



LITTLE OAKS ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 2016

Summer is winding down and we welcome all the changes that are coming. Hopefully the temperatures will fall soon, back-to-school sales are in full swing and our little ones continue to grow and change.

Little Oaks Staff

Below is a list of our current staff and usual locations. As always, if you see new faces in our hallways or classrooms, please introduce yourself and our staff will do the same!

Infant A:	Kristina, Mary & Kali
Infant B:	Pam, Miracle & Jessica
Infant C:	Deborah, Stacie & Linda
Toddler A:	Katharine, Stocha & Caitlin
Toddler B:	Judy, Rebecca & Dakota/Tessa
Two's:	Karen, Erica & Fran
Preschool 1:	Jazmine & Rachel
Preschool 2:	Chelsey & Tahler
Preschool 3:	Ashley & Elisabeth
Kitchen:	Jennie
Floaters/Subs:	Donna, Leslie & Lois
Office:	Beth, Shawna & Laura

It is with mixed emotions that I share the news of my departure from the Little Oaks family. When Beth brought me on in January, we were both confident that my background in early intervention, parent education and child development would be a good fit. Unfortunately it hasn't proven to be so. My lack of straight up daycare experience has been a challenge for myself and all of the staff as we navigate the mountains of child care regulations, rules and requirements. I am confident that my replacement will be well-qualified and be able to jump in to provide leadership, staff support and to assist Beth in the daily operations of running LOA smoothly! Thank you all for the kindness and support you've shown to me during my time at Little Oaks Academy. I will miss you all, and especially your children, dearly!

~ Kathie

Dates to Note

Annual Business Meeting July 28, 2016 **6pm-7pm in the Little Oaks Cafeteria**

Please plan to attend this important session to meet the Board, discuss parent volunteer opportunities, hear the financial report, and share plans for moving forward. Child care and light snacks will be provided. Please let your child's teacher or office staff know if you will be attending. We look forward to seeing you there!

Children Transitioning **Early/Mid August**

Many children will be moving to new classrooms in August as our oldest children move on to kindergarten. Your child's new teacher will be contacting you regarding this transition. Please feel free to discuss any questions or concerns you may have with teachers or our office staff. It can be an exciting and sometimes stressful time for our littles ones-and for us-so focus on the positive and be sure to convey your excitement when discussing this change with your child!

Parent Meeting **Later this summer**

Join us to gain information about typical child development and how we foster growth here at Little Oaks, as well as information about our curricula (classroom and other). We hope you will attend to enjoy the discussion and have an opportunity to interact and engage with other LOA parents. More information will be coming so please check your child's mailbox and don't forget to read any messages at the computer when you check your child in and out.

DHS Licensing and STARS Visits

We have had several visitors at Little Oaks over the last few days! Our DHS Licensing Counselor, Erica Williams, came to review our program and all the components required for renewal of our annual license. We are in good shape and are poised for renewal in September. We also had our yearly observation/assessment which is required for license renewal and our annual report card. We will be participating in the Star Quality Program and anticipate a Three Star Rating. It can be stressful having someone looking over your shoulder while you are working but the observers got to witness the wonderful care our staff provides to our children! Thanks to our great staff in Infants A, Infants C and Preschool 3 for being our torchbearers!

One Year Anniversary



Congratulations to the entire Little Oaks Family on our One Year Anniversary!! The staff has pulled together to maintain quality child care while the Board was busy supporting the infrastructure of our Center. All of that hard work has paid off and the results are evident. We have lots of happy, healthy children!

Sign In/Fingerprint

DHS regulations state that **PARENTS** or another adult authorized by parents must sign their children in and out of the Center each day. Our fingerprinting system at the front kiosk meets this requirement and counts as your "signature", but only if you use it!!



It is very important that you use this system every time you check your child in and out. If you forget or are unable for any reason, you **MUST** sign the clipboard in your child's classroom. Staff signatures do not meet this requirement!

Meet the Board

Heather Fielden - President

Heather Overton - Secretary

Preston Hawkins - Member at large

Stephen Russell - Member at large

Katie Walker – Member at large

Daniel Gary - Member at large

Beth Housley, our Director, has an open door policy and is available to answer most questions. If you ever do need to contact the members of our Board, please use the email address below for questions, comments or concerns. All Board members have access to this email account and one of them will respond promptly.

boardofdirectors@littleoaksacademy.org

Please check out the following pages for some important summer information!

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Heatstroke Safety Tips

Everything you need to know to keep your kids safe from heatstroke.

Babies and young kids can sometimes sleep so peacefully that we forget they are even there. It can also be tempting to leave a baby alone in a car while we quickly run into the store. The problem is that leaving a child alone in a car can lead to serious injury or death from heatstroke. Young children are particularly at risk, as their bodies heat up three to five times faster than an adult's. These tragedies are completely preventable. Here's how we can all work together to keep kids safe from heatstroke.

Reduce the Number of Deaths from Heatstroke by Remembering to ACT

A: Avoid heatstroke-related injury and death by never leaving your child alone in a car, not even for a minute. And make sure to keep your car locked when you're not in it so kids don't get in on their own.

C: Create reminders by putting something in the back of your car next to your child such as a briefcase, a purse or a cell phone that is needed at your final destination. This is especially important if you're not following your normal routine.

T: Take action. If you see a child alone in a car, call 911. Emergency personnel want you to call. They are trained to respond to these situations. One call could save a life.

Go a Step Further: Create Extra Reminders and Communicate with Daycare

Create a calendar reminder for your electronic devices to make sure you dropped your child off at daycare.

Develop a plan with your daycare so that if your child is late, you'll be called within a few minutes. Be especially careful if you change your routine for dropping off children at daycare.

Teach Kids Not to Play in Cars

Make sure to lock your vehicle, including doors and trunk, when you're not using it. Keep keys and remote entry devices away from children.

Teach kids that trunks are for transporting cargo and are not safe places to play.

If your child is missing, get help and check swimming pools, vehicles and trunks. If your children are locked in a car, get them out as quickly as possible and dial 911 immediately. Emergency personnel are trained to evaluate and check for signs of heatstroke.

Heatstroke is the leading cause of non-crash, vehicle-related deaths for children. On average, every 10 days a child dies from heatstroke in a vehicle.

Steps to a Safe & Fun Summer

Mosquitoes are pesky creatures for sure. The good news is that you can take steps to limit their impact on your summer activities. Eliminating areas where mosquitoes can breed, covering up when going outside, avoiding the dawn and dusk hours, and wearing mosquito repellent are all effective methods. These steps can also aid in efforts to eliminate mosquitoes from your immediate area—consider the average male mosquito only lives 10 days or less, and the average female lives around six to eight weeks. The *Aedes aegypti* and the *Aedes albopictus* can't fly very far, usually only a few hundred feet, so simple steps can keep the area around your home and office mosquito free. We hope you use this knowledge to fight the bite of mosquitoes!

Child Care Aware® of America (CCAoA)

Protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites

Use insect repellent

Use an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-registered insect repellent with one of the following active ingredients. When used as directed, EPA-registered insect repellents are proven safe and effective, even for pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Active ingredient	Some brand name examples*
Higher percentages of active ingredient provide longer protection	
DEET	Off!, Cutter, Sawyer, Ultrathon
Picaridin, also known as KBR 3023, Bayrepel, and icaridin	Cutter Advanced, Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus, Autan (outside the United States)
Oil of lemon eucalyptus (OLE) or para-menthane-diol (PMD)	Repel
IR3535	Skin So Soft Bug Guard Plus Expedition, SkinSmart

* Insect repellent brand names are provided for your information only. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services cannot recommend or endorse any name brand products.

CDC

CS21814A February 11, 2016

For more information, visit <http://usa.childcareaware.org/2016/06/fight-the-bite-of-mosquitoes-this-summer/> OR www.cdc.gov

We hope you enjoyed the newsletter and gained useful information. Don't forget about our Annual Business Meeting on July 28th and let us know that you're attending!

Thanks,

Beth and the entire staff of Little Oaks Academy