REMINDERS

Schedule Change Deadline
January 15th, for a change to go into effect the first of February.

Moss St Closed
January 18th, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Parent Council Meeting
January 21st, 6:15p-7:30p.

4j No-School Day
Friday, January 29th. Jay/Mallard/Ellie rooms open all day; rest of Moss Street open as usual. Parent of school agers must sign up at your child’s classroom to have care. Email Mary at: marymac@uoregon.edu.

Parent Council Meeting
Thursday, January 21st.
6:15p - 7:30p, at Moss St.
Childcare and dinner provided.
Please sign up at front desk.

Parents are encouraged to participate at Moss Street. A great way to do this is to come to our Parent Council meetings. The Parent Council is made up of parents who want to participate, a staff representative, our student/parent representative, and the director, Peggy Veltman. We, as a council, work on things like fundraising, event planning, the allocation of fundraising funds, budget presentation as well as giving parents time to voice concern or praise.

The Parent Council also gives you an opportunity to meet other families. Dinner and child care are always provided at no charge. Sigrid, our cook here at Moss St., provides healthy and delicious dinners. While parents are in the meeting, children are eating and playing in a classroom nearby with qualified staff. Parent Council is a great way for you as a parent to have your voice heard, so please join in on the discussion!

Thanks! We look forward to seeing you!
Completed Parent Surveys Needed

On Tuesday, January 12th, a Parent Survey was sent to all Moss Street families, by way of an email attachment.

We would like to report on some of the findings at our upcoming Parent Council Meeting, set for Thursday, January 21st, if we get a significant amount of them back by next Thursday. Thus, we encourage each parent to complete a survey within this next week, if possible. And, we still want to get your response even if you can’t to do until later.

There are extra copies of the survey at the front desk. Come fill one out around your child’s drop-off or pick-up time. It will only take 5 minutes and your information will help us all in planning upcoming events.

2009 Tax Statements Available

For those needing them, tax statements, showing expenses and payments made during 2009, are ready for you.

Just request yours and it will be put in your parent box.

Early Sprouts Project Update

Moss Street received our Early Sprouts funding ($10,000) on January 5th, and met with a representative of the Center for the Advancement of Sustainable Living (CASL) on January 12th, to map out our collaboration and project objectives. In collaboration with CASL, Moss Street teachers will be introducing planting, harvesting, tasting, preparing and cooking with fresh vegetables to your children.

We are all very excited about this project. The actual funding will last for one year, during which time we will integrate the gardening, preparing and cooking components into the Moss Street curriculum. At the end of the funding period, we will have an event to celebrate our accomplishments. This opportunity fits in well with Moss Street’s emphasis on healthy eating and green living. Please let us know if you have any questions or would like to participate.
Hello from the Quail and Redwing Preschool rooms! Our rooms are busy, busy, busy with several new families joining us as they transition from the Robins and Swallows. We are currently involved in several projects in the classrooms and in our “studio” time. The Quails are interested in construction, and have built several structures from cardboard and recycled materials including a model of a space shuttle in studio. They have also been very engaged in building elaborate block structures, accented with people, animals, or dinosaurs to create a zoo, a city, or a super-hero fantasy world. We are hoping their fascinating stories can be recorded and shared in book form. The Redwings have just finished a unit on the body, and learned many interesting facts (“Did you know that our noses are made of cartilage? Like a shark!”).

A group of Redwings have discovered that one of our stumps on the playground has begun to deteriorate, and they have decided to pursue removing it themselves. We have had several interesting discussions about how to get permission to work, what kind of tools they might need, and what might be underneath the stump when they get it out. Who knows what else they might discover along the way? In our age group we love projects that the kids generate themselves, problem-solve themselves, and therefore build knowledge of a topic or process themselves. As teachers, we see this as an opportunity to facilitate a learning process that is motivated by curiosity, the best kind of learning!

Here are some ideas the Redwing kids had about removing the stump:

- **Lily:** “Maybe my Daddy can take it out with his big saw. Or I will go to the kitchen and ask Sigrid for some tools. Or maybe I will use my pink hammer at home. I’m going to take a video of you guys taking out the stump with my camera. It’s all charged up and ready!”

- **Orion:** “I’ll buy a big bulldozer and knock it over. I’ll use my super power charged shovel too. Then I’ll use a big crane to lift the stump out when we’re ready to take it out.

- **Hollander:** “We might need to use my power shovel. It can dig out all the stumps in the world and never get tired!”

- **Olivia:** “If we can get a big truck, we can saw it down with a big saw. We can’t use hot rocks (lava) though because it wouldn’t be safe for us!”

- **Hailey:** “I have an idea about putting it back together! We should glue it! And put more and more on if it comes apart. Or maybe we could use tape!”

- **Olivia:** “I have sparkly glitter glue that would work!”
Moss Street Parents

Once again our lead staff are conducting assessments of social and emotional behavior for children 3 months to 5½ years. We do this assessment annually for three reasons: 1) to work cooperatively with parents on any concerns they may have related to their children’s development; 2) to proactively address and eliminate any issues that your child may have with social adjustment while attending Moss Street; and finally, 2) to assist the authors of the tool with their research, so that the assessment tool can be refined and offered to other families in other settings.

After the assessments are completed, you will have the opportunity to meet with the classroom teachers to discuss your respective findings. At that time we will also ask you to sign a consent form that will allow us to share the findings with the authors of the assessment tool. These folks also work at the University of Oregon, and are part of our larger community. No names or identifying information will be provided about your child for these studies. These are group data.

Thank you for your help.
Peggy Veltman
How Do I Read My Bill ?!!

Each month you are required to pay for the next four weeks of care plus the drop-in and/or meals from the previous four weeks of care. Bills are sent out by the 1st of the month and payments are due upon receipt.

For every week of care, there is a corresponding line item on your bill. Friday is used as the billing date for each week of care. We send you the entire bill for each term (3 months of charges) so that those who want to pay ahead with their financial aid can do so.

For example, the bill you received by December 1st listed the last four weeks of Fall Term, 11/23-12/18 plus any drop-in and/or meals from the second 4 weeks of Fall Term, 10/16-11/15 as your minimum amount due. All accounts must be paid before care can continue for a new term.

Robynn is available to go over your individual bill with you, at your request. Please feel free to contact her to set up an appointment at, 346-4282; rmedew@uoregon.edu

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We are in the process of hiring a permanent Assistant Director at Moss Street

Assistant Director, Moss Street Children’s Center (MSCC), University of Oregon. We are looking for qualified applicants. The MSCC assistant director manages the facility in the absence of the director, functions as the compliance officer for federal, state and University requirements, hires all and supervises six classified staff. Required qualifications are as follows: a Bachelor’s degree and 3 years work experience in child development or related field, or an Associate’s degree or equivalent in child development or related field and 5 years related experience, prior experience in daily risk management oversight for a child care or other provider organization, knowledge of applicable state child care (CCD) regulations, USDA Child Nutrition Program, or experience working with similar regulatory standards, demonstrated experience with the elements of quality childhood care and education and child care program operations, lead work experience, including functioning as liaison between teachers and administrative staff, and outreach to parents.

The complete announcement with application requirements will be listed on the UO jobs web site, http://hr.uoregon.edu/jobs. If you have questions, please call Frances Scott at 346 – 4384. All application materials must be received by 5:00 PM on January 29th, 2010. EO/AA/ADA institution committed to cultural diversity.

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Inclement Weather

When the University as a 2 hour delay due to inclement weather, Moss St. will have a 2 hour delay as well. We will open at 9:30am instead of 10:00AM since our normal opening time is 7:30AM.

When the local schools are closed we offer, on a space available basis, additional hours of care for school age children who need such care.

These drop-in charges for childcare will be billed at your usual hourly rate. If Moss St. is officially closed or delayed, your bill will be adjusted accordingly.

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It’s GAME time at Moss Street!

Moss Street mentor and lead staff spent training time this Fall term focusing on the use of positive redirection strategies with our student staff. As many of you probably know, positive redirection strategies are techniques for getting a children to do what you want them to do in a timely way while avoiding conflict, or power struggles. All parents know this is much more difficult than it sounds. However, Moss Street espouses positive discipline strategies, and so reaching competence in this area is a must for staff. Research in child development strongly suggests that under normal circumstances, positive strategies, such as praise, positive attention and demonstrations of affection and approval are the most effective and efficient at eliciting desired behavior in children.

Most parents are familiar with the use of praise and how it works. Other strategies include distraction, stating or re-stating a rule, arranging the environment to encourage good choices, modeling, telling the child the behavior you want to see, complimenting a child nearby on a good choice, providing a contingency “after you wash your hands, you can have some of the new play dough”, introducing a game or song, engaging the child in problem solving – and the list goes on. Basically, if we can change behavior using any of these strategies, we don’t need to say, “No” or set limits nearly as much.

“The GAME” was started last year to reinforce the learning student workers received in the strategies described above. Every time regular MSCC staff witnessed a demonstration of one of the positive redirection strategies issued by a student worker, s/he was awarded a ring for their lanyard. Five or more rings could be redeemed for a prize with the Assistant Director, however, many of our student staff chose instead to display their winnings by keeping them on their lanyards.

This year, we’d like to provide parents with rings as well. We will make up cards of the positive redirection strategies we’d like to see, and put them in your box with five rings. You can always get more from the office if you want to continue playing. Just award a ring (one for every demonstration) to the student workers when you observe one of the responses mentioned on the card. You may also see positive strategies that we haven’t mentioned. Let us know what you saw, and we’ll document it for next year.

What we also noticed last year is that the methods are contagious. Pretty soon all the adults were also more positive and constructive with each other. The Game is helpful, it’s necessary and it’s fun. Please consider participating with us.
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<td>4  *Turkey Cheese Chunks Pasta Salad</td>
<td>5 Pinto Beans Cheddar Cheese</td>
<td>6 Vegetable-Lasagna Green Beans</td>
<td>7 *Baked Chicken Strips Pita Bread</td>
<td>8 Cheese Sandwiches Hummus w/Carrots Kiwi Bananas</td>
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<td>Mixed Veggies Apples/Oranges</td>
<td>Brown Rice Corn Olives Peaches</td>
<td>Mixed Veggies Mandarin Oranges</td>
<td>Lettuce w/Ranch Fruit Salad</td>
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<td>11 Bean Burritos Corn Olives Peaches</td>
<td>12 *Turkey Slices Sweet</td>
<td>13 *Baked Chicken Breast Brown</td>
<td>14 Vegetarian Spaghetti Cheese</td>
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<td>Potatoes Broccoli Pineapple</td>
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<td>18 Moss St. Closed In observation of</td>
<td>19 Cheese Quesadillas Corn</td>
<td>20 *Tuna Chunks Parmesan Noodles</td>
<td>21 Cheese Pizza Broccoli Pineapple</td>
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<td>Martin Luther King, Jr Day</td>
<td>Olives Pears</td>
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<td>25 *Turkey Cheese Chunks Pasta Salad</td>
<td>26 Pinto Beans Cheddar Cheese</td>
<td>27 Vegetable-Lasagna Green</td>
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<td>Mixed Veggies Apples/Oranges</td>
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<td>Beans Applesauce</td>
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*Vegetarian substitution provided. Milk served with every meal.