

August 2005

TCS Times

*The Children's School/ 208-343-6840
Nicole Shaddock--editor*

From the Director

By Cindy Finch

Welcome to the new school year at TCS, our 26th year of educating young children in Boise. We are busy at the school preparing classrooms and materials for children's arrival—current families, you'll hear from classroom teachers soon. This newsletter has information families will want to know about class start dates and our fall potlucks. Begin to get to know your child's teacher, and our entire faculty, by reading biographies in this issue. We're getting ready for another great year with your children, and we'll see you soon!

Transitions for families from summer to the school year beg careful handling by adults. Although it can seem like a time of celebration—of the end of summer, of lazy days/evenings of family togetherness, of new beginnings, new opportunities, and new accomplishments—transition times require parents to both listen to what children say they want and listen to our more mature and experienced perspective of what children need. As always when involving children in planning special times, set parameters of what you think will work best for your child and your family—then give children simple choices within those parameters. An example might be that you decide that a special, but simple, meal is called for the evening before school starts. You decide that this event will be just for your family and not include guests. You decide that it will be food cooked at home and not a restaurant meal. You decide that the food will be cooked outside. Then you involve children in choosing the fruit served and a favorite summer drink. Simple.

Exciting times call for a balance of sameness—of predictable, regular days. I often hear parents talk about how tired their children are during the first month of school. Becoming part of a group takes a lot of energy, energy that your child may not have to participate in other activities. There are new routines to learn at school, new relationships to begin, and new ways to experience your body, mind, and emotions.

There will be a lot of comfort for your child of knowing what to expect at home. Try to keep your child's schedule manageable.

Along with the expanding boundaries children experience when they become part of a class, there may come some behavior challenges at home. Tiredness may be part of it. However, when children experience the new successes they have at school—washing hands alone for the first time, reading that first word, digging a deep hole in the sandbox and filling it with water, figuring out how to enter play with other children, learning that teachers can be resources to you, remembering the rules of a game, figuring out how many people are in class if two are gone—there can be an attempt to renegotiate the rules, boundaries, or expectations you have for them at home. Challenging behaviors by children during the early days of school can be a way of communicating “I’m growing, learning, and changing, and I want you to understand that and adjust—now.” Parents have a huge task during these early days of the school year to make decisions about rest and predictability when that is called for, reasserting family boundaries when that is appropriate, and revising the rules and roles of family life when you are ready. Try to take time to reflect before you react.

Thank you to the Jones and MacGregor families for purchasing and installing the new cabinets in the 3-4s classroom!

Know too that TCS will be a resource to you through our faculty and staff, through our parent education materials available in the coffee room, and through a very special event coming up in just a few weeks. A group of parents at TCS have been working through the summer to bring a speaker to town to speak to our teachers, our families, and families in the Boise community (*look for more information about Dr. Diane Levin's September visit in this issue of TCS Times*). Diane Levin is a faculty member at Wheelock College in Boston, a well known author in the early childhood education field, and an expert on many of the sensitive topics of growing up—the influences of media and violence that affect gender role development and the response to conflict. She'll give us insights into how adult interaction—teaching and parenting—can positively influence children's development, help children learn to handle challenges, and guide family decision-making. I believe it will be well worth your time to plan to attend at least one of the gatherings.

My hope for you and your family during the transition to school is to make time for simple family “celebrations”, keep schedules manageable, take time to reflect, and reach out to resources available to you for support.

And with that—let the school year begin!

TCS Advised of Revised Immunization Requirements

By Cindy Finch

We recently received this notice from the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. I am reprinting this letter in hope that it will help families be informed about immunization changes and about our requirements as a school.

The Idaho Legislature recently approved new immunization requirements for children attending licensed child care facilities in Idaho. The changes apply to children 4 years of age and older. They include requiring a 2nd dose of MMR and a 5th dose of DTaP (four doses of DTaP meet the requirement if the child received the fourth dose on or after their 4th birthday).

State law requires a parent, custodian, or guardian of any child who is to attend or is attending a licensed day care facility to present to the licensed day care facility operator an immunization record or certification statement signed by a physician stating the type, number, and dates of immunizations received. Idaho law allows a parent/guardian to claim exemption from immunization for medical, religious, or person reasons. If an exemption is claimed a valid exemption form is required.

In a letter dated August 23rd, the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare offered this clarification . . . *in the event of a physician refusing to vaccinate a preschool student between the ages of four to six years of age.*

If a physician wants to wait until a later date, the physician needs to complete a Schedule of Intended Immunizations forms or draft a statement indicating when the booster shots will be administered. The form or statement from the physician should be kept with the child's immunization record and for purposes of record keeping an "in-progress" should be granted until the indicated date of administration, after which the student would be considered no longer in compliance until the child receives the required immunization.

For families for whom later immunization is preferred or recommended, the school has a copy of the "intent to immunize" form for your doctor's signature, or it is available at <http://iris.idhw.state.id.us> until the SCHOOLS section.

Does your family use a lot of printer ink? Bring your empty cartridges to The Children's School! We can redeem them for paper at OFFICE MAX. Thank you for your support!

More Thoughts on TV and Young Children

I recently received this short article via email. I thought you'd find it interesting.

Cindy Finch

Reprinted from ExchangeEveryDay, August 16, 2005

Calling it a cynical ploy to get young children to watch more television, the Campaign for a Commercial-Free Childhood is urging parents to keep children away from "Tickle U", the Cartoon Network's new block of preschool programming. The Cartoon Network claims the programming, which will premier on August 22, will help develop a child's sense of humor.

"Children don't need TV to develop a sense of humor. It comes from play and their natural interactions with the world around them," said Wheelock College Professor, Dr. Diane Levin, author of Remote Control Childhood. "This is a classic case of marketers trying to create a need where none exists and to dupe parents into thinking that watching more TV is good for their children."

According to the Campaign, there is no evidence that television aids in humor development—and plenty of evidence that television can be harmful to young children. Television viewing is a factor in childhood obesity. Research also suggests that preschoolers who are heavy television viewers score lower on academic and intelligence tests later in life and are more likely to become bullies.

Notes to Begin the Year

By Cindy Finch

**We are reprinting the parent handbook for the new year. All families, new to TCS or not, will receive the handbook in your school mailbox as the school year begins. For returning families: please discard any old green, blue, or yellow handbooks you might have around your home, and refer to the gray one when you have questions about school policy or practice.

**One part of the parent handbook that I like to highlight at the beginning of each year is our late policy and late fees. As a point of fairness, we try to apply this policy across the school—for full day and part day classes—and right from the beginning of school. Teachers

Please check for your family's mailbox in the front hall for both whole school and classroom specific information!

have planning and meeting times scheduled after class on many days, and closing teachers have family responsibilities after work that we value for them. It is helpful to the entire school if you develop a habit of promptness.

Families who pick up children late from classes will be assessed a fee of \$5 for the first ten minutes and \$5 for each five minutes thereafter. Each family may use a grace period of up to ten minutes, 4 times a month. If you exceed this grace period allotment in a calendar month late charges will be added to your next month's bill. All pick-ups that exceed ten minutes will be billed a late fee.

**As a reminder, we have designated parking spaces closest to the building as compact spaces. You can help traffic flow through the parking lot during busy times of day by parking medium cars in the spaces facing Thatcher Street, and larger vehicles in the alley. Through some trying driving experiences by families through the year we have found that two larger vehicles back to back in the lot can become a traffic barrier. We'd love for your parking experience at TCS to be something close to as good as your experiences inside the school(!), so thanks for considering the size of your car when you choose a parking place.

**Each year some families prefer to pay tuition bills in full for the entire school year. If this is your choice, please let us know. There is a 3% discount for paying 2005-2006 tuition in full by September 10, 2005.

**Lynn Hanson is our school librarian. She does a great job of cataloging new books and works hard to keep the library accessible for our school population. She and I have noticed an increase in the number of books needing to be reshelved on a weekly basis. We are thrilled because that means that more people are finding the library useful. However, this heavier use has challenged Lynn's ability to get her work completed. Do you have time weekly, monthly, bi-monthly to give to Lynn and the library—shelving books and/or replacing cards in returned books? Some parents might find the time when their child is in school a good time to do this type of quiet, volunteer work. We'd be very appreciative.

We currently have openings for three and four year olds in our part time programs! Please contact Cindy or Andrea for more information!

TCS Staff Biographies 2005-2006

CINDY FINCH - Director

Cindy received her BA in English and Psychology from Austin College (Sherman, TX) and her MA in Education, Emphasis in Early Childhood from BSU in 1983. From 1982-1986 she taught in the 4-5's and Kindergarten classes and facilitated the development of the 3-4's and Parent-Toddler program. Cindy returned to TCS in 1997 as a Primary teacher. In the years between 1986 and 1997 she worked for Head Start, taught CDA classes at BSU and consulted with various early childhood programs. She was the school's Project Director for the Pathways to Competency project during which she collaborated on the creation and development of the *Children and Conflict* video and companion materials. Cindy was named the Director of TCS during the 2000-2001 school year. Cindy is married to Ken Smith and is the mother of two children who are TCS alumni, Patrick and Evan. Cindy likes to hike, travel with her family and read.

ANDREA LAIRD - Administrative Assistant

Andrea received her BA in Developmental Studies and Justice and Law from the University of Winnipeg, Manitoba and her MA in Psychology from NCOC in San Francisco. She has worked in public school nursery (pre-K) and in preschool in Canada. Andrea also worked in an infant and toddler program in California. She has worked at TCS for over 7 years. Andrea has taught in the All Days, the Primary 5-7's and Toddlers and is now the Administrative Assistant. Andrea is married and has one son, Michael. She enjoys reading and travel.

MEGAN JONES - Parent/Toddler Program Teacher

In addition to teaching at TCS, Megan is the Director of The Cooperative Preschool at St. Michael's. She also teaches in the Parent/Toddler program at St. Michael's. Megan worked at TCS from the early '90s until March 2000 when her first son was born. She is married to David, a potter, who teaches art at Boise High. They have two children, one who attends TCS.

Megan has an AAS and BAS in Child Care and Development from Boise State. Megan has completed the coursework and project for a Master's of Education, Early Childhood (also at BSU). For her project she created a video explaining the Developmental-Interaction approach, the philosophy on which both TCS and The Coop preschool are based. She has taught all ages for the past 15 years--infants through 8 year olds. Besides teaching in every class at TCS, Megan worked with the BSU Child Care and Development program working

with college students and preschoolers. She spent several years working on the grant project focusing on children and conflict resolution. Within that project she helped edit some of the materials, observed and provided feedback for teachers in the community, and conducted workshops for teachers and parents. Megan has given workshops on and co-written an article on young children and weapon play. For her greatest professional challenge, Megan co-created and spent two years teaching in a school for infants and toddlers in a building next to her house.

SHERRI LAUER - 3-4s Teacher and Discussion Facilitator, Parent/Toddler Program

Sherri is returning for her fourth year as facilitator for the parent group, and is beginning her first year at TCS in the 3-4s class. She has her master's degree in Developmental Psychology and has been working with young children and parents for almost 20 years. Sherri's experience with TCS began when her own children attended school here. Sherri's many roles in the early childhood community include teaching a Child Care class at BSU, parent volunteer in her own children's classrooms, Accreditation consultant for the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation, board member for Treasure Valley Association for the Education of Young Children (TVAEYC) and The Children's Museum in Idaho (currently working to build a children's museum in Idaho). And every afternoon is spent at the YMCA with her children who participate on the swim team. Sherri has lived in Boise for 10 years with her husband, Bill, and her children, Shaun, Karly, and Alexandra (TCS alumni). They have two dogs, two cats, two turtles, and a fish. She enjoys biking, water skiing, and snow skiing.

MARY GRIFFIN - 3-4s Teacher and Parent/Toddler Program Teacher

Mary completed her undergraduate degree in psychology and masters work at the University of Illinois in Urbana. While in central Illinois, she taught at the university lab school supervising student teachers, working with preschoolers and their families and teaching classes. She also spent three years at Chicago Child Care Society teaching in a multi-age setting. She has lived in Boise for ten years with her husband and three daughters, all TCS alumni. Mary has been an active volunteer and substitute teacher in her children's classes and looks forward to her second year teaching in the 3-4s class, and her first year with the toddlers.

Newsletter Date
Volume 1, Issue 1

TCS Times

JULIE GILL - 2-3s Teacher

Julie is beginning her 13th year teaching at TCS. She has taught in the Parent-Toddler class, Young 3s, 3-4s, 4-5s, All Days, and Extended Day Primary program. Before teaching at TCS, Julie was a teacher at Boise Head Start. She has two children, a current TCS student and a TCS alum. Julie has her CDA, and has studied Elementary Education at BSU and Liberal Arts at Albertson College. She lives with her husband, Al, her two children, and her dogs Buddy and Cinnamon. Julie enjoys spending her time with her children, gardening, swimming and playing in the yard.

KAREN LUNG - 4-5-6s Teacher

Karen received a BA in communication from University of Puget Sound and graduated with honors with an Elementary Education degree from the University of Idaho. She has taught in the 2-3s and 4-5s at TCS and with severely emotionally disturbed children in the Boise Schools. For the past 8 years, she's been mom to Maddie and Claire, both TCS alumni. She loves to spend time in McCall with family and friends, run, backpack, and waterski.

MARK ZIMMERMANN - 3-4-5s and 4-5-6s Teacher

Mark has an AA Degree in Child Care and Development and a BA in Applied Science with Emphasis in Child Care and Development from BSU. He has been a graduate assistant in the Masters Early Childhood Program at the BSU School of Education. Mark has taught at TCS for 15 years. Mark taught in the Parent/Toddler program for one year, in the All Day Class for 9 years and five years in the Primary Program. Mark is a former president of the local and state chapters of the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Mark enjoys camping and travel.

DEANNA SMITH - 3-4-5s Teacher

Deanna has her general BA from Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA. For the first two years she studied education and developmental psychology and then finished her degree in political science and planning. She moved to Boise in 1982 to work for a non-profit organization as an organizer and spent five years working on a variety of social justice issues. She has owned and operated desktop publishing businesses. She is active in local issues and politics, including her neighborhood association and Idaho Smart Growth.

Deanna's experience with children goes back to high school where she spent a week as a counselor for an outdoor education camp for sixth graders which lead to teaching outdoor education. She taught German to first graders while in college.

Deanna is a parent to two TCS alumni. She substituted for several years before joining our staff in 2004 in the 3-4-5s class. Deanna has been a soccer coach for the past seven years and was a student council co-advisor for four years, as well as clocking many hours as a parent volunteer. She loves kids and working with them.

BETSY ROBINSON - 4-5s Teacher

Betsy received a BS in Child Development and Family Relationships with a specialty in Early Childhood Education from Colorado State University. She graduated with honors and has studied in child development at Iowa State University. Betsy has taught for 23 years. She has taught 3-4's and 4-5's and in the Parent/Toddler program at other schools in Boise. Betsy is in her 10th year at TCS and has taught in the 3-4's, 4-5's and Afternoon Kindergarten. Betsy enjoys travel, reading, gardening, exercise and working with teenagers as well as young children. Betsy has been married to Kerry for 33 years and has two grown children.

PATTY HEAD - 4-5s Teacher

Patty received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the University of Idaho and Master of Arts in Education, emphasis in Early Education from the University of Alabama Birmingham and Boise State authoring a thesis on mentorship for administrators, master teachers and first year early childhood teachers. A 17 year veteran, Patty has taught first grade, Kindergarten, preschool, and for two years was the 3-4s teacher at TCS. Patty recently completed an internship to become a Child Life Specialist at St. Luke's Hospital and is a certified EMT. She has been married for 29 years to Alan and a mother to Max, 15 and Betsy, 24. After a ten year "retirement", Patty is thrilled to be back at The Children's School.

NICOLE SHADDUCK - All Day Preschool Teacher

Nicole graduated from BSU in 1997 with a BA in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Early Childhood Education. Nicole has worked with infants and toddlers in an at-risk program for teen mothers and in Kindergarten in a Boise public school. She has started developing and presenting workshops at conferences for early childhood professionals.

Nicole is in her eighth year at TCS and teaches in the All Day class. She is the editor of the school newsletter. She has a son, Corey. Nicole enjoys reading, exploring new local restaurants and travel.

LYNN HANSON - All Day Preschool Teacher

Lynn is in her fourth year of teaching at TCS. She has a BA in Child Care and Development and is working towards her MA in Reading. She has taught K-8 in a one room school house in Yellow Pine. She lives with her husband and has four grown children. She enjoys quilting, sewing, and art.

TONYA PALSULICH – 2-3s and All Day Preschool Teacher

Tonya received a BA in Human Development and Child Study from Stephens College in Missouri. She joined the staff of TCS in December 2000. She has two boys. Tonya enjoys music, reading and bike riding.

SUSAN GARDNER - Primary Teacher

Susan received her BA in Elementary Education, with a minor in English, from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. She has taken post graduate classes at the University of Minnesota. She has taught public school in grades K through 3 in the Idaho communities of Salmon, Leadore, and Emmett before moving to Boise and working at TCS. Susan is in her ninth year of teaching at TCS. She has a daughter, Katie (a former TCS student), and three stepsons with her husband, Dick. Susan enjoys life with her family, traveling, camping, and exploring Idaho.

MARY HELEN MAY - Primary Teacher

Mary Helen received her BS in Elementary Education with an Emphasis in Early Childhood from Oregon College of Education (Western Oregon University). She taught Kindergarten at Adams, Roosevelt and Garfield Elementary Schools in Boise from 1973-1978. She helped facilitate workshops for the new kindergarten program. Mary Helen taught in K-3 in Oregon public schools. She then moved to Wyoming and began her preschool teaching career. She taught toddlers, 3-4's and 4-5's. Mary Helen has continued her education, taking classes in early childhood curriculum at a variety of universities. She joined the staff of TCS in 1998 and taught in the 3-4's and 4-5's and toddlers programs. This will be her fourth year teaching Primes. Mary Helen is married and has 3 children.

REBECCA CROSSWHITE - Extended Day Primes and Child-Focus Primes Teacher

Rebecca has completed her CDA credential at BSU. She has also begun her course work in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Literacy. She joined the staff of TCS in 2001. She is one of the extended day primary teachers and works during the summer as a Summer Primary Program teacher. Rebecca is married and spends time with her family camping, skiing, reading and golfing.

SARAH JENKS - Extended Day Primes Teacher

Sarah received her Child Development Associate (CDA) from BSU. She attended Cleveland Institute of Art and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from BSU. She is currently attending BSU to earn a Bachelor's degree in Childcare and Development. Sarah has taught preschool at Head Start and ABC Preschool and has worked at Mountain Cover Childcare with infants and toddlers. Sarah also taught Art at Salmon Idaho Junior High School and was the school Librarian. She has a son, Danny, and loves music, art, movies, reading and travel.

RUTHEE NEWLAND – All Days Teacher

Ruthee joined the staff of TCS in May 2005 after completing an internship in the All Days class. She is currently pursuing a BAS in Early Childhood Development at Boise State University. Ruthee graduated from Nampa High School with her career pathway in Early Childhood Development. Ruthee has been involved with children as a camp counselor for the last seven years. She has taught preschool for two years at New Horizon. Ruthee enjoys reading and spending time with her family in her spare time.

Being at School

By Cindy Finch

We talk a lot about school philosophy and goals for children at TCS. We know that you have chosen TCS in part because of our emphasis on respectful interactions and relationships. Related to our philosophy and goals are our expectations. We have expectations for children in the school that apply to classrooms, playyards, and common areas such as the halls, coffee room, and library. We need your help and cooperation in maintaining these expectations when you are here with your children before or after your child's school day, as well as for any special events held at the school.

Please help us by respecting and supporting our expectations. We have three basic schoolwide rules. It is from these three rules that adults make decisions throughout the day about which behaviors need guidance. Although they do not specifically address behaviors like running through the hall, hanging from the basketball hoop, removing branches and leaves from the landscaping, or taking books randomly from the library shelf, these rules are available to help teachers and parents make decisions about which behaviors carry potential for harm to self, others, and school materials. Our three rules are:

- *Children may not hurt people—children or adults.
- *Children may not hurt other's possessions or creations.
- *Children may not hurt animals.

Additionally, children in their parent's care must be supervised in the school library, the playyards, the hallways or in the coffee room.

Finally, teachers are unavailable to monitor children before or after class or in common areas of the school. If occasionally you are running late please let us know; it is important to us to make arrangements that are respectful of your child and your child's teacher.

The teachers and administrative staff are available to facilitate smooth and safe transitions for children coming to or leaving school. We respect your role as parent, and we see you as "in-charge" of your child during transitions. Please let us know if you need our help and support during transitions. We want this to be a successful part of the day for you and your child.

The Children's School

1015 N. 8th St.
Boise, ID 83702

PHONE:
208-343-6840

FAX:
208-429-8153

E-MAIL:
info@tcsboise.org

We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.tcsboise.org

Potluck Schedule – Watch for more details!

All potluck will include a social gathering time and an informational session. Please talk with your child's teachers for specific information and schedule.

2-3s Class, September 7th, 11:30-1:00
3-4s Class, September 9th, 11:30-1:00
3-4-5s Class, September 8th, 11:15-12:45
4-5s Class, September 12th, 11:30-1:00
4-5-6s Class, September 1st, 11:15-12:45
All Day Class, August 31st, 5:30-7:00
Primes Class, September 1st, 5:30-7:00

Important In School Dates

Monday, August 29th, All Days resume
Primary Class and 4-5-6s begin

Monday, September 5th, Labor Day Holiday, School Closed

Tuesday, September 6th, 2-3s, 3-4s, 3-4-5s, 4-5s Classes begin

Thursday, September 15th, "New to TCS" Parent Orientation 7:00-8:00

Monday, October 3rd, Parent/Toddler Classes begin

SAVE THE DATE!

September 22nd, 12:00-1:00, TCS, *Toy Story: A Parent's Guide to Making Good Toy Choices*, Discussion time with Diane Levin, Wheelock College, TCS Parents. Childcare provided 11:50-1:00. Open to current TCS parents!

September 22nd, 7:00-8:30, BSU Special Events Center, *Growing Up Too Soon: Preserving Childhood in Today's Popular Culture*, Community Event with Diane Levin, Wheelock College, a P-TCS parent education event. Open to the public!

TCS is proud to co-sponsor these events with Diane Levin! Please contact the school for more information.