

CDC Newsletter

Bond, Initiative Receive Voter Approval

On November 4, voters in Multnomah County and Portland passed two measures that will have a significant impact on the Child Development Center, beginning July 1.

Despite the tumultuous financial events this fall, voters in Portland approved the Children's Initiative 71% to 29%; the PCC bond measure also passed, though the final outcome was in doubt until the following day.

Included in the bond measure were funds to significantly improve child care facilities for PCC students and families. On the Sylvania campus, this will mean a new building with an increased number of available slots. That increase will help reduce the extensive wait list (in some classrooms, over 1 year) for available child-care slots. The facility will not be completed



Children and students learning French together.

until 2011, but will be a welcome

The original Children's Initiative enabled 19 organizations, including PCC, serving children and families around the city of Portland to enhance existing programs or start new efforts.

These programs have served thousands of children. In June PCC will complete a 3 year grant with the city of Portland

under the original Children's Initiative. The grant has enabled the CDC to offer evening and Saturday care during the academic year, as well as an expanded summer program. Renewal of the initiative greatly increases the possibility that the CDC will be able to continue to offer these same additional services for several years to come.

FRENCH LESSONS!

This fall, a new collaboration began between the World Languages Department and the CDC preschool classrooms. On the initiative of a French instructor, several French language students with interests in early child-

hood education visit the classrooms twice a week to introduce the children to French words and songs. Students are participating in this activity as a service learning experience. Every Tuesday and Thursday, the

students introduce a few new words and get to know the children a little better. Both students and children are finding it to be a rewarding experience and further such activities are planned.



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Special points of interest:

- *Bond measure, children's initiative pass*
- *Art collaborations continue*
- *Child nutrition and obesity*
- *French lessons!*

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New Displays in the Classrooms, A New Teacher

The CDC welcomed a new teacher to Preschool B—Homa Miazad—this fall. Homa is a preschool teacher with several years of experience in child education. She brings a deep love of children, many creative ideas, and a calm manner to the classroom.

One thing families will probably notice is that classroom environments change from term to term. These changes are in response to the changing needs and interests of the children in them.

Homa, for example, has been working with the teaching team in Preschool B to respond to children's interests in

different forms of art or careers. This fall, for example, the children were very interested and spent considerable time in the “doctor's office”, which had doctor masks, gowns, and play stethoscope. The “beauty parlor” was also of keen interest for several weeks. Both of these displays were in the dramatic play area. Our classrooms routinely display children's pictures and artwork and the environment is very intentionally prepared. Parents and families are welcome to browse and ask questions about any aspect of the environment, the curriculum, or other aspects of the Center. We encourage your interest and welcome your involvement!



Homa Miazad

Childhood Nutrition and Obesity

As you may have heard and read in recent years, childhood obesity is a growing problem in the United States. Approximately one-third of middle school-aged children are obese, setting the stage for an increased likelihood of many diseases in their adult years.

At the CDC, we try hard to serve a healthy and interesting variety of food items for our morning, afternoon, and evening snacks. Our food selections are certified by the U.S. Dept. of Agricul-

Please remember that it is a Center policy not to serve candy to children. Candy brought in lunches will be returned home.

ture for their nutritional value. We also have an arrangement with a food service to deliver organic, creatively

developed snacks for our evening program. Additionally, occasionally the teachers will prepare healthy snacks with the children in their respective sessions. Our Center teachers have handouts to share that describe quick, healthy snacks and we welcome your ideas and recipes for favorite family foods. Just a reminder—Oregon licensing rules require that parents bringing snacks for celebrations can only bring commercially prepared foods.

Art Collaborations—Sculptures!

The Friday preschool group have recently been engaged in an exciting series of activities. The Art Department has collaborated with the CDC so that children can learn about the process of creating sculptures—and students can learn more about how to work on projects with children. In October the children attended a workshop where adults showed their art, talked about how they created it, and how they used their

tools. Later in the classroom, the children explored various materials and how they could use child-appropriate tools safely. On their second visit to the workshop art students partnered with the children, introducing new tools and developing sculptures with them. This collaboration has been a wonderful experience for the children and the students. We expect that this spring, the children's work will be displayed in the Sylvania art gallery.



Children and students work together to create great works of art!