

# **Middleburg Early Education Center**

## **All School Newsletter September, 2011**

**Welcome, everyone!** We are so happy to be working with you and your children. Thank you for completing the paperwork. For your convenience, there is a tray in the hall outside the large classroom for enrollment forms, medical forms, parent handbook forms, permission slips and fundraiser forms. We appreciate you returning the completed forms as soon as possible. If your address, phone number or emergency contacts change during the school year, please keep us updated. If you use your cell phone as an emergency number, please keep it turned on while your child is in school.

**A WORD ABOUT FEET:** Our students are very active during their days at MEEC. They climb and run on the playground, use balance beams and move around a lot in the gym. To be safe and able to participate in all activities, we are requesting that children wear tennis shoes. Please save the sandals and Crocs for times when your child is not at MEEC. Please dress them in washable play clothes, because sometimes we get messy!

**HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE?** [www.meec.us](http://www.meec.us). There you will find newsletters, field trip information and forms, the school calendar and lots of other good stuff. It's also an easy way to find out if MEEC is closed due to bad weather – we post it on the home page.

**SCHOOL PICTURE DAYS: PLEASE NOTE THIS CORRECTION!** Pictures will be taken on Wednesday, October 19 and Thursday, October 20 by Campus Photo Studio. There will be individual and class pictures. If your child does not have class on Wednesday or Thursday, you may come for pictures on either one of those days.

**DID YA NOTICE?** The month of August was a busy one at MEEC. Both classrooms have new carpet, the big room has new paint, and the office has been remodeled. We think it all looks great! Many, many thanks to the brave volunteers who helped move all the toys and furniture so that this could be accomplished: Erika Rios, Merri Karp, Marty Cool, Fran Walsh, Brenda and Matt Klein, Wendy and Dave Butas, Lauren Cloyes, Bonnie Chojnacki, Wes, Ben and Greg Scott, Brett Beard, Sharon and Sam Prexta. We couldn't have done it without you!

**FIELD TRIP:** Join us on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 for an all school field trip to the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad at Rockside Road in Independence. We will ride the train with a Ranger who will present the program "All Aboard for Animals" featuring hands-on learning about local animals. The cost is \$6.00 per child; one adult per child is free. Additional adults are \$8.00 each. Bring a brown bag lunch for you and your child. A parent or caregiver must attend with their child.

**FUNDRAISERS:** All orders for t-shirts, sweatshirts and hats should be in the office on or before Friday, October 10.

**UNITED WAY:** MEEC is a United Way Agency. You can designate that your donation to United Way go to MEEC by using our code. Ask in the MEEC office for the number.

**WISH LIST:** From time to time, we identify small items that would improve life at MEEC. We ask our generous friends to purchase and donate these items as they are able. Please let Christie or Denise know if you can donate one or more items from our wish list:

New Baby Dolls	Small brown paper lunch bags
Cotton balls	"C" and "D" Batteries

**EXTRA EASY FUNDRAISING:** (Two simple ways to help raise funds for MEEC!)

1. Campbell's Labels are collected in a bin in the hall outside the large classroom. We need the UPC and the little "Labels for Education" symbol.
2. Tyson Labels – We collect labels from Tyson foods. In your grocer's freezer section, look for Tyson Products that display the Project A+ logo. Save the portion with the project A+ logo and the 1, 2, 3 program steps. Put them in the Campbell's soup label bin outside the large classroom. Each label is worth 24¢ to us!

**FOR OUR CHILDREN'S SAFETY:** Please do not allow children to play on or under the steps in the hall! Children must stay with their parent or care giver before and after class.

## MEET OUR STAFF

"Miss Bonnie" Chojnacki, Teacher, has been at MEEC since 1985. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Ursuline College. Before coming to MEEC, Bonnie had both teaching and social work experience. She has attended many continuing education courses, including certification for The Listening Program.

"Miss Candis" Crossland, Assistant Teacher, has received her Associate's Degree from Cuyahoga Community College in Early Childhood Education. She is now pursuing her Bachelor's degree, majoring in Special Education. Candis also participates in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure.

"Miss Grayce" Dolesh, Movement Therapist, works with all of our Monday, Tuesday and Thursday classes. Grayce is a published author, a certified A.I.M. (Adventures in Movement) instructor, winner of the 1983 "Educator of the Year" Award from the Council for Exceptional Children. Grayce has been at MEEC since 1980.

“Miss Lynn” Figaro, Teacher, has earned a Master’s Degree in Early Childhood Special Education from Cleveland State University. She has additional training in severe behavior handicaps, specific learning disabilities and early education of the handicapped. Lynn has been at MEEC since 1995.

“Miss Cheryl” Hulin, Assistant Teacher, has been at MEEC since September 1999. She has earned a Certificate of Training from the Ohio Department of Family Services and has completed the Monarch training for tutoring children with autism. Her skills with children and her gentle manner have earned the respect of children and staff.

“Miss Denise” Hulsman, Office Manager, has been at MEEC since 1995. She has an Associate of Applied Business Degree, with a major in Office Administration. Denise has also attended numerous workshops and extra classes. She has over 25 years of office experience.

"Miss Sue" Kelly, Assistant Teacher, has been at MEEC since 1987. She has a Certificate of Training from the Ohio Department of Human Services and has also attended numerous workshops. Sue's calm and cheerful manner has made her a favorite with our children.

“Miss Sharon” Kobal, Assistant Teacher, began working at MEEC during the 2000-2001 school year. She has had previous experience at the Hattie Larlham Foundation. Miss Sharon displays an enormous amount of love and patience as she works with our children.

"Miss Lynn" Kostura, Teacher & Assistant Teacher, has been at MEEC since 1992. She has a Certificate of Training from the Ohio Department of Human Services and many additional in-service training hours studying behavior management and preschool children. She is an expert at managing children in a kind and gentle way.

“Miss Grace” Merezicky, Assistant Teacher, has been at MEEC since 1998. She has earned a Certificate of Training from the Ohio Department of Family Services. Before coming to MEEC, she had experience in preschool classrooms and also with the Positive Education Program, serving preschool children with special needs.

“Miss Jennifer” Morgan, M.A. CCC/SLP, Speech/Language Pathologist, has been at MEEC since 1999. She has earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education for the Speech and Hearing Impaired from Ithaca College and a Master of Arts Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Kent State University. Jen has worked at MEEC since 1999.

“Miss Sharon” Prexta, M.A. CCC/SLP, Speech Language Pathologist, has been at MEEC since 2000. She has earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Speech/Language Pathology from Baldwin Wallace College and a Master’s Degree in Speech/Language Pathology from Cleveland State University.

“Miss Karen” Ramirez has been at MEEC since 2000. She has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Concordia College in Seward, Nebraska. Her previous teaching experience includes Kindergarten through 8th grade students, and tutoring children with learning delays.

"Miss Faith" Robinson, Teacher and Assistant Teacher, has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Special Education. She taught at OLA/St. Joseph's Center in Cleveland for six years. After staying at home for several years to raise her three sons, she returned to the classroom at MEEC in 1996.

"Miss Christie" Scott, Director, served as a speech/language pathologist at MEEC from 1995 – 2004. She is a graduate of Ohio University with a Bachelor's Degree in Hearing and Speech Sciences and a Master's Degree in Speech/Language Pathology. She has also worked as the Clinical Supervisor at the College of Wooster.

"Miss Tonya" Zaripheh, Great Beginnings Teacher, has been at MEEC since 2002. She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Notre Dame College and has many years of experience as a preschool teacher. Three of her children are MEEC graduates, and her children Christian and Nadia are current students.

### **RECENT DONORS TO MEEC:**

Bethel Members

Haditsch Family

Schuman Family

Lutheran Veterans Club of Cleveland

Coatings Research Group, Inc.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

October 10

T-Shirt and Sweatshirt orders due

October 11, 6:30 p.m.

MEEC Board of Trustees Meeting

October 19 and 20

Picture Days

November 4 and 8

Parent Teacher Conferences – No Classes