



## May-June Calendar

May 4-13: Collect gifts for Teachers

May 4: Teachers Treats from: Muchachos

May 8: Mother's Day Breakfast

May 9: Spring Workday- Sand

May 11: Teachers Treats from: Bambinis

May 11-15: Parent/Teacher Conferences

May 15: Teacher Appreciation Dinner

May 18: Teachers Treats from: KZs

May 18: Orientation & Open House  
(6:30 new parents, 7pm class changes)

May 20: Board Meeting 6:30pm  
(present ballot and distribute to parents)

**May 22: Teacher Workday - CLOSED**

**May 25: Memorial Day - CLOSED**

May 26-29: Transition Week-  
(9:30am-10:30am)

May 29: Pre-K Celebration

## Kids say the darndest....

Here is something that Anne (KZ's)  
said to me recently:

Mom: Anne, I just can't get this song out of my head! Let's turn on the radio and see if listening to something else will help.

Anne: OK

Mom: Oooh! This is a great song - remember this one? You love the drums in this one.

Anne: Yeah! But now I'm gonna have THIS song in MY head! Oh man....

- Carla Cooke

## From the Director

I cannot believe it is May (at this point, the end of May!) and time to say good-bye to many of our Pre K graduates. This has been a great year with so many new students for the year. We have learned about other cultures thanks to our students from Africa, India and China. Phoenix is all about diversity and family.

It is hard to say good-bye to families who have been with us a long time, especially the children we have known since they were babies. We know all our Pre K students are ready to soar. Thanks for the memories - we are so proud of you!!

### Babies to Pre K

Alexander Bean  
Rohan Blackwell  
Anne Cooke  
Karah Flowers  
Nathan Ruark  
Brynn Wansley

### Entered Phoenix Later

Ellis Hamburger  
Sophia Holland  
Sula Johnson  
Zuri Murph

### New to our school

Lydia Lilje  
John McGill  
Joseph McGill  
Miranda Merchant  
Avanti Sivakumar  
Kavin Sivakumar  
Jack Stevens  
Carter Pullen  
Xiaoheng Xu

### Thanks

Parents, our staff would like to thank you for all your kindness with food and your gifts. Our week of teacher appreciation was really special. All of us really enjoy your children and are so proud of their progress. Thank you for sharing your little ones with us.

Thanks for helping out with the sand on workday May 9. If you need more hours we need grass mowing on the hill, weed pulling around the lower playground, and help with jobs not completed on work day.

### NAEYC

We will need parents' input as we go ahead with our NAEYC accreditation. I have just finished the annual report for this year.

NAEYC has undergone a complete change since our last accreditation five years ago. The Board and I are identifying the different committees we will need to help in this process. One of the 10 standards we will be graded on is families' input and involvement in our program. Currently we are revising our Emergency Plan and we will be updating our Policies and Procedures. If you have any interest in helping us move forward please let me know.

### **What is NAEYC?**

The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) began in 1926 defining what a quality program should be comprised of. By the early 1980's the association launched an accreditation program to help parents identify centers that would provide the best care for their children, and to provide standards of excellence in the early child education field. By the late 1990's many centers were striving to become part of NAEYC, causing a tremendous increase in NAEYC centers, and Phoenix School was part of this surge. NAEYC adopted new standards in 2006 and we will be judged on these new standards.

### **Moving on up**

Some of our children will be moving up on June 1st to new classrooms. We are excited by this change because the teachers have really been thrilled by your child's progress. In every room the change since September has been amazing. We still have openings in the KZ's summer camp every week and would really like to fill them so please let your friends know about our program.

### **Board**

A special thanks to Susan Brown for your guidance and input this year as President of our Board. I have truly enjoyed working with you. Thanks for always being there with advice and caring. You are the best. Thanks to Bill Ruark for always helping me out when something needs to be fixed in our school. Thanks to Shannon O'Daniel for all your emails and Elizabeth Broadfoot for working on the Directory and KIDBITS. Nefetari Murph, thanks for all your computer expertise in formulating programs work and running the Book Fair. Brian Bettle thanks for still and always helping us get our office computers working. To all Board members thanks for supporting our school and for helping out in so many ways to numerous to mention.

### **Room Parents**

Thanks for communicating with the teachers and passing information on to the parents.

### **Workday**

Our workday turn out may have been small but we were able to get a lot done. All our sand has been moved and really fills our sandboxes. For the next few weeks more sand will be coming home in shoes and pockets, maybe more than remains in the sandbox.. Thank you so much Bill Ruark, you were helping everywhere, including getting our water play area ready. Thanks also to Usher Freeman for helping Bill this is really a messy job.

Thanks to the following parents for your help, many of you are also Board members doing double duty.

Sue Brown

Marty Hamburger and Amanda Johnson

Kim Ruark

Wendy and Doug Loux

Jeff Lahr

Brian and Shannon Logan

Kelly Christopher

Amanda Lockwood and David Lockwood

(who made sure we were doing our jobs correctly)

Love, Bev

## **President's Note**

*Dear Phoenix Families,*

The annual Mothers' Day breakfast is always crazy fun at Phoenix. We had a great turnout this year and the kids were so excited to have us sit at their tables with them for breakfast (and get them juice and cereal refills 17 times). It was yet another reminder of how much parenting my kids have received at Phoenix—all those surrogate mommies and aunties (and, of course, Uncle Steve). They have learned something new in each room and they've always felt loved and welcomed. I think I've talked about our great staff in just about every KidBits note that I've written over the last 10 months—I really can't say enough about what an awesome group of people they are; we are all lucky to be a part of Phoenix with them. From the office, to the classrooms and the kitchen, the teachers and staff are unique and creative and kind.

Which brings me to our spring teacher-appreciation activities that are on-going. This is another great way to show your family's

thanks for our excellent staff. Thanks to those families who gave money for the teachers' bonuses and who contributed food, flowers and other signs of affection throughout the Season of Appreciation (brought to you by board member Fran Lanza—the One-Woman Teacher-Appreciation Committee!).

As usual, Bev and the board have done great work this year; I have enjoyed serving as president and I want to thank them all for their creativity and dedication. The board adopted a new scholarship policy; we've had lots of conversations and committee meetings about our NAEYC re-certification; we tried some new non-auction fundraising; and we've dealt with day-to-day issues like insurance, accounting services and buildings/grounds issues. Bev is the glue that holds it all together; she is dedicated to our children's education, her staff's development and the Phoenix School's success.

Through parent workdays, board participation, chaperoning field trips, helping in the office or just playing with your kid's class when you pick them up in the afternoon (you have no idea how much cosmic love will come your way if you spend just 10 minutes playing "monster" with the kids on the lower playground or pushing them in the swings on the upper playground), there are always lots of opportunities to get involved at Phoenix. I would encourage each of you to find out how you would like to participate in our school; I can guarantee that everyone—kids, teachers and parents—will benefit.

Thanks for being a part of Phoenix.

-Susan Brown, President Phoenix Board

## May and June Birthdays

**Babies**..... 6/18 – Addison Christopher  
 ..... 6/30 – Sawyer Logan  
**LesEnfants**..... 5/2 – Auden Alexander  
 ..... 5/3– Stella Skillman  
 ..... 5/24 – Ilsa Feuer  
 ..... 6/1 – Reese Hamburger  
 ..... 6/16 – Alexandros Coleman  
**Muchachos** ..... 5/4 – Jaiden Blackwell  
 ..... 5/14 – Lincoln Murph  
**Bambinis** ..... 5/4 –Joseph Crick  
**KZ's** ..... 5/19 – Sula Johnson  
 ..... 5/22 – Avanti Sivakumar

..... 5/22 – Kavin Sivakumar  
 ..... 4/30 – Sophia Holland  
**Staff** ..... 5/29– Beverly White  
 ..... 6/5– Sharon Walker  
 ..... 6/22 – Bobbie Lester  
 ..... 6/22 – Mycine Pickett

## Book Fair Coordinator Needed

I have had the pleasure of coordinating the last three book fairs and would like to pass the torch. Phoenix hosts two book fairs a year, one in the Spring with Scholastic and one in the Fall with Charis Books & More, a local independent store. This is a great way to rack up those PI hours and work with other Phoenix parents. Plus, you get to preview the books before anyone else. Please stop by the office and let Bev or Judy know if you are interested in becoming the next book fair coordinator.

### Spring 2009 Book Fair

We had a great Spring 09 Book Fair. We sold over \$1500 in books. We decided to receive a book profit from our sales and we selected over \$1000 worth of books from Scholastic. Isn't that fabulous?! I would like to thank all the volunteers for making the book fair run so smoothly. I really appreciated all your help. Thank you Phoenix Parents for purchasing books for your household and for the classrooms. The teachers really enjoy offering the kids new books.

*Thank you so much for your support,*  
 Nefetari Murph - Book Fair Coordinator

## 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](http://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

## 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

## 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](mailto:elizabeth.broadfoot@gmail.com)

**NEXT KIDBITS DEADLINE is JUNE 19.**