We have had a wonderful summer at VOCDC: filled with lots of outdoor fun, vacations, and learning too! As we head into our work week, a reminder that we will be closed August 31 through September 4th. In the meantime, staff and families are getting their last trips in before we settle into our fall routines.

By mid-September we will be saying “goodbye” to several senior students who stayed with us for the summer and I encourage you to find an opportunity to wish them well. We’ll will be adding some new students to our team through the month of September as they return to campus. We are trying to have our returning students move with children to their next room, as much as possible.

We are pleased to have the infant playground work completed and look forward to the installation of new doors to the infant rooms during work week. There will also be a plumbing repair job completed near the Explorers’ room. I will be making time during work week to sew some much needed fabric shades for 3 of our classrooms. We’ll also be getting some VOCDC logos put on our vans that we use for transportation to make it easier for adults and children to identify their “rides”.

This is the time of year that I remind parents to contact me if they want to be part of our Vivian Olum Parent Advisory Council. Also, please let me know if you have any ideas for parent focus groups for this year. Last year we had a sustainability and nutrition group.

We can continue those if there is interest, and/ or add new ones. It is a great way to network with staff and other parents on topics that interest you.

Please Welcome our new Inventors Lead Teacher

We began the recruitment process for a new School Age Lead Teacher in June by reviewing the job description, posting the opening and gathering applications. In July, 3 parents and myself screened all the applicants and determined we would interview 6 candidates. By mid-July, with the help of 5 parents of school age children, we conducted interviews. It was a unanimous decision to offer the position to Autumn Appletoft, a graduate of Pacific University’s education program and former VOCDC employee. Autumn worked as the assistant teacher in our Summer By the Week program last summer. She will not be a new face to most parents and school age children. Her official start date is August 24th and she plans to have an open house at the end of work week. Please welcome Autumn when you see her.

Also, we are fortunate to have Lori Weaver continuing to work as the assistant teacher in Inventors. She did a fantastic job with Summer By the Week and she and Autumn will be a very strong team, guiding our Inventors program.
**Healthy Nests Program**

The University of Oregon’s Center for Family Therapy is offering a new service. “Healthy Nests,” a three-meeting consultation for expecting couples and new parents, is designed to enhance couples’ relationships through a comprehensive assessment of their current strengths and unique challenges. Emerging research evidence supports the likelihood that a service of this nature – especially during an early and formative stage of the couple’s relationship – can reduce conflict and enhance the health and well-being of adults and their children. Healthy Nests is provided by University of Oregon CFT graduate students under the supervision of faculty supervisors. The service is free of charge. Please share this information with friends and families you know, on or off campus. For an appointment call Dr. Jeff Todahl (346-0919) or Dr. Deanna Linville (346-0921).

**Just One More Book: A great website for readers**

Just One More Book is a thrice-weekly podcast which promotes and celebrates literacy and great children’s books. Each weekday morning, we take a few minutes out of our morning coffee ritual to discuss one of our many favourite children’s books. We also feature weekly interviews with authors, illustrators and experts and enthusiasts in the areas of children’s literature and literacy as well as listener-submitted audio reviews. Through this podcast and its website, we are building a lively, interactive community linking children’s book authors, illustrators, readers (children, parents, educators and librarians) and publishers. [http://www.justonemorebook.com/newsletter/](http://www.justonemorebook.com/newsletter/)

**Babies and Toddlers Will Be Moving**

Knowing that change is hard for many people, I want to remind you that during work week, we will be moving some room assignments around:

- Closing down the Discoverers room in the annex
- Moving Pathfinders room to the old Discoverers room in the annex
- Moving the Builders room to the old Pathfinders room

The end result is that all toddlers (2-3 yr.) will be in the annex and the young toddlers (12-24 mos.) will be in the old Pathfinders room (with bathrooms, Yeah!) that will now be called Builders. I know these names are hard for parents to remember but they will be clearly labeled and just ask any of our staff to help you.
Hardly a day goes by without hearing on the news or reading in the newspaper about the H1N1 virus, better known as Swine Flu. We had our own brief experience with it last spring and, as a result, have been working on developing our own comprehensive plan so we will be prepared if, or when, it becomes a concern. A VOCDC Pandemic Response Plan committee was formed with representation of a parent, staff and the Director of Work/Life Resources as well as me, the director. The university Incident Command Center gave us a template to follow as well as suggestions of tools to develop for implementation of protocol and directives. As a result, we now have a complete and approved Pandemic Response Plan and I want to thank Kara Gladstone, our parent rep and Pam McColl, our staff rep for their participation and especially their input. We now have a chain of command flow chart, a communication plan for service and non-service hours, and protocol to follow for each level of pandemic response. Part of that protocol is to share with parents strategies, information and cautions for each level.

We have been at level 3 since the case that crossed boundaries with our school age children last spring. Level 3 means that there have been, and are, swine flu cases in our county. This level requires our program to be on high alert which includes the following:

♦ Daily health checks of children: please do not leave your child at the center until a staff person has checked in with you about your child’s health. If there is any concern, a teacher will take your child’s temperature and ask health check questions before you leave.

♦ At level 3, parents should be thinking and planning for alternative care for their child(ren) in case their child gets the H1N1 virus or if their classroom is closed or the center is closed.

♦ Parents should make certain that VOCDC has their most current email address, phone and cell phone numbers as this is how emergency information will be sent.

♦ Parents will be receiving information on the most effective practices to use in their homes to control the spread of illness

We will be conducting a training for all staff during work week on our Pandemic Flu Response Plan. If you want any further detailed information, please contact Carol Snead

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**Magazines for Preschoolers**

Having magazines that arrive at your home with your child’s name on the label is a great family literacy tool. Most adults model the use of magazines and it is great for children to have their own. Some magazines for children focus on literacy, others on nature and science, and some both. As children get to know a particular magazine, they look forward to reading their favorite features in each issue. Some of the recommended magazines are: **Highlights High Five.** 12 issues per year for ages 2-6. It has stories, poems, comics and activities. **Ladybug.** Carus Publishing . 9 issues per year for ages 3-6. Illustrated stories, recurring characters, poems, songs, and how-to activities and each issue has a removable section. **National Geographic Little Kids.** National Geographic Society. 6 issues per year for ages 3-6. Sized for small hands, this magazine is packed with color photos, animal stories, features about different cultures, simple science activities, puzzles and games. **Your Big Backyard.** 12 issues per year for ages 3-7. Color photos about nature, animals and the world around us. Has a book-making activity and stories about reoccurring characters. Magazine subscriptions make great gifts from and for family and friends. If you have other magazines that your child subscribes to, perhaps you would like to share that information with us as this list is only the beginning. Happy reading!