



# August 2011 Newsletter



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- VPK Starts August 22
- Dance Program
- LBV Carnival
- Sherberth Musical
- Open Houses

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## Early Literacy at the YMCA

One of the goals for our children at the YMCA Family Centers is to become emergent readers by the time they complete our Pre-Kindergarten program.

Literacy includes activities involved in speaking, listening, reading writing and appreciating both spoken and written language. This article will focus on what we do at the center with books.

From the time children are infants and throughout our age groups, children are introduced to materials, activities and books to help them develop the skills that will support their ability to read in a few years.

In our infant rooms, we are exposing the children to printed materials through labeling and books. The infants view visual stimulation such as signs, photos, shapes and pictures to start the literacy learning process.

In the toddler classroom, children are introduced to book structures, they enjoy pretending to read, they recognize the feel, texture, text and pictures in the books. They also delight in simple stories and repetition. They love surprises at in the stories even if they have heard the story twenty other times!

Our twos are able to listen to more complex stories, they are beginning to identify left to right print, they can retell the



stories in the books and connect language to print.

Our three year olds have longer attention spans, follow the sequences of the story, they comprehend meaning from books, understand that books have characters and are becoming aware that books have beginning middle and ends, or chronological order.

While in all age groups our children are learning their alphabet and using developmentally appropriate items to write, our fours and VPK students will learn to write letters and words, they will begin to use emerging reading skills to make meaning from print, recognize 30 sight words, understand the purpose of writing and demonstrate the ability to read books.

At home, parents can support your child's early literacy development by reading books, having literacy rich environments with magazines, cookbooks, etc., as part of family life.



## Club Y

It's been a healthy and happy summer for the school-age children in CLUB - Y!

Children developed skills with dancing, outdoor play and coordination with Minute to Win It type ac-

tivities. They have learned about careers, recycling, nutrition and much more.

### Special Events:

The summer will be highlighted with a Musical at Sherberth at 6:30 on August 12 and a Carnival at Lake Buena Vista on

August 5 3-6pm. For those of you who will continue SCHOOL AGE CARE on weekends, evenings, holidays, or backup care for the school year, please remember there will be a \$1.00 per day rate increase starting August 22.

## Severe Weather Care

Hurricane season is upon us and we are here to serve your family! The following information is to provide reminders concerning YMCA Family Center services in the event of severe weather.

The centers will operate as usual unless given direction from Walt Disney World to close based on WDW protocols during severe weather.

If there are impending weather conditions that might constitute early closure later in the day, we ask that you be sure to leave your contact information when dropping off your child. If Disney closes, the centers will close thirty minutes after the parks close. When YMCA staff is made aware of an early closure, we will start making phone calls immediately to give you ample to make arrangements for your child's pick-up.

Concerning re-opening after the storm, please call the center. Our staff will provide updated information via the phone message. If there is a power outage, the YMCA has generators to provide the power to resume operations until the electricity is back.

If you are aware of any Cast Members who may be interested in using the YMCA for back-up care, please encourage them to get their children registered.

During the school year, the Lake Buena Vista program is available for school-age children when Orange County schools close. Sherberth is the location for children from Osceola, Lake or Polk schools. When school is closed in all four counties, both centers are available for all school-age children.



# Parent Advisory Board Corner

## OUR MISSION

We are a partnership between the YMCA Leadership team and parents from both Lake Buena Vista and Sherberth centers. We work together to discuss and develop opportunities and events that support the mission of the YMCA Family Centers and provide the Disney Difference.

We foster collaboration with the YMCA staff by providing a parents point of view to encourage

an inclusive and enriching experience for parents and children of the centers. We serve as advocates for improvements and as ambassadors to the parent connection.

### Members:

Lake Buena Vista: Tim Riggs, Ted Zachariadis, Heather Sparby, Beth Hock

Sherberth: Tom Flaherty, Dave Wood, Stacey Guillard



## New Enrichment Program for the Threes!

Besides early learning curriculum that supports your child's social, emotional, intellectual and physical development, Y teachers offer enrichment programming throughout the year. The centers incredible playgrounds offer the perfect setting for outdoor learning. "Growing Up WILD" is a new curriculum designed to build on children's sense of wonder about nature through outdoor exploration. Lessons will be introduced through music, games, activities and fun! "Growing Up WILD" will be offered to the three year olds during the week and on the weekends.



## DANCE NEWS!

Jessie Tassone is the new Y dance instructor who will be teaching your children to move gracefully, develop a sense of rhythm, increase their dramatic flare, development coordination and to experience the joy of movement that leads to a healthy body.

She is an experienced Disney dancer, has many years of teaching experience, and dance production.

Flyers will be available in mid August for class days and times. She will be teaching at both

## Facilities Improvements

Mr. Dave has been busy at Sherberth cleaning and painting and replacing the commodes in Eagles. New mulch and sand has been delivered for the playgrounds and the floors will be waxed the weekend of August 5th.

Mr. Jose has also been busy getting the center floors waxed, mulch and sand for the playgrounds and new lighting in the hallways!



## BOOK REVIEW

**It's Mine!**  
Story and Illustrations  
 by Leo Lionni

Milton, Rupert and Lydia, are three selfish frogs who get caught in a struggle claiming the water, the earth and the air are theirs. A flood forces them off of their island and the three of them learn survive together on a large rock. Lionni's classic tale provides the perfect opportunity to talk with children about sharing.

## Safety Tips

As we approach the school season, here are a few reminders to keep our children safe at the Y:

### LABELING: BOTTLES AND BELONGINGS

Parents of Infants—please be reminded to label your child's bottles daily. If your child has personal belongings, please be sure to clearly label them with your child's first and last name.



### PEANUT FREE FACILITIES

Our centers are peanut free. Please remember that peanut allergies can be life threatening and any type of exposure can cause a reaction. If you send food products they must be peanut free.

### SLOW FOR CHILDREN

The speed limit in the parking lot is **5 mph or less.**

## Dinner Time at the Y

Dinner is served at 6:30 PM and is meant for children who are scheduled to be at the center at 6:30 or later. A meal count is taken late in the afternoon to determine how much food to prepare. If your child is not scheduled for care beyond 6:30 PM, please be courteous of the dinner hour for the children who will be staying.

~ August 2011 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 LBV Club Y Parent Night Carnival 3-6pm	6
7	8	9 LBV VPK Open House 5:00 Discoverers 6:30 Explorers	10 Sherberth VPK Open House 5:30 Navigators and Ospreys LBV Open House 5:00 Challengers A 6:30 Challengers B	11 Sherberth VPK Open House 5:30 Flamingos and Challengers LBV Open House 5:00 Endeavors	12 Sherberth Club Y Musical and Awards Ceremony 6:00	13
14	15	16 LBV and Sherberth Meet Your Teacher 3-6pm	17	18	19	20
21	22 First Day of School VPK and School Age	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Notes:		