

HeadStart & Preschool

The Wellness Department, through a new grant, was able to bring more physical activities to the classrooms. Some of the activities that Tracy Biery and her team led were: different types of tag, obstacles courses, races, hikes, yoga, and other fun ideas to help children get motivated to move.

Linda Mann again worked with the children to ensure that they have knowledge of how to keep their teeth and gums healthy. Children also received fluoride treatments.

Local rescue workers visited our school as well. The children were able to learn about their jobs and get first hand experience by touring an ambulance and handling tools that are used on the job. Firemen demonstrated to the children how some dangerous items such as lighters may look like toys but are not to be played with.

Field trips were once again a large part of the curriculum. Jackie Long, the older class assistant teacher, set up many trips, including some new ones, so that the children could gain experiences from outside our program walls as well. Trips this year included: the pumpkin patch, an aquarium trip with the SMILE group, a father involvement fishing trip, the Enchanted Forest, the Dragon Park, a ride on Amtrak, a Pacific City beach trip and a trip to the carousel in Salem. Many parents joined us on these trips and helped make the outings enjoyable for all.

Families were also included in the program in numerous other ways. Some parents chose to serve on the Parent Policy Council, the governing board that votes on policies for the program. Sandy Bobb began the year as PPC chair, but had to resign when she took a job at the preschool. Sunni Ulestad took over as Chair; Susan Reyes sat as Vice-Chair, Deanna Crask-Stone was secretary and Debbie Larsen was the parent representative. Other members of the PPC were: Tracy Biery, Amelia Haug, Maria Stewart, Alta Getzler, Lindy Trolan and Andrea Verduzco. All parents were part of the Parent Committee led by Junelle Fox. The officers of this group were: Heather Miller — Chair, Debbie Larsen — Vice-Chair, and Denise Wilson — Secretary. Some of the activities that this group helped lead were: the luau, holiday parties and some fund raisers. They also played an essential part of the graduation planning.

Many parents joined us for breakfasts or lunches over the months. A special luncheon was held for grandparents and children and was such a hit that we barely had room to hold ev-



HeadStart & Preschool Staff

Photo by Peta Tinda

everyone. Next year, this event will move to a different location to accommodate everyone who wishes to attend. The children also had lunch with the Elders at the community center.

A thirteen week parenting class was also offered this year. A number of families joined each other over 13 Wednesdays to discover new parenting techniques and discuss any questions they had. Good food and fun door prizes, along with childcare, helped make this event very successful! Another event, co-sponsored by the preschool was the visit of D.J. Vanas, a Native motivational speaker. We encouraged families to attend this event as well.

Some of the other fun activities children participated in this year were: weekly visits to the Education library for story time, pajama day, planting and caring for a garden, celebrating Restoration by learning the importance of the holiday from Tribal members, preparing the menu and curriculum for the last day of school (kids' day), making Christmas tiles and graduation tiles, honor and recognition, transitioning from the younger class or to Kindergarten and creating monthly artworks to decorate the Elders' and councils walls.

We were also very grateful this year to receive

a Department of Education grant which allowed high school students, under the guidance of Crystal Szczepanski to work with students in the classrooms on science and math skills. The children have learned about and adopted a tree in the community, researched and learned about hermit crabs, different insects and how to use microscopes. The science outcomes have shown an increase due in part to the implementation of this extra curriculum into our program.

We also had many great summer interns working for us this year. Each of these students worked hard to learn about the best way to interact with children and did a project in the classroom. Some interns cooked or did art projects with the children, while others prepared circle time activities for them to enjoy.

Staff continued to increase their knowledge of early education by attending college classes and conferences. By May of 2005, two of the staff members will have attained their Associate degrees from Chemeketa Community College. Toni Lockwood attained her Child Development Associate as well.

Staff members are also preparing for the program's second Federal Head Start Review which will occur in the summer of 2005.

The HeadStart/Preschool 2003 – 2004 Staff

- **Vikki Bishop** — ECE Director
- **Sandy Bobb** — Administrative Assistant
- **Tim Bucknell** — Nutrition
- **Junelle Steiner** — Health and Family Partnerships Coordinator
- **Elaine Lane** — Teacher, older room/Disabilities & Education Coordinator
- **Toni Lockwood** — Teacher, younger room
- **Jackie Whisler** — Teacher, immersion room
- **Tony Johnson** — Teacher, immersion room
- **Bobby Mercier** — Teacher, immersion room
- **Jackie Long** — Assistant Teacher
- **Amber Mercier** — Assistant Teacher
- **Tersa Stewart** — Aftercare Advisor
- **Rachell Kellogg** — Aftercare Teacher
- **John Gregg** — Bus Driver/Aide
- **Kacee Eltrich** — Bus Driver/Aide
- **Brandon Robertson** — Bus Monitor
- **Kevin Ruggles** — Bus Monitor
- **Matt Zimbrick** — Classroom Aide
- **Roxanne Moniz, Shawn Bobb, Tina Mae & Dick Harper** — Substitutes
- **Crystal Szczepanski** — Department of Education Science/Math Grant Supervisor
- **Alex Bishop, Caitlin Zimbrick & Ali Holsclaw** — High School Interns/DOE Teachers



Tribal preschool students Vanessa Miller, Alexis Cortez and Joey Benedict learn to paint during recess.

Photo courtesy of HeadStart/Preschool

- **Wendy Mercier & Amanda Thomas** — DOE Teachers
- **Maria Rameriz, Amber George, Rachell Knight, Brittany Linton, Jeremy Childers, Dakota Zimmer, Tony Perkins, Shante Sechtner, Tyson Thorpe, Cory Bradley & Kyle Kearl** — Summer Interns