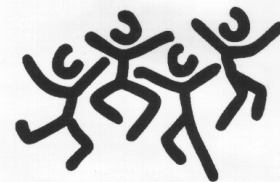


GOAEYC Newsletter

Golden Corridor Association for the Education of Young Children
(an affiliate of NAEYC)



P.O. Box 3213, Barrington, IL 60011

www.GOAEYC.org

November, 2006



President's Message by Terese Amidei

Dear Colleagues,

We had a WONDERFUL Fall Conference. It was outstanding to see so many people excited about children and early childhood education. I heard many positive comments about the workshops that were presented. As I was walking around I heard all of you sharing knowledge and experience with each other, which helps everyone grow as an educator.

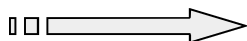
I want to thank all of you that attended the Member Luncheon. It was nice to be able to network and get to know each other. The raffle was fun too!!! Some of you won an assortment of great gifts. I think that it is important for the members of GOAEYC to meet annually and be able to network and exchange ideas and thoughts! If you were not there, try to make our fall conference next year at Oakton Community College and be a part of an excellent day!! Also, be on the lookout for news about our new spring conference at Harper College on May 19. Information will be on our website soon!

Thank you for all that you do for Early Childhood Education!

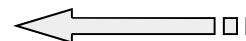
Sincerely,
Terese Amidei

Board members:

- ☉ Terese Amidei, President
- ☉ Karla Berra, Treasurer
- ☉ Colleen Scheitz, Vice President of Prof. Dev.
- ☉ Carol Allar, Vice President of Organizational Dev.
- ☉ Martha Westerberg, Secretary
- ☉ Molly Babu, Membership
- ☉ Members at Large:
Forogh Ganjbakhsh,
Sharyl Robin,
Brian Michalski,
Linda Hermes,
Denise Tenyer,
Jeanne Neifert,
Michele' Robinson



Election Results!



Thank you to all who returned their ballots. We had a record number of members voting in this election! Congratulations to:

Sharyl Robin, President Elect
Carol Allar, VP of Organizational Development
Martha Westerberg, Secretary
Mary Muhs, Elaine Quinn, Denise Tenyer, Linda Wywialowksi,
all Members at Large

These people will begin in their positions in January 2007. We welcome Mary and Elaine to the Board for the first time and welcome back Linda, who was a Board member for several years.

Our own Terese Amidei, President of GoAEYC, will be on the ballot for Illinois AEYC Northern Region Vice President. Illinois AEYC is divided into 5 regions. The Northern Region includes GoAEYC, Fox Valley, DuPage, Rock River, South Suburban, Northern Illinois, and Joliet. Terese is a great person to serve this area of the state! Be sure to show her your support by voting in this upcoming election.

What is the Center?

The Center, Resources for Teaching and Learning, provides a broad range of professional development services and resources for Early Childhood providers. Through collaborations with the IL State Board of Education and the Illinois Resource Center, the Center offers a resource library, referral services, and a comprehensive training calendar. Some upcoming workshops are:

- Teaching with Intention: The Role of the Pre-K Teacher in the Early Childhood Classroom (presented by Dr. Lillian Katz) Thurs., Dec. 7 9:00-3:00 Des Plaines
- Choosing and Using Children's Literature to Support Language and Literacy (presented by Dr. Kathy Barclay) Thurs., Jan. 11 9:00-3:00 Elk Grove Village
- Introduction and Implementation to the Creative Curriculum (2 days) Tues. and Wed., Jan. 23 and 24 8:30-3:30 each day. Des Plaines

To register or for more information, call 847-803-3535. Do you find it difficult to attend daytime training? Action for Children has mini-grants to reimburse your program for the cost of a substitute. Call 847-640-9590 to request an application.

Health Insurance for Child Care Providers by Linda Hermes

In 2002, Action for Children (AFC) began researching ways to obtain health insurance for child care providers in Illinois. Research has shown that the lack of health insurance is a major reason why child care providers leave the field. Child care providers are up to three times as likely to be uninsured compared to other Illinois residents.* The Health Insurance Advisory Board was formed with experts from child care, health care, law and advocacy. This board has recommended that AFC develop a health insurance program for child care providers based on the Medicaid/State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

Currently Medicaid and SCHIP are public health insurance programs that cover low-income children and families in Illinois. A program based on this would give child care providers the same benefits available now to those in the Medicaid and SCHIP program. AFC has now begun research on eligibility; cost and administration of a health program for child care providers in order to frame a proposal for coverage. AFC is committed to minimizing the costs of the program for both participants and state government while at the same time making eligibility available for a majority of child care providers in Illinois.

Currently in Illinois there are other proposals being developed including:

- > **Healthy Illinois** is working on developing an insurance plan for small business, the self-employed and municipalities through a public-private partnership.
- > **The Health Care Justice Act** was signed into law in 2004 and calls for development of a universal health care plan to be implemented by July 1, 2007. A Health Care Task Force has been formed and is holding hearings on this issue.
- > **SEIU Local 880** represents family child care providers who serve children through the Child Care Assistance Program. As a part of the contract with the state, the state has agreed to provide funding for health insurance for those providers beginning in 2009. The details of this insurance plan including co-payment amount, coverage and administration have not been worked out as of yet.

To support the advocacy efforts of AFC to bring access to health insurance coverage to all child care providers in Illinois you can become a member by logging on to www.actforchildren.org. or by calling 773-697-6135.

*Action for Children, *Health Insurance for Child Care Providers in Illinois*, July 2005.

Professionalism Update by Brian Michalski

GoAEYC is now an approved Continuing Professional Development Unit (CPDU) Provider!

For those early childhood teachers who need CPDU credits to renew their teaching certificate, GoAEYC has been approved as a provider for CPDU credit. Now, GoAEYC will be able to offer workshops and breakout sessions that will qualify for CPDU credit. Approved Providers agree to a Statement of Assurance in which they ensure that their offerings are aligned with the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards. If you know of a friend and/or colleague who needs CPDU credit, share the good news with them.

Book Reviews by Amy Vandament of Bookvine

Pumpkins by Ken Robbins

Ken Robbins most recent title, *Pumpkins*, is positively stunning. Simplified it is the life story of a pumpkin from seed to fruit and back again. The photos provide another story as they depict the essence of autumn in the most subtle of ways. The first page opens with a skein of geese on the wing, above a field of drying cornstalks. From here you are lead through the season via the pumpkin. The planting of the seeds and stages of the growth of the plant are pictured here giving us an appreciation for the vine that worked so hard to produce that which will eventually becoming the harbinger of Halloween, the glowing face that greets us at each doorstep, the jack-o-lantern.

Winter Is the Warmest Season by Lauren Stringer

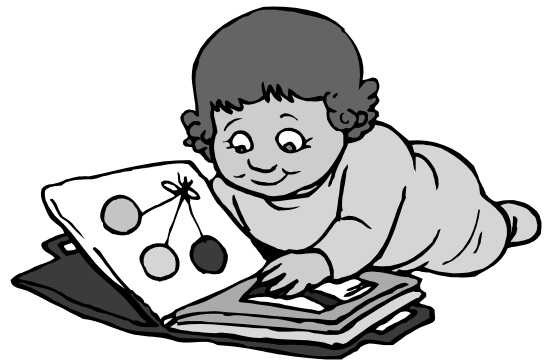
How warm is your winter? Well if you are bundled like the child in Lauren Stringer's new book I would say that you are downright toasty. The title, *Winter is the Warmest Season*, looks at the sunny side of the cold snap. Through the eyes of a child hungry for toasted cheese and hot chocolate we see that "summer's plants and animals sleep deep under thick blankets of snow" and "sleeping radiators awake to their dragon selves". This is the first title both written and illustrated by Stringer. The language is rich and the illustrations are vibrant and charming. Several of her images are reminiscent of Wanda Gag's work in their repetition of shape and shadow, especially the steam puffing radiators and the glowing furnace in the basement. Her detailed illustrations provide enough visual information without being overwhelming. A great way to appreciate winter and its elements.

An Egg Is Quiet

Written by Dianna Aston, Illustrated by Sylvia Long

It turns out that a lesson on eggs and their innumerable varieties can be a beautiful thing. This book on eggs and its inhabitants provides enough scientific information for a unit on birds, insects, fish and reptiles.

Whether on a sea cliff, under the ocean or in the nest of a hummingbird, eggs protect and provide nourishment for hatchlings of all types. We learn that eggs are quiet, colorful, shapely and clever. They come in different textures and sizes, from the tiny (lobster) to the very large (ostrich). While the egg is quiet, the newly hatched animal is not! The illustrations in this book are carefully rendered in watercolor and the overall design will make it an excellent addition to the classroom or a child's personal library. It has the feeling of a field guide with a continuous thread of information that is well paced. A delight!



Routines - More Important Than You Think

By Nancy Meehan

The idea of using routines in early childhood classrooms is certainly not new but the contribution made by these valuable procedures is often underestimated. Usually we think of routines as strategies we need to employ at the beginning of the school year to help the classroom run efficiently and, of course, they certainly do that. But through the years I have come to realize that in addition to organizing the children and the materials, routines make an invaluable contribution to the learning as well.

Routine is the most important strategy that I use in my preschool classroom. It helps me to accomplish a variety of important objectives. Routine establishes trust between me and my students by allowing them the safety of knowing what to expect every day. This helps to accomplish the first important goal for preschoolers - separation. We ask young children to take a huge leap of faith every day by choosing their teacher over their parent when they come through the door. It is important that teachers create a connection of trust with their students that allows the children to leave the familiar behind. When school routines become familiar, the learning begins. Children are comfortable taking the risks necessary to learn and grow.

Routine is also vitally important to my classroom management plan. With routines in place, the children come to understand my expectations. They feel safe within the parameters of acceptable behavior and are able to predict the results of their choices. This helps them to internalize their self control and take responsibility for their choices. Routine creates an atmosphere where the children feel free to take risks and provides them with opportunities to practice increasingly independent behavior.

It is important to remember that each child brings their own set of experiences to the school setting. The expectations set for them outside of school are all different. Creating routines and procedures for the classroom levels the playing field and creates an environment where each child has the same opportunity to succeed at negotiating the classroom community. However, the variety of prior experiences also affects how ready they are to adapt to these new expectations and how much the teacher will need to persevere to help each child experience that success.

The best strategy I have employed to ensure the success of my students in the classroom community is to invite their families to a meeting before school starts. At that time I lay out all the routines, procedures, and expectations for the year, as well as the reasoning behind them. Offering parents my reasoning helps them to understand that my expectations, though high, are not arbitrary and are based on what I have learned through experience as an early childhood professional. Parents tend to be more compliant when they understand why you do what you do. The children perceive that the teacher has the support of their family and this contributes to the creation of a happy and successful learning community.

Nancy Meehan, 4 year old preschool teacher, St. Anne's Preschool in Barrington

Advocating for Young Children by Denise Tenyer

GOAEYC GOes to the Capitol

It was great seeing everyone at our Fall Conference! I was happy to be able to talk with you at our Breakfast Meeting about all the new and exciting things going on in public policy here at GOAEYC.

If you weren't able to attend, please take a moment to visit our web site at www.goaeyc.org and click on our Public Policy page. Here you can learn information about advocacy, and also sign up for our Urgent Action Alerts. What are Urgent Action Alerts? Give us your email address and you will receive emails containing late breaking news in the local and national early childhood arena.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
LOBBY DAY 2007**

I am also very excited to tell you about an upcoming event in February, 2007. When I first came on board several years ago here at GOAEYC, I envisioned making our public policy work inviting and accessible to all our members. I am pleased to say coming in February, 2007,

we are going to be taking interested members down on a coach bus to our capitol in Springfield to attend the annual Illinois AEYC Lobby Day.

Once there we will meet with our ILAEYC public policy person, Betsy Mitchell, and take a tour of the capitol. At this time we also have plans to invite and speak with several of our legislative and senate representatives from our GOAEYC membership area. How exciting it will be to actually meet and speak with members of our legislature who make the important decisions that affect the children and families that you serve! They want to hear from you. This is the chance to make your voices heard.

As of this newsletter date, we do not have an exact date set, as the 2007 legislative calendar has not yet been released. But once it is- we will set the date and get the information out to you right away! Those of you who have signed up for Urgent Action Alerts will be the first to hear- so please take a minute today to go to our web site and sign up to receive Urgent Action Alerts today! If you are interested- please feel free to contact me for more information.

You can reach me at publicpolicy@goeyc.org or via the Contact Page on our web site. I hope you will consider taking part in this incredible opportunity, and please watch your mail for more information about Lobby Day 2007!



More Information...

Scholarship money is available!

By Linda Wywialowski

GOAEYC has set aside funds to support its members in pursuing professional development. If you are a Student, Classroom Teacher or Center Director AND a member of GOAEYC, you may be eligible for financial support of up to \$500.

- Funds are available for Opening Minds, the Chicago Metro AEYC conference in January.
- Call Linda at (847) 991-1030 to receive an application.

Calendar of Events by Sharyl Robin
Call (847) 640-9590 for more information or to register for any of these workshops.

Properties of Water	Tues., Nov. 7	Kohl Children's Museum	Glenview
Taxes and Record Keeping for FCC	Tues., Nov. 7	Church of the Holy Spirit	Schaumburg
Promoting Self-Esteem	Tues., Nov. 14	Atonement Day School	Barrington
GoAEYC Board meeting	Wed., Nov. 15	Children's Home and Aid Society	Arlington Heights
The Early Intervention System	Thurs., Dec. 7	Children's World	Elk Grove
What to do and say when you don't know what to do and say - Working with parents of young children	Friday Dec. 8 9am - 3pm	Roosevelt Univ. (Call Star Net at 847-803-3565 to register)	Schaumburg

Job Board

Youth Director, Preschool through High School

Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Des Plaines Contact Carrie Tondola at 847-602-2323

Preschool Teacher with related experience and education

Oxford Learning, Palatine Contact Mark Cummings at 847-963-9900

Teacher / Caregiver

Teacher Care, Schaumburg Contact Stephanie Purintun at teachercare.com

Infant Teacher or Assistant

Buffalo Grove Montessori Contact 847-541-8111

Submitted by Fran Heun, Harper College