

Parent's Committee Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2008

Present: Celeste Hassell, Jeff Swanson, Jason Osborne, Jody Dear, Ann Buckley, Shirley Janzer, Jaye Smith and Karen Dowd.

1. New Nurse Consultant: Celeste introduced the Center's new nurse consultant, Jason Osborne. Jason is an RN with prior experience in pediatrics. He currently works at the Hartford Hospital Emergency Room and for the Granby EMT. As nurse consultant, he will be reviewing the record keeping, wellness and safety aspects of the Center and acting as a resource for parents and staff on health questions. He will be a great addition to the Center! (and not just because he took our Butter Braid form to sell at the Hospital)
2. The tag sale is set for October 18, 2008 (or was, as it is now Oct. 19). Thanks to Celeste and Beth for spending their day off there, and to volunteers Kelsey Aldrich, Jody and Kameron Dear, Stef Jennings, Shirley Janzer, Lisa Coons, yours truly and the later day helpers, Derrick Aldrich and Chuck Smith (and the surprise visit from the lovely Miss Doris and her husband, and Erica's baby (oh yeah, Erica and her Mom were there). And thanks to Logan Tanguay for his help in pricing items- a born entrepreneur if I ever saw one! Celeste "Drives a Hard Bargain" Hassell will have a total for you in the monthly newsletter.
3. Jeff's news: New carpet is in and it is fabulous. There are new curtains downstairs, the railings are sanded and painted as are the poles. The extra carpet will probably be used downstairs, when Jeff has recovered from the tough task of the first install. Motion lights will hopefully be going in this weekend in front and a traffic sign is supposed to be coming this week (YEAH). Jeff is still waiting for the landlord to get his electrician in to install the security lock. Anyone want to sign a petition to send on to the landlord? (I just had that idea- apparently, I have more coherent thoughts in the mornings after tea than at night after cake).
4. Butter Braids are selling from 10/16 through 10/30- delivery on 11/12. Great for fancy breakfasts and so easy- the Center gets up to \$4.50 for every one sold, which will be used for new toys and equipments for all of the rooms.
5. Original Works are also selling- please consider- great holiday gifts for doting relatives and a good fundraiser for the Center.
6. The Bake Sale has been pushed back for pick-ups around the Holidays. (Lori- you have already been volunteered to make your apple pie and it has already been spoken for- for the rest of us, if she offers to make another, let's not get into fist fights over it. Michelle's cheesecakes will be \$15, one of which I have already budgeted for- really do kids need milk with their lunches every day).

7. The first edition of the Center newsletter went out- will be out monthly thanks to Miss Grace. Any suggestions, let Celeste know. We will be having a trading spot, where people can post items they wish to trade.
8. There are two new additions to the staff. Danielle Berg, a 2008 Granby High School graduate who will be working in the infant room in the afternoons, and Stephanie Harvey, a student at Westfield State in elementary education who will be in the toddler room in the afternoons. Both were highly recommended and are "fabulous."
9. GECC is looking to do focus groups on the need for and uses of a family resource center, which is to be set up at Holcomb Farm.
10. Celeste wondered if a parent survey would be good idea, to assess what is working well and what needs improvement at the Center. Names would be optional. Let her know if you think it would be a good idea.
11. PARENT TIP OF THE MONTH- toothpaste removes Sharpie pen from walls and furniture. This came up for the second month in a row- one advantage to attending these meetings (other than the dessert) is the useful information you pick up (though the use of duct tape in child rearing was a joke, I swear, really), as well as the reassurance that we are not alone in dealing with these issues.
12. **NEXT MEETING- November 11, 2008- 6 p.m. Dessert will be served** and kids are generally welcome – check with Celeste. A good time is generally had by all- and we try to be done by about 7- so you can get home to put the kids to bed (or pretend it went longer so someone else has to – we'll back you up on that too). **PLEASE COME- AND SPECIAL FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING, NEWCOMERS WILL NOT BE UNWILLINGLY VOLUNTEERED FOR ANYTHING ☺**

REMINDER- on HALLOWEEN, Kids can wear or bring their costumes to the Center!

Yours truly,
Karen Dowd

