As the director of the Vivian Olum Child Development Center, I extend a warm welcome to all of our families: those returning from a summer away, those who are new to VOCDC this year and those who had lots of summer fun with us! I am happy to report that we are a very fully enrolled center this fall and our staff has done a wonderful job in transitioning new families into our center as well as supporting families whose children moved to a new classroom.

We have two new assistant teachers this fall: Lydia Hawkins in the Builder’s room and Katie Kuber in the Inventors room. Both of them have lots of skills, knowledge and experience to share. Thank you to all the parents who helped us with these hiring campaigns.

We have some projects that I would appreciate parent involvement and support. If you are interested, I encourage you to consider joining our parent advisory committee. We plan on rearranging our Commons area and want to enhance the Builders playground. Finally, you’ll notice that our children have new VOCDC t-shirts to wear when walking on campus and going on field trips. Thank you to all of our parents who participated in fundraising events so we could have the t-shirts designed and printed. Have a great term and please stop by my office to say “hi” when you can!
Please join us in welcoming our new assistant teacher in the Builders room, Lydia Hawkins. Lydia studied early childhood education at Chemeketa Community College in Salem.

She worked for the Mentor Graphics child care center in Wilsonville. Locally, Lydia has worked for the EWEB Child Development Center as well as the Moss St. Child Development Center. She loves infants and toddlers which makes her a perfect match for our Builders classroom. She also has experience with preschool and school age children. Lydia lives in Eugene with her husband and two boys.

Katie Kuber is our new assistant teacher in the Inventors classroom. She began working at VOCDC in mid-September. Katie has lots of experience working with school age children in summer camps, art programs, as well as substituting in elementary schools. Katie grew up in northeastern Pennsylvania and has most recently lived in Lake Tahoe, CA. She received her elementary teaching and environmental studies degree from the University of Vermont. Her favorite part about working with children is helping them to explore and learn about the natural world around them. She is happiest when she is outside. When she is not working, she spends her time skiing, rock climbing, hiking and camping. Her hobbies include traveling and reading. She is very excited to explore Oregon and most excited to get to know all the families at VOCDC!

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

During the month of October, the Women’s Center has their annual Domestic Violence Awareness events. One of the events is a toiletry drive to benefit Womenspace and First Place Family Center. Vivvan Olum Child Development Center will be supporting this event again by having a collection box in our foyer where we will collect unopened toiletries for these programs that support women. If we all brought in just one item, we would have a substantial donation for these great community services. Some of the items that were brought in last year included: combs, brushes, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, feminine hygiene supplies, lotion, hair spray, hair gel, facial products, nail polish, nail files, nail clippers. You get the idea! I hope you’ll join us in this drive. Thank you in advance for your contributions!

Teachers have asked me to provide a list of things you might have at home, cluttering shelves or closets. Please consider donating any of the following:

- Plastic bags for soiled clothes in all Infant and Toddler rooms as well as Explorers
- Small glass dishes for warming food (custard cups, ramekins, small bowls, etc.)
- Children’s books, CD’s and puzzles that your child has “outgrown”
- Underwear, pants, boots, rain gear (for fall walks on campus)

Your recycled things become our treasures!
Activities That Exercise Thinking Skills

- **Take a Soundwalk:** Children learn through listening, imitation and repetition. A soundwalk teaches children to strengthen their listening skills while at the same time they learn about their natural environment. As you walk through your neighborhood, parks, or on trails, ask children to put on their listening ears and pay attention to all the sounds they hear. Have them share what they’ve hear and label the sounds correctly. If possible, let them touch, smell and see the sound sources. Teach them about something they heard: name of the bird, source of the water, direction of the wind, name of the tree. Ask them to use their voice to imitate the sound. Classify the sounds by keynote sounds (environmental sounds that are steady and predictable), figure sounds (surprising, sudden or annoying) and soundmarks (sounds you think of in reference to a specific place: clocks chiming, sirens near hospitals, water sounds by a fountain or river.)

- **The “KWL” technique:** Children are naturally curious about most everything. When they come across a new word, animal, insect, etc. you can expand their thinking skills by asking them: “What do you already **Know** about it?” “What do you **W**ant to know about it?” After some discussion, reading and investigating, ask: “What did you **L**earn about it?”

- **Books That Make Children Think:**
  - **Do you know which ones will grow?** by Susan Shea. Illus., By Tom Slaughter. 2011 In this book, baby and adult animals are compared to small and large inanimate objects. Guess which items will grow into larger versions.
  - **Previously,** by Allan Ahlberg. Illus. by Bruce Ingman. 2007. The author connects various fairy tale characters to each other as the story works backward to explain how they all ended up in their different situations (Goldilocks, Jack and the Beanstalk, etc.) The story ends up going to the beginning when adults were babies, wood was a tree.
  - **Press here,** by Erve’ Tullet. Trans. By Christopher Franceschelli. 2011. Underneath a single yellow dot, a question appears: “Ready?” By pressing on the dots, rubbing them, tapping on them and shaking the book, readers make new formations of bright colored dots appear page after page. Tip the book to the left and all the dots slide to the left side of the page. This book offers a new take on interactivity.
As the rains come and the temperatures outside get cooler, we like to have a space in the Commons for teachers to take children to engage in large motor activities. Children will still go for walks when the weather turns wet and cold, however we like to provide opportunities for balance, ball skills, and creative movement activities. We will be purchasing a new divider system that is not unlike what some of you may have in your workplace that is sound absorbing and flexible in how it can be set up. Teachers will set up the space for the week and then offer different activities the next week. This area will be in the west end of the Commons, next to the laundry area. It will be closed in the mornings until 9am as well as from 4:30pm to closing time since the activities require supervision to make sure everyone is safe. All children will have a chance to use this area during the week with their classroom.

Dr. Cecilia Kirk from the Department of Special Education and Clinical Sciences at the University of Oregon along with one of our own VOCDC students, Valerie Hyde, are working on a literacy project. If your child will be between the ages of 36-47 months at the beginning of Winter Term and has typical language development, they invite you to be part of their study that investigates the best way to teach early literacy skills to 3-year-olds.

If you would like to participate, they will ask you to make an appointment to bring your child to the Hedco Clinic, at the beginning of Winter term, for three 45-minute sessions, one per week. You will learn about strategies to help your child to identify the sounds in words and to learn the sounds associated with the letters of the alphabet.

Please contact Dr. Cecilia Kirk from the Department of Special Education and Clinical Sciences at the University of Oregon by calling 541.346.2123 or email at ceciliak@uoregon.edu to take part in this study.
Here is an opportunity to support VOCDC and save money at the same time! This year’s Entertainment Book promises to be even better than last year with the creation of a smart phone app. Download the Entertainment Book app and access hundreds of special coupons and deals with the click of a button. Books can be purchased at the front desk for $25, with $5 on each book coming back to help VOCDC. If we reach our goal of selling 100 books, we get $10 on each sale! So tell all your friends and relatives; books can be purchased online for people living in different states and with our provided code, we still get the money.

The Make-a-Plate or Tray project is a great way to create a usable family keepsake to treasure for years to come! It is a fun and family friendly project for all ages. If you are interested in participating in the project please sign up in your child’s classroom. We will process your request and get a kit ready for you to take home. Plates cost $10 and the trays cost $15. All finished templates must be returned to the office by November 1 for processing. Finished products should be available by the second week of December (just in time for Holiday mailing!). If you have any questions please contact Kristy at 6-6596 or kalarson@uoregon.edu

What is eScrip?

The eScrip program is one of the easiest and most painless fundraising ventures ever conceived. Parents, teachers, and supportive friends/extended family members register with e-Scrip the debit/credit cards and grocery club cards they use regularly. When the registered cards are used at participating national, regional and local merchants, a contribution is automatically made to our center. It’s that easy! Please know that when you sign up for eScrip, your card numbers and personal information will be protected by the strictest measures of security and confidentiality. If you’re not already registered with e-Scrip, please sign up today! You can log on to www.escrip.com and enter your information at their secure site, or, alternatively, you can pick up a form at our front desk.

When registering on-line, you will need to enter group ID number 8501040 to link your contributions to the Olum Center. Once registered, you can log into your account at any time to track your personal monthly contributions and update your information. Each eScrip registrant can support up to three organizations at a time, a helpful feature for families with children in other programs. The list of participating merchants is extensive with new ones added frequently. If you already participate in the Olum’s eScrip program, please take this opportunity to review your account and make sure all of your information is current. Finally, please consider passing on the information a friend or family member. Anyone in the United States can register for eScrip as an Olum Center supporter.