



March-April Calendar

March 18 Board Meeting 6:30pm

April 6-10.....Spring Break – KZ's only:
No Pre-K instruction, but KZ
class **STILL OPEN**

April 15:Board Meeting 6:30pm

April 27.....Treats for Teachers:
Babies & Les Enfants

Oakhurst Presbyterian Clothes Closet:

Do you have gently used clothes you'd like to get rid of? Well, Oakhurst Presbyterian has a clothes closet that would love to have your family's old clothing and shoes (both kids and adult sizes are needed). Bring your items to school and drop them off at the end of the hall that leads up to the fellowship hall—the doors to the "closet" are on the left just before you get to the stairs. Please only bring clothes that are currently in season since there isn't enough room to store off-season clothing. If you have any questions or would like a receipt from the church for tax purposes, ask Phoenix's own Deborah Hunter (Bambini's teacher), who coordinates the clothes closet.

From the Director

Dear Parents,

We have once again received our certification as a Center of Distinction. This is the certification awarded by the State's licensing and monitoring program for Georgia's childcare centers; the program is part of Bright from the Start (the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning). The main goal of this program is to continually improve the quality of care for both children and families. We were evaluated on two rating scales Iters-R and Ecers-R taking children from birth to 4 years of age. There are 39 items scored for Iters and 43 items scored for Ecers. The items are organized into 7 subsets including: Space and Furnishings, Personal Care Routines, Listening and Talking, Activities, Interaction, Program Structure and Parents and Staff. Within each of these areas there are points given ranging from 1-7. Each subset has very specific ways to score each item. Research has documented these scales are reliable and valid in their relationship to child development outcomes for children in classrooms and with other varying environmental ratings.

Thanks to Mycine Pickette, Alicia Cleveland, Mimi Wilson, Ieshia Cain, and Bobbie Lester for representing our school during the Center of Distinction evaluation. Their rooms were chosen to be observed. We knew we were ready in every room, but it is still not easy to have an observer for three or four hours in your room. Our teachers got very high marks on their care and communication with our children. Thanks teachers so much for showing what Phoenix is all about.

We had a terrific work day. Our mulch was spread and lots of work inside was also accomplished. Thanks to all of the following people who made the work day a great success, but first I would like to make a special thanks to Susan Brown, Bill Ruark, and Cathy Marella-Luce for keeping us all organized.

Thanks:

Heath Alexander Amanda Johnson Liz and Dan Bulgar Jodi McGill
Andrew McBath Jonathan Ball Xue Ya Zhou Athena Kotsianis
Chris and Lora Bean Sarah and Paul Winget Alison and David Kyle

Elliot and Melanie Blakey Marcia Peters Jeff and Stephanie Lahr
Amanda and David Lockwood Paula Katz-Gathercole
Jenny and Mims Rogers Darryl and Jyotsna Blackwell
Wendy Loux Chris and Lori Bean

News from the Classrooms

Baby Room: The Baby's Room is doing great, we are so proud of them. Our little ones were showing off everything they learned for the Center of Distinction observer. They were very happy playing all over the room and they were interacting with their friends and teachers. High drama could be observed as the babies were shaking, dancing, clapping, and bouncing to the music. It was truly impressive; some were even trying to sing. Reading baby style is the new exciting pastime. Our babies know their animals and their sounds.

Les Enfants Room: John and Gigi Weissinger and Elle Rose are counting to ten and saying their ABC's up to S. All our little ones really had a good time at the Valentine Breakfast, and they seemed to enjoy the special art projects, cooking and making special gifts. We talked about red and identified all the red objects in our room. This month we will be talking about green and Spring – if it ever shows up.

Muchacho Room: We have had a great January and February working on counting 1-10, identifying colors, and self help skills. We will continue talking about red, green, yellow, and blue and working on our self help skills, like hanging up our jackets and putting them on. As Muchachos are working hard on their self help skills, we hope parents will help us by encouraging your children to do chore like setting the table, and getting dressed by themselves at home.

Bambini Room : Bambini's talk about going into the KZ room all the time, they know they are growing up and feel ready for new things. Hooray our classroom passed when Standard's of Care Came. We were observed for almost 4 hours. Our Valentine's breakfast was enjoyed by parents and children. Our Valentine party was great, we had so much stuff we invited the KZ's to join us out on the playground. We were so proud the children suggested we share. Thanks to Daphne Hall and Grace Gordon for keeping

things in order. Hats off to Catheine Minter for developing leadership skills at a rapid speed. Our Bambinis are growing up so quickly, they will be getting their wish to be KZ's too soon for their teachers.

Pre K: We have really had a very busy time, and we are discovering so many things. We spent two weeks on science experiments : volcano eruptions, water and oil mixtures, stars and tooth picks in water, electricity, sink and float experiments, milk, dawn, and food coloring; and finally: a good use for diet coke and a whole pack of Mentos. We have explored the writings and art of Eric Carle and Denise Fleming, and we explored the alphabet by having fun with Chicka Chicka Boom Boom. Hope you have seen our creative inventions the Pre K class did a great job.

Looking forward to spring, thanks again parents for all your help.

Love, Bev

President's Note

Dear Phoenix Families,

Wow—thanks to the more than 30 Phoenix parents who showed up for our Mulch-n-More workday on February 21!! That was quite a turn out and an excellent show of support for the school. The two mountains of mulch were no match for our crew; we even had several kids who helped (well, mostly they whacked each other with small gardening tools). Lots of good work was done inside as well with cleaning rooms, steaming the carpets and general repairs and maintenance. Imagine how much it would cost the school to pay someone to do all of that work—our tuition would go up substantially without the volunteer hours that our parents give throughout the year. Thanks again to those who participated (and sand is around the corner for those of you who missed the Mulch Extravaganza).

After all that hard work moving mulch, I think we should have an informal contest—the family who collects and returns the most mulch from your kid's shoes over the summer will win a to-be-announced prize. We'll have to do this on the honor system (i.e., no stuffing their sox with woodchips—you competitive types know who you are) and we'll come up with a good prize for the winner. Or, of course, you are free to keep it under your coffee table like we do at my house; I find the grit adds to the rustic/country theme we've got going, plus we've always got kindling if we're in a pinch.

Thanks, too, to those who pitched in for the worthy cause of giving away wine—I mean, raising money for Phoenix. The wine raffle was very popular so we're planning on making it a regular mini-fundraiser. Stephanie Wansley and Wendy Loux made it all happen; they have their priorities straight.

Thanks for being a part of Phoenix!
-Susan Brown, President Phoenix Board

CALLING ALL WRITERS and HUMORISTS!

Please let Elizabeth Broadfoot or Shannon O'Daniel 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 or
odaniel@emory.edu

NEXT KIDBITS DEADLINE is APRIL 17.

March and April Birthdays

Babies..... 4/2 – Benjamin Winget
LesEnfants.....
Muchachos 3/19 – Shawn Lanza-Hughey
..... 3/21 – Elizabeth Lockwood
..... 4/20 – Margaret Kyle
Bambinis 4/13 –Ruby Skillman
..... 4/19– Alex Marella-Luce
..... 4/23– Griffin Knabe
KZ's 3/15 – Riley Clontz
..... 3/18 – John Stephens
..... 3/23 – Brynn Wansley
..... 4/1 – Karah Flowers
..... 4/30 – Sophia Holland
Staff 4/29– Angelina Brooks

Online Shopping Benefits Phoenix School

We can now shop online for our favorite stuff at our 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! You don't have to limit this to the holidays, it's accessible year-round; Phoenix will continue to benefit well into the New Year and beyond!

-Stephanie Wansley, Fundraising Phoenix Board