESOURCES



The month of October does not have any milestones for employment this year. However, this is a great opportunity to welcome all the new staff into the Head Start family. We hope that you are settling in and finding joy in your decision to join the Head Start Program.

Between October and January, I will be visiting your center during a staff meeting; check with your Center Director for the date and time. If you would like to send questions to me before the scheduled day, I will try to have answers and documentation, or Web sites, which may be helpful. I plan to discuss topics such as FMLA, unemployment, and questions sent to me in advance.

As we move into fall, remember to start employing your winter safety procedures, watch out for slippery areas, and wear safe shoes.

*See you soon!*

*Janet Ramis, Human Resources Coordinator*

## NATIONAL CENTER ON PARENT, FAMILY, AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BEGINS

The Office of Head Start (OHS) has forged a partnership among the Brazelton Touchpoints Center at Children's Hospital, the Harvard Family Research Project, the Council of Chief State School Officers, the National PTA, and Save the Children to form a national center for Head Start programs across the nation.

This center is charged with supporting the HS/EHS program to effectively engage with parents, families and communities to promote children's healthy development and learning. This center is actively working to develop models of engagement for integration across programs and communities. Our focus on involving parents in our classrooms this year supports this new HS initiative. Parent and family engagement makes a difference for children and their families. Research has proven that programs that fully integrate parents/families into their services have the following results:

- Family outcomes improve. Parents become socially connected, empowered, more emotionally available for their children, and more able to motivate learning.
- Child outcomes improve. When parents are actively involved, children show more progress toward school readiness.
- Program quality improves. Families become agents of change. They bring the strengths of their cultures and new ideas and strategies for improving program quality.
- Transitions are seamless. From pregnancy to parenthood, EHS to HS, and HS to school, both parents and children benefit from support during these transitions. Children benefit greatly when their strengths, needs, and potential are communicated from one setting to the next. Once enrolled in public school, their attendance, behavior, grades, and high school graduation rates are greatly impacted by engagement of their parents.
- Community engagement increases. Parents speak out on policies and practices that support children and families from pregnancy through young adulthood. Taking leadership roles, they catalyze the growth of safe and healthy communities.

This information was taken from, *Parent, Family, and Community Practices and Outcomes, Executive Summary*. Please visit the ECKLC Website for more information.

*Suzanne Schultz, Family Services Coordinator*

***“There is a garden in every childhood, an enchanted place where colors are brighter, the air softer, and the morning more fragrant than ever again.”***

**~Elizabeth Lawrence**

## NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK - OCTOBER 17 – 21, 2011

The 2011 National School Bus Safety Week theme is:

"Be Aware - Know the Danger Zone!"



The dates are:  
October 17-21, 2011

<https://netforum.avectra.com/eWeb/DynamicPage.aspx?Site=NAPT&WebCode=SBSW>

Let's celebrate *National School Bus Safety Week!* Numerous studies of the safety of school transportation have been conducted over the past several decades by the most respected safety organizations in the United States. All of the studies come to the same indisputable conclusion – school buses provide the safest transportation in the nation. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration stated, "Students are nearly eight times safer riding in a school bus than with their own parents and guardians in cars".

This year's theme is: "***Be Aware – Know the Danger Zone!***"

The most dangerous part of the school bus ride is getting on and off the school bus.

*What can we do to help kids get to and from school safely?* Follow these simple School Bus Safety Rules:

- Know the **DANGER ZONE**. This is the area on all sides of the bus where children are in the most danger of not being seen by the driver.
- Arrive and be ready five minutes early for the bus.
- Stand at least five giant steps (ten feet) away from the edge of the road or pick up spot.
- Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver motions it's okay to walk on to the bus.
- If you have to cross the street – never cross in back of the bus; always in front of the bus where the driver can see you.
- Be sure the bus driver can see you and that you can see the driver.
- Tell the bus driver if you drop something beside the bus. You should never try to pick it up. The driver may not see you.

Young children are most likely to be struck because they are in a hurry to get on and off the bus. They act before they think and have little experience with traffic. They assume motorists will see them and will wait for them to cross the street.

So as motorists:

- Be aware it is illegal in every state to pass a school bus stopped to load and unload students.
- Learn the "*flashing signal light system*" that the school bus drivers use to alert motorists if they are going to stop to load/unload.
- Slow down; watch for children walking playing and gathering near bus stops.
- Be alert; children arriving late for the bus may dart into the street without looking for traffic.

School bus drivers do an outstanding job, but they need your cooperation!

*Barb Christenson, Transportation/Facilities Coordinator*

## GOOGLE TIPS

Expecting an e-mail that never arrived? Check the spam folder. Google is vigilant at protecting you from spam, thinking at first that almost any e-mail could be spam.

Users need to teach Google mail what spam is and what is not spam. Staff should open the spam folder every day to check for e-mail that is not spam and send it back to the inbox. Google will then learn that the approved e-mail contact is not spam.

If you find a message wrongly classified as spam, you can unmark the message. Just select the message and click the **Not Spam** button that appears at the top and bottom of your current view. Unmarking a message will automatically move it to your inbox.

*Sandy Johnson, Secretary*



*Nothing is impossible;  
the word itself says  
'I'm possible'!*

*~Audrey Hepburn*

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