



KidBits

thephoenixschool.com



Newsletter of The Phoenix School • JULY-AUGUST 2009

July-August Calendar

July 3: Independence Day - **CLOSED**

July 15: Board Meeting 6:30pm
(budget for board approval)

Aug. 17: Pre-K Orientation

Aug. 19: Board Meeting 6:30pm

Aug. 24: Open House

Aug. 25: Parent Orientation

Aug. 28: Teacher Workday - **CLOSED**

Aug. 31: First day of Pre-K & School starts

Online Shopping Benefits Phoenix School:

Be a Phoenix Fashionista!

Show your Phoenix School pride by shopping at the new **Phoenix School Online Store at CafePress.com!** We have something for everyone.

www.cafepress.com/PhoenixSchool

The school will earn between \$2-3 on each item sold, so shop now!

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Shop for your favorite stuff at your favorite stores, and have 2-20% of our purchase come back to Phoenix School...at no additional cost to us. Visit **OneCause.com** to sign up and start filling your carts with clothes, toys, books, furniture and more from 100's of well known stores. There are also bargains to be had from OneCause.com coupons. For Phoenix to receive proceeds, we must click through OnceCause.com. So, try to get in the habit of starting your online shopping sprees at OnceCause.com, and THEN jumping to the merchant's website. It's one extra step, but very worth it!

From the Director

Dear Parents,

I hope you are trying to stay cool. Our children are enjoying outside play in the morning and again in the late afternoon. The big hit is our outdoor water play and bubbles everywhere. I am just thankful we are not having water come inside our building in a variety of ways.

Transition to new classrooms went very well. It is so wonderful to see our little ones growing up, I look in the classrooms and do a double take sometimes thinking they are in the wrong class; then I wonder how they all grew up so fast.

I tell everyone who will listen to me how grateful I am to be part of Phoenix and to be part of the lives of some really special people. I am thankful to have staff and parents who support me and very special children to love and care about on a daily basis. I truly try every day I am here to make it the best place to be.

Welcome to our new parents and children. It is really important to become part of our Phoenix family. There are many activities to become involved in, beginning with your child's classroom. Becoming involved will not only help our school, but it will be an enrichment to your life as you meet other families who live and work near you, thus enlarging your support base.

NEW FAMILIES

Baby Room:

Child

Amelia Broadfoot

Magdalana McBath

John and Clary Dunaway (Bambini)

Logan Reading

Alyssa Pashley

Aidan Avila

Family

Elizabeth, Robert and Katy Ross

Elizabeth, Andrew and Jane Catherine

Gates and Michael

Melissa and Jonathan

Cherie and Steven

Allison and Carlos

Les Enfants Room

Naima Jaitla Alice and Jasdeep

Muchachos Room

Sloane Cunniffe Daniella and John

Bambini Room

Carter Gould Sheinin Tracy and Aaron

NEWS FROM OUR ROOMS

Babies Room: Welcome new babies - we are really having a blast! The new babies are doing a variety of things, babbling, pulling up and trying to roll over. We as teachers are so proud as they accomplish new tasks. Addison is walking, Sawyer is taking steps and Grainger and John are pulling up on the shelves and taking steps.

Les Enfants: We are having so much fun in our room. Transitions went so well and everybody has settled in. Water play has been a big hit, the children love it and the heat makes us want to do it. Our new little ones are doing well using their spoons and becoming very independent, soon we will be learning to drink from a 5 oz. cup.

Muchachos: The Muchachos had a great transition. Our new Muchachos are learning about our room through their new friends. In September they will be showing the ropes to new students. The best part of the summer is water play; we hear lots of squeals and laughter.

Bambinis: The Bambinis are planning on having a summer filled with water, sun, and sand. There is a rumor going around about a field trip to Oakhurst Park. Bonnie Minter and Judith Welsh will let you know all the particulars. The teachers are very pleased with the transition of the new "Mubinis". Carter and Shawn have moved into the Super Hero undies and do not mind showing them off. Carter and Clary, new Bambinis to our school, know all about our room thanks to their friends, and very importantly they are learning the Bambini rules "Be Safe, Be Neat, Be Kind." We had a great time with our fathers, thanks for sharing your time with us.

P.S Important advice from Sidney Lahr . *"If you don't know the answer to a problem Think, Think. Think."*

KZ's: Our swim lessons at the YMCA on Mondays and Wednes-

days have been fun; and we are doing well. Each week the KZ's have had a different theme. The first week was the Great Outdoors. However, we did our camping indoors due to inclement weather. We were able to go to Stone Mountain before the rains came and we played in the biggest sandbox we had ever seen. During Space Week we had our own Blast Off with Mentos and Diet Coke. (Thanks Wendy Loux for your assistance) We went to the Fernbank Science Center to see the sky show and we played in a really neat playground at Fernbank School. For game week we played Mancala; had tic-tac-toe tournaments, puzzle races, and an egg race in the hallway. We ended the week by going bowling at Suburban lanes. This week is art week and we will be trying different mediums and going to the High Museum. Thanks to the parents who have made it possible to go on field trips and a special thanks to Richard and Mariette Lientz who have really helped us all summer with driving on trips and escorting us to the YMCA.

Summer is slipping by so quickly, we are already on our fourth week. It won't be long when we will be having **Parent Work Day August 22**, and Parent Open House, August 24. We want everyone to part of the Open House because the Board and I have some important things to talk about. Have a great summer.

Love,
Bev

President's Note

Dear Phoenix Families,

I am not a joiner by nature. While I respected the kids in high school who belonged to the yearbook committee, literary magazine, the Spanish club, Model U.N., soccer, and the A.V. club (ok, maybe not the A.V. club), I never felt any desire to join. I'm not sure why. Maybe I didn't want to be pegged as something I wasn't, maybe I wanted as much free time as possible to be a brooding, surly teen, or maybe I was just plain lazy. It wasn't that I was anti-social; I just didn't want my social time to be involved around anything that had to do with school. This attitude stuck with me through college. By the time I was in my 20s, the only joining I did involved a friend at a bar for a beer.

And then I had kids.

I don't care how lazy or anti-social you are, once you have children, you are forced to join. It starts with a childbirth class, and from there you are suddenly in "New Mommy" support group,

playgroups, soccer teams, dance, gymnastics....and, for all of us, The Phoenix School.

It was hard for me at first, volunteering for workdays, picnics, and the auction. I quickly learned that The Phoenix School is not just a place where you drop your kids off at 8:00 and pick them up at 5:00. It is a community which relies on "parent power" to keep it functioning. Along the way, I found that I actually enjoyed helping out. Not only did it give me a real sense of ownership, but I met some wonderful new people that I now count among my best friends. After a couple of years, I was asked to be secretary on the board. Several years and a few committees later, here I am, the new Phoenix School Board President.

You'll see some new faces on the board this year, as well as some old ones who have changed committees. I think we've put together a great group of folks—not a surly brooder among them! So...without further ado, I give you the 2009-2010 Phoenix Board of Directors:

- Immediate Past President:** Susan Brown
- Finance:** Brian Bettle and Shannon Logan
- Personnel:** Elizabeth Rose and Amanda Johnson
- Building and Grounds:** Bill Ruark and Jeff Lahr
- Communications:** Elizabeth Broadfoot and Alison Weissinger (also President-Elect for 2010-2011)
- Fundraising:** Wendy Loux and Stacy Reno
- Long Range Planning:** Fran Lanza and Arianne Weldon
- Parent Involvement:** Nefetari Murph and Dacia Alexander
- Secretaries:** Cathy Marella-Luce and Elizabeth McBath

We thank our new "joiners" Shannon, Amanda, Elizabeth McBath and Dacia. We are so glad to have you on the board.

We are sad to say goodbye to Shannon O'Daniel, our web master extraordinaire, Karen Flowers, half of our fantastic finance committee, and Fundraising Guru, Stephanie Wansley (we're doing the auction again this year, Stephanie, so don't even THINK we're not coming for you!). As for the brilliant, Amy Doyle, what will we do without her? Amy IS the Phoenix School Board. She has probably served on every committee and is a former President. I don't know how many years she has knitted her way through meetings, but she will be sorely missed.

A very special thanks to the amazing Susan Brown, our Immediate-Past President. Throw anything at this woman - stolen vans, confusing lease agreements, suspicious flus and hallway sewage;

she handled it all with confidence and authority. She might also be the only board President who has, or will ever have, a filthier mouth than I do. We love you, Susan!

So, for all you non-joiners out there ... you are now part of the Phoenix School; a club whose members are some of the coolest, most creative, dedicated, hardworking folks you will ever meet. Join the crowd, shovel some mulch with Bill and Jeff at a work day, or lend a hand to Wendy and Stacy as they plan the auction. Read a book or do a cooking activity in your child's class, drive on a field trip, help Nefetari work the book fair, or make cookies for the Oakhurst Arts Festival booth. There are so many ways to get involved.

This non-joiner is glad she did.

-Amanda Lockwood, *President Phoenix Board*

July and August Birthdays

Babies.....	7/20– Grainger Ball
LesEnfants.....	
Muchachos.....	7/5 – Lucy Welsh
.....	8/12– Gabriel Kemp
.....	8/17– Tessa Katz-Gathercole
Bambinis.....	8/9 –Jacob Ruark
.....	8/21– Catherine Minter
KZ's.....	
Staff.....	7/6– Viola Jones
.....	7/13– Mimi Wilson
.....	7/26 – Judy Williams
.....	8/1 – Deborah Hunter
.....	8/19– Alecia Cleveland

Summer Pool Party!

Thank you to all the families that attended this year's summer pool party. We had such a great time splish-splashing with our little ones. This is one of the many events that makes Phoenix such a special place. We hope to see you next year!

-Parent Involvement Committee

New Scholarship Policy!

Did you know that scholarships may be available to Phoenix families with financial need? The Board recently adopted a new

scholarship policy outlining eligibility guidelines. Copies of the policy are available in Beverly's office, but here's a quick rundown. Phoenix is committed to offering a certain amount of scholarship assistance to income-eligible families each year. To determine eligibility for scholarships, the Board has elected to use the income guidelines created by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to determine eligibility for public housing assistance in DeKalb County, Georgia. Those income guidelines are updated annually and are available on-line at www.huduser.org. Families with incomes less than or equal to 80% of the HUD median income limit for DeKalb County, as evidenced by most recent tax return or W-2, may receive a 25% tuition discount, while families with lower incomes may be eligible for more assistance. Temporary tuition assistance may also be available to families experiencing hardships such as job loss, major illness, or death of a spouse.

See Bev for questions about scholarship availability.

—Amy Doyle, Immediate Past-President

CALLING ALL WRITERS and HUMORISTS!

Please let Elizabeth Broadfoot know what you would like to share in the next KidBits issue. We welcome articles, ideas, and funnies from parents and staff!

Email: elizabeth.broadfoot@gmail.com

NEXT KIDBITS DEADLINE is AUGUST 21.