



EARLY CHILDHOOD Special Education




ECSE CALENDAR



Oct 11 & 12: Picture Day

**Oct 13 & 27: Parent Group
3:30-5:00 PM**

**Oct 15: Play & Stay
9:30-11:00 AM**

Oct 20/21: No School

**Oct. 25: ECSE to Kinder-
garten Transition Panel
6:00-7:30**

**Nov.11: Family Fun Night
5:30-7:00 PM**

ECFE PUMPKIN PARTY

October 29 9:30—11:30 a.m.

**Come in your costume and
enjoy games, snacks and more
at this free family event.**

**Live music by Bob the Beach
Comber. Room 130**

2011



2012

**Family Fun
Night
Room 130 gym
5:30-7:00 PM
Nov. 11, Jan. 13,
& March 16**

**Play & Stay
9:30-11:00
Nov. 12, Jan. 21,
Feb.25, Mar 24
& May 5**

**Holiday Staff
Luncheon
December 21**

**Saturday
Workshop
February 4
Room 165
9:30-11:30**

**Spring Staff
Breakfast
March 8**

**Spring Carnival
& Silent Auc-
tion
April 19**

Kathryn's Corner

October 2011

Welcome to the 2011-2012 School Year!

New Classroom Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

We started a new "open door" procedure this year for parents who transport their children to school. The ECSE hallway doors are opened five minutes prior to the start of class for parents to bring their child to the classroom. At the end of the school day, the hallway doors are opened five minutes before the class end time and parents go to the classrooms to pick up their children. We have received many positive comments from parents about the new plan!

Family Fun Nights

Four times per school year children in ECSE have the opportunity to bring their parents and siblings to the preschool gym in room 130 for pizza, conversation and of course fun on the play equipment. These events are all on specific Friday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 and children are welcome to dress in their pajamas in case they fall asleep on the way home. Specifics and RSVP information are sent out in flyers and can be found on the ECSE website. Our first Family Fun Night on September 16 was a great success with children and their families from all parts of the ECSE program, as well as staff members Kate Strand and Cheryl Parish with their families. Save the date — November 11 — for our next Family Fun Night!

Parent Volunteer Association (PVA)

The purpose of the Early Childhood Special Education Parent Volunteer Association (PVA) is to support and enhance the educational programs at ECSE and to strengthen relationships between home and school. It is an organization that was started by parents of children in ECSE ten years ago in partnership with the Parent Liaison and staff. The PVA plays a role in organizing events and programs. Over the course of the year, parent volunteers assist with managing special roles and activities including room parents, class events/parties, family events, staff appreciation events and fundraising. Please contact Kelly Dritsas, our wonderful new Parent Educator and ECFE/ECSE Liaison at 952-848-3973 if you would like to help out in any way.

Edina ECSE Site Council

The first 2011-2012 meeting of the ECSE Site Council was held on Tuesday September 20 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the ECSE conference room. Parents Sue Sullivan and Salima Gangani have graciously agreed to return as Site Council members. We welcomed two new parent members, Natalie Martin and Ismahan Abikar. We are looking for candidates to fill the parent positions of Birth through Two program representative and Speech Buddies representative. Please contact Kathryn if you are interested. Staff members on the Council include Anne Lukoskie, Cheryl Parish, Megan Schneider, Kelly Dritsas and Kathryn Hagen, with other staff members rotating in to report on work of various ECSE committees. School Board Member Lonni Skrentner also attends regularly. The Site Council meets five times per year and serves as an advisory body to the Coordinator and the staff of ECSE. Childcare is provided for parents attending the Site Council meetings.

Please call or e-mail me if you have questions. My number is 952-848-4223 and my e-mail is kathagen@edina.k12.mn.us.

Kathryn Hagen, ECSE Coordinator



WELCOME NEW STAFF



Mary Streier, Early Childhood Family Education Teacher (ECFE)

Mary taught in a three year old ECFE/ECSE classroom for many years prior to her role in the Edina School Readiness program. Mary is continuing her School Readiness position but now also works as the ECFE teacher with Jamie McCoy in one of the AM 3 year old classrooms.



Dayna Anderson, Speech / Language Pathologist (SLP)

Dayna worked as a speech/language pathologist in ECSE for many years prior to her move to the elementary school level. Now Dayna has returned to ECSE on Thursdays and spends the remainder of her time at Concord Elementary School.



Parent Group

We are offering a parent group twice a month from 3:30-5:00 PM on Thursdays throughout the school year. The parent group will meet in the ECSE conference room. Child care will be available but must be requested by the Monday prior to the group by calling the attendance message line at 952-848-4236. Please consider joining us whenever your schedule permits. The group will determine topics to be discussed and time will be made for sharing the joys and challenges of your parenting experience. The group is facilitated by Kelly Dritsas, ECSE/ECFE Liaison. Feel free to call Kelly at 952-848-3973 with any questions or suggestions. The group is available to serve your needs.

Upcoming dates are as followed:

Oct. 13 & 27, Nov. 10 ,Dec. 1 & 15, Jan. 12 & 26



Shoshana Worman, (left) and Andrea Sollie (right) Special Education Paraprofessionals

Shoshana has training and experience as a special education teacher, at one time serving in the Edina Public schools. Shoshana is working in Megan Schneider's AM class.

Andrea has training and experience in Early Childhood Education and Early Childhood Special Education. She has experience in preschools and with Edina's Early Childhood screening. Andrea is working in Megan Schneider's AM and PM classes.

Beth Kimball, Special Education Paraprofessional



Beth has a background in music and many years of experience teaching piano to children. She has also worked as a parent volunteer in the Edina schools. Beth works mornings and assists in several classrooms.



Anne Gant, Occupational Therapist (OT)

Anne has a wealth of experience as an OT in another school district as well as in private settings. She is serving children in ECSE as well as at Cornelia Elementary School.

Mary Willette, Licensed School Nurse (LSN)

Mary worked part-time in ECSE in 2009 and since that time served as the full-time LSN at Cornelia Elementary School. Now she is working in ECSE and the Non-Public Schools.



Jan Dahl, Physical Therapist (PT)

Jan Dahl is our new Physical Therapist. Jan has experience as a PT at the Birth-3 and 3-5 early childhood ages, and has worked at the Kindergarten-12th grade level. Jan is serving as PT in ECSE as well as a number of schools throughout the district.