



NEWSLETTER

www.Onceuponatimeverona.com

February 2012

Important Dates

If you haven't already received one, be sure to grab the February calendar for important dates at the center. There is a pajama day on Thursday, February 9th, and a Parent Forum meeting on Wednesday, February 15th. Singer/storyteller Stuart Stotts will be here on Friday, February 24th (10:00 – 11:30)! Verona schools are closed on February 23 and 24 for teacher conventions. OUAT is open but there is no Morning Preschool on these days.

Summer/Fall Registration Forms Due

Registration forms for summer and fall/spring programs were due Friday, January 27th. Thank you for helping us get classroom plans in order for the future. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Verona Pre-K (4K) Registration

Parent registration with the Verona School District for the Verona Pre-K (4K) program begins on Monday, February 13th. Registration takes place throughout that week at various locations throughout the district. If you plan to participate in the program, you must register with the district. Please let us know if you have any questions!

Updated Tuition Schedule

An updated Tuition Schedule with 4K rates will be going out in cubbies this week. There are no changes to the rates put out back in December. We have just added a section with the rates for families participating in the Verona Pre-K (4K) program.

Parent Forum Meeting

The next Parent Forum meeting is on Wednesday, February 15th from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. All interested parents are invited to attend. This is a voluntary group consisting of parents and staff providing a forum to discuss the center, any issues, concerns and/or suggestions. Child care will be available. We hope to see you there!

Now is the time to join a CSA!

This is the time of year to join a Community Shares farm. Many farms are sold out by the end of February/early March. Here is the website for the Madison Area Community Shares farm guide www.macsac.org. This website provides information on many, many farms in the area. It is really worth it to eat fresh food 5-8 months out of the year for only a few hundred dollars!

OUAT is a pick-up site for Yellow Barn Farm out of Avoca, WI. We had over 20 families that picked up produce here each week last year. OUAT children ate fresh farm produce weekly and loved it! We will be joining Yellow Barn Farm for 2012. Following is the farm's website: www.yellowbarnfarm.org. You can pick up a farm brochure at the front desk or join the farm online. The farm will deliver the produce to OUAT on Wednesday afternoons for you to pick up on your way out at night. Very convenient!

Parent Volunteer Opportunities

Parents are always welcome to volunteer at the center or in their child's classroom at any time. We encourage parents to come in and read books, work on special projects, assist in the classroom, help teachers with preparing activities (i.e., cutting out items, laminating, repairing toys, etc.), eat lunch with your child, anything! We always ask for adult volunteers on field trips, so please feel free to come along anytime. If you are interested in volunteering, please talk with your child's teacher or with De De or Ann and we can help you get set up!

Sharing Family Traditions

Many classrooms ask families to share family photos for collages and activities; many ask families to come in and share stories, special foods and special traditions. We encourage everyone to share family traditions and culture at any time. Please do not wait to be asked or for a special occasion or holiday. We embrace the diversity of our planet and welcome everyone to share their culture! Please talk with your child's teacher about coming in and sharing.

OUAT Library

As many of you have noticed, we moved our preschool library from under the stairs to the end of the downstairs hallway. Miss Amber has done a wonderful job organizing and cataloging the books. It looks wonderful! Since the library is now in a place which is more accessible to children, we are asking parents to help us teach children that those books are for "teachers only". You can let them know that the teachers will bring these books into their classrooms to share! Thank you for your help!

Once Upon a Time Staff In-Service Training Day – Friday, March 16th

Once Upon a Time Child Care Center will be closed on Friday, March 16th for a staff in-service training day. Fees remain unchanged. We wanted to be sure to give you enough notice to make other child care arrangements for that day. Thank you for allowing our staff time for continued education and training.

10 Outdoor Winter Activities

1. Play snowball toss, make snow angels, build a snowman, build an igloo or snow fort.
2. Take a walk and look for animal tracks in the snow.
3. Make food for the birds—use a large pine cone and coat it with peanut butter. Sprinkle bird food over it. Hang it from a tree branch. Count how many birds you see.
4. Look for bird nests high in the trees. You can see them now that the leaves are gone!
5. Shovel a path in the snow in the yard and create a maze!
6. Lick an icicle.
7. Play with sand toys in the snow.
8. Go sledding, skiing, ice skating.
9. Use food coloring to change the color of the snow and make colored blocks and snowballs.
10. Go out at night and look at the stars and night sky.

***** IT'S BEEN A MILD WINTER! LET'S HOPE FOR AN EARLY SPRING!! *****