

The Prouty Voice

Volume 6, Issue 6

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Note from Chloe Learey, Executive Director



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Our Mission

The Winston Prouty Center for Child Development provides inclusive education and family support to promote the success of children and families.

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State of the Organization

It is that time of year when we hear the president and various state governors talk about the state of things from their perspective as leaders, which has inspired me to share some of my thoughts about where The Prouty Center is and where we are going. The day-to-day work can overtake the long-term thinking, causing us to see the trees and forget the forest. Here are some thoughts about the trees and the forest in which we operate.

Two Programs Are Prouty Many people think of the Early Learning Center (ELC) when they think of Prouty. It is important to realize that both the ELC and Children's Integrated Services (CIS) exist as services, and that they are almost equal in size in terms of revenue, expense, and number of staff that work in each. While funding for the ELC comes through tuition, including financial assistance programs and public funding for preschool, CIS funding comes from the state and is generated through a billing process. Families do not pay for CIS services.

CIS There are 9 staff members working in CIS at The Prouty Center. There are 4 CIS staff members who work at HCRS, and one who works at Windham Child Care (WCCA). Currently The Prouty Center is the fiscal agent for CIS in our region which means we do all the billing and pay HCRS and WCCA through subcontracts. This has been a very collaborative initiative in our community and we are honored to work with partners such as HCRS, WCCA, Essential Early Education services (EEE), the VT Department of Health, and Early Education Services (EES) as part of this effort. Planning has been going on for many years, but this model of "single fiscal agent" just started in July 2011, so the on-going focus in CIS is to continue refining the model as it plays out in our region.

ELC Being able to hire an ELC Coordinator this year has been a big boost to this program. The position was made possible through a 3-year grant we received from the Canaday Family Foundation, and we are committed to continuing it after the grant ends. This grant also offers us the chance for professional development as it relates to helping make sure that children are successful in preschool since rates of expulsion from preschool are high (A 2006 Yale University study concluded that close to 7 preschoolers were expelled per 1,000 enrolled; a rate that is 3.2 times the rate for K-12 students, and this number is likely higher today). We are looking into **Tools of the Mind** as a framework for supporting this success and are excited to explore the possibilities.

Space As I mentioned in a *Voice* article earlier this year, and as you may have noticed, we are out of space in this building. We need more office space, more meeting space, and a larger meeting space. As we consider adding on we also consider expanding programming, for instance perhaps adding more capacity to the ELC. There are many opportunities to consider and we hope to get a capital campaign and building expansion plan going soon.

These are a few of the items of interest on the horizon as we continue to do our work every day. It is an exciting time and we are looking forward to a year full of exploration and implementation of projects that help us continue to improve The Prouty Center.

Have You Heard?

Article: [Toddlers to Tweens: Relearning How to Play](#), posted on January 22 on the Christian Science Monitor website (www.csmonitor.com)



The Prouty Voice is a monthly publication of the Winston Prouty Center. We welcome input from staff, families, and the community. If you would like to submit something for consideration, please email Ann at ann@winstonprouty.org.

News from the Office

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER:



Tune in to
WTSA (96.7 FM, 1450 AM, online at www.wtsa.net)
 or

WKTV (92.7 FM, 1490 AM, online at www.wkvt.com)

for Center closings or delays.

Decisions are typically made by 6:30 a.m.

Chloe Learey	Executive Director	Ext. 11
Ann Linge	Office Manager	Ext. 10
Ariani Szykier (Ani)	Documentation and Enrollment Coordinator	Ext. 21
Alissa Bourque	ELC Coordinator	Ext. 32
Adam Hallock	Physical Plant Manager	Ext. 52



Some Important Phone Numbers

Please make a note of them!

To reach the ELC after 4:30 pm, call 257-2101 ext. 23

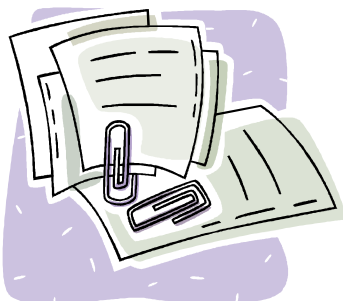
To reach us during a power failure, call 257-4147



It's almost enrollment time!!

Information will be available about re-enrollment for the upcoming program year

July 2012-June 2013
 in late February or early March. Be on the lookout for a packet from Ani.



Find us on [facebook!](#)

We ask for your help and extra vigilance in the parking lot, especially at this time of the year. We have had a couple of close calls recently, and with the possibility of ice patches and the fact that it gets dark earlier, it can be tricky to see all our little (and bigger) people in the parking lot. **Please** be mindful of your speed, follow the arrows around the median, and observe our "No Idling" policy. Thanks in advance !!



Liz Richards, MD (President)

Karen Henry (Vice President)

Natalie Audette

David Dunn

Denise Forkin

Heather Golding

Jon Neurock

Sarah Nohl

The Board of Trustees

Welcome to our two newest Board members, Jon Neurock and Sarah Nohl! Jon is the Branch Manager of the Brattleboro Branch of the River Valley Credit Union, and Sarah is a clinical psychologist with Otter Creek Associates.

We also recently said "goodbye" to two long-term Board members, Joanne Sprague and Steve Jones. We will miss Joanne's laughter and willingness to pitch in and Steve's droll humor and invaluable help with QuickBooks!! They both served for several years and greatly contributed to our organization. We will miss them both and hope they stay connected to the Prouty community.



Staff Spotlight

Paige Martin

Winston Prouty Anniversary: October 21, 2011



If money were not an object, how would you change your life? *I would go back to school to get another degree, this time in Nursing, and then a Master's in Women's Health.*

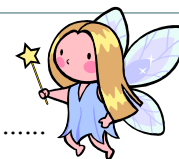
What song best describes you when you first wake up in the morning? *"Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" by Cyndi Lauper.*

What is your favorite book you read as a child? *Charlotte's Web in first place, followed by The Lord of the Rings trilogy and Harry Potter.*

Who's in your family? *I am an only child. My mom Gale and dad Bill live in Pennsylvania with my cat I named when I was 9—Mr. Frodo. My dad works for a public access television station and my mom helps run a family business center and is a writer.*

Who would you want to play you in the movie about your life? *Maggie Smith.*

Wish List



You can earn Family Participation hours and our undying gratitude by fulfilling one of our wishes.....

- A jack-in-the-box (EL1)
- Quality wooden toys (EL1)
- Indoor ride-on toys (EL1)
- Sanded, unpainted scraps of wood (for building)
- Any size PVC pipes
- Stretchy mittens (EL1)
- Old cereal boxes (EL4)
- 50-75 piece puzzles in good shape (EL4)
- Old washcloths or towels (EL3)
- Someone to come and play the violin (EL3)
- Typewriter (EL2)
- Small wooden table (EL2)

Family Participation/Events

As active members of the Prouty Community, we encourage families to complete 10 participation hours per year. There are many options for participation, including donating to the Wish List (above); assisting with fundraising events (right); visiting your child's classroom to read a book or share a family tradition; chaperoning a field trip; attending one of our work days....the list is endless! We will post upcoming volunteer opportunities here, and you are always welcome to share your own ideas. We appreciate your time and energy!

A Taste of the Town needs your help!

May 19, 2012

We are seeking volunteers for our annual gala, and any time you have is welcome! See Ann or Chloe if you're interested.

Can you help with...

- ⇒ *Calling restaurants and area businesses for donations!*
- ⇒ *Picking up donations?*
- ⇒ *Event planning, set-up, or clean-up?*

Children's Integrated Services (CIS)

802-258-2874



Mary Coogan	Early Interventionist	Ext. 15
Kathy Hallock	Developmental Educator	Ext. 16
Jocelyn Horton	Developmental Educator	Ext. 30
Sally Pennington	CIS Nurse	Ext. 28
Laura Philipps	Family Support Worker	
Megan Seidner	Early Interventionist/SLP	Ext. 24
Joanne Shaw	Community Resource Parent	Ext. 14
Stephanie Thompson	Developmental Educator	Ext. 12
Alison Wheeler	CIS Coordinator	Ext. 29

News from CIS

Most of the Early Intervention staff (Mary, Kathy, Jocelyn, Stephanie, Megan) recently attended three days of trainings, one in Burlington and the other in Grafton, VT.

The training in Burlington focused on the AEPS® (Assessment, Evaluation, and Programming System) tool, which is used to evaluate children from birth to 6 years who have special needs or who are at risk for developmental delays. This training focused on birth-3 years, since that is the focus of our Early Intervention program. It is described as a “comprehensive system that addresses assessment, goal development, intervention, and evaluation activities.” More information about this assessment tool can be found at <http://aepslinkedssystem.com/>.

The workshop in Grafton concerned measuring child outcomes using the “One Plan.” The One Plan was developed by the CIS Systems Team and includes all relevant information to support families in CIS, including referrals, screenings and assessments, individualized goals and outcomes, services and service providers, and transition out of the program. It was presented by Maureen Sullivan and sponsored by the State of Vermont Children's Integrated Services.

Resources

State-wide community resources	Vermont 2-1-1	2-1-1	www.vermont211.org
Child care referrals and resources	Windham Child Care Association	802-254-2887	www.windhamchildcare.org
WIC	Vermont Department of Health	802-257-2880	www.healthvermont.gov
Mental health and substance abuse services	Health Care and Rehabilitation Services (HCRS)	1-888-888-5144	www.hcrs.org
Housing and other services for people in poverty	Southeastern Vermont Community Action (SEVCA)	802-254-2795	www.sevca.org

ELI News

Susan Heimer

257-2101, ext. 20

Maggie Sullivan

el1@winstonprouty.org

Paige Martin (Floater)

January meant more time inside with some very chilly days, but the younger toddlers had a new favorite place to let off energy and practice their climbing coordination: the ball pit! They also loved the exercise mats and dancing with partners to their new favorite song, the "Looby Loo."



Blue was the color of the month...beginning with a blue collage and blue play dough, followed by finger painting with different shades of blue, and blue shaving cream swirling.

We did enjoy snow in the play yard and on days when we had fresh snow we could not resist playing with it (and tasting it) in the sensory table as well as outdoors.

Transportation turned out to be a popular theme. The train table was back in our room and it got used constantly, sometimes for track arranging and rearranging or for gravity experiments with Thomas Trains up and down the bridges, and sometimes for experimenting with magnets to get strings of cars to stay together around the tracks. We had new garages, toy cars to race, and boats in the sensory table to sink (as often as float.) A favorite related activity was making track prints with trucks at the art table both with shaving cream and with ink. We read and reread The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper and enjoyed our "Little Red Caboose" and "Little Puffer Bellies" poster/songs at circle. Transportation related board books were also popular.

The light table made a visit to the younger toddler classroom. Colored lenses encouraged conversations about colors. The shapes of the blocks gave us lessons in geometry, especially when the squares fit together to make big rectangles or four triangles fit together to make a square. As usual it was the magnetic aspect that really attracted the toddlers as they stacked and unstacked the lens blocks.

Some classroom goals are unique to this age. A few children are beginning "potty runs" down the hall. Others have absolutely no interest in that yet. Self help at the snack table is a part of the curriculum. This month we



encouraged even the youngest to try pouring from a measuring cup into their own glass to drink without a top on the cup. (There were a few spills but since we just used water it was no problem. Bringing the cup to the mouth with

too much force and a resulting drenching was a learning experience for more than one child). Some children are working on self dressing skills and getting their own snow gear on, and others are taking winter wraps off as fast as we can dress them!

In January we sadly said goodbye to Nosym, but we are excited about welcoming Grayson who is starting in February.

The younger toddlers are looking ahead to exploring the color red and baking for a Valentine Breakfast--hope you can join us that morning!



Blue Paint!



EL2 News

Lyn Call

Katrina Irish

Alfred Hughes, Jr. (Floater)

257-2101, ext. 18

el2@winstonprouty.org

January was an exciting month in EL2, and the New Year brought some snow along with it! We spent a lot of time this month exploring snow and ice in all kinds of different ways.

We did lots of sensory play involving the snow. It started before the actual snow, with packing peanut "snow" in the sensory table. Once we had real snow outside, we replaced the packing peanuts with real snow. We had it in the big sensory table with shovels, and we also had smaller individual sensory buckets with winter animals.

We also explored the snow through art, literacy and music. We painted snow pictures with white paint, decorated snowflakes with glitter and practiced our scissor skills cutting out our own snowflakes. We've also read lots of books about winter, including [The Mitten](#) by Jan Brett, [The Snowy Day](#) by Ezra Jack Keats and [Here Comes Jack Frost](#) by Kazuno Kohara. One of the childrens favorite books to look at on their own has been a collection of snowflake photographs by W.A "Snowflake" Bentley. At circle, we've been singing "Jack Frost" and Lyn taught us a song about a chubby snowman.



The snow has also changed our outdoor play! We've been doing lots of sledding and shoveling, made lots of snow angels and even worked together as a whole class one day to build a snowman! We've also taken walks to look at the ice in the different bodies of water in the neighborhood and practiced walking across the slippery ice. The snow and cold weather has also been a great way for the children to get a chance to practice their self help skills with all the extra outside clothes we have to put on!

We also explored Chinese New Year this month. We borrowed lots of books based in and about China from Susan, listened to some Chinese music and even practiced eating a popcorn snack with chopsticks!



EL3 News

Ylan Roy

Nancie Schwartz-Angell

Kathy Wright (Floater)

Mary Seekins (EEE Para)

Brandy Pickering (Inclusion Facilitator)

257-2101, ext. 17

el3@winstonprouty.org

The month of January has been full of many winter delights: sledding, sliding, throwing snow in the air, finding and tasting icicles, making snowmen, snow women, and even snow-worms! The highlight of every day is our wonderful outdoor time: I believe in play! There are few things more joyful than watching 3 and 4 year olds laughing as they share a sled ride down a hill, or make a snow angel on fresh snow. We go outside for about 45 minutes every morning, and if we can manage it, another 45 minutes in the afternoon! Of course, in between the laughter, and the great exercise they get, they are also learning about the world, and in particular: winter!

Our theme this month reflected the season as we explored ice, snow, and winter. Many of our discoveries were outside: What is an icicle? Where would we find one? Why are roads salted and sanded in the winter? How can we get frozen toys out of a block of ice? There was also plenty of opportunities for exercise as children shoveled paths, climbed snowy mountains, and pulled their friends around the playground in sleds.

Our explorations continued indoors as well. In the sensory table we had white sand with polar animals in it. A number of books about polar regions were read and referred to: A is for Antarctica, Penguins, and The Far North. We also read, "The Snowy Day" and made snowflake collages and paintings. As the month continues we will introduce the children to the words "fiction" and "non-fiction" as we read new books.

One of the favorite games this month was a math/science game called "melt an ice cube". Each child was given an ice cube in a bowl. Children took turns rolling a die and counting that number. Each number had an activity to go along with it, for example: blow on the ice cube for 5 seconds, or put 10 shakes of salt on the ice

cube or even, put the ice cube down your shirt! The children learned about melting ice, and had a lot of laughs doing so!

Our Science area has also been very popular this month, as we had a large basket filled with items which were either magnetic, or not. Children made many discoveries, including that the legs of the science table (and

the nearby door) were also magnetic! If you have time, feel free to explore that area (or any other) in the classroom!



EL4 News

Eliza Lamphere

257-2101, ext. 22

Kim Jacques

pre@winstonprouty.org

Alfred Hughes, Jr. (Floater)

Brandy Pickering (Inclusion Facilitator)

We began the month of January talking about winter and the /w/ sound. We were eagerly awaiting the arrival of snow when we returned from vacation so we did our best in EL4 to call winter out. We made snowflakes and snowmen, read winter stories and talked about our favorite winter things. When the snow finally arrived several students were heard to say, "see I knew Santa would come" or "I knew Santa would bring the snow". In addition to winter we also learned about the weather. We read about different types of clouds, how to describe and identify them and understand what kind of weather they bring.



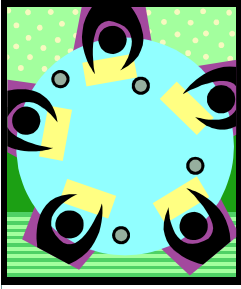
We are ending the month with a study of China and Chinese New Year. We've been working on making a dragon head out of chicken wire and papier-mâché. Following the Chinese tradition of giving children red envelopes with money for good luck, we made our own red envelopes and stamped the insides with money stamps. We have been learning about Chinese characters, what they mean and how they often match the natural world. We've been practicing making our own Chinese characters, the results of which are hanging in the hallway.

REMINDER: EL4 is peanut free.



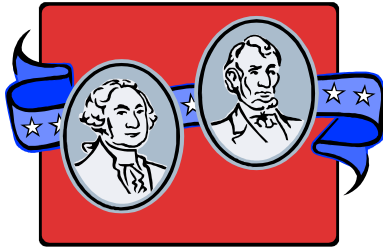
We have been continuing to build our emotion and feeling word vocabulary. We have been working on identifying when we feel strong feelings and practicing strategies that we can use to help us work through our strong emotions.





REMINDER:

The Center will close at **3:30** on the first Wednesday of each month for Staff Meeting.



We will be **CLOSED** for President's Day on Monday, February 20

Upcoming Events

March 7: Center Closes at 3:30 for Staff Meeting
March 23: ELC Closes at 12:00 for cleaning

February 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Alexander is 3! Happy b-day, Maggie! Center Closes at 3:30 for Staff Mtg	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Lexi is 2!	10	11
12	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 Dezra is 3!	17 Samuel is 1!	18 Lilly is 4!
19	20 Center Closed for President's Day	21 Kyla is 3! Zachary is 5! Happy b-day, Dora!	22 Happy b-day, Joanne!	23 Lydia is 5! Carson is 2!	24	25
26 Khloe is 2!	27	28	29			