

NATIONAL TEACHER DAY MAY 6



National Teacher Day is May 6. The RHSFS board of directors, staff and parents are grateful to its Teachers, Teacher Assistants and Substitute Teachers for their important work. THANK YOU!

Stacy Beck
Deborah Bellamy
Fransetta Brice
Victoria Burns
Brandy Carter
Virginia Chatman
Jennifer Clements
Renee Collins
Ruthie Connor
Sara Cooke
Patricia Crawford
Debbie Dunn
Evelyn Echols
Jeanne Edwards
Shirley Fingerhut
Valerie Freeman
Dawn Fuentes
Debra Grastle
Donna Harbaugh
Debra Harrington
Catherine Harris
Constance Harris
Jennifer Hartwick
Mary Hill
Kisha James
Felicia Jeffries

Tina Jorden
Nannette Johnson
Jodie Katana
Debra Lee
Coral Lipe
Angela McDonald
Lisa McKee
Deborah Monroe
Melissa Morgan
Kristina Pearson
Kathryn Pegg
Leigh Ann Pilcher
Karen Powell
Francine Randol
Gwendolyn Redden
Stacie Rhymer
Joan Roach
Stacy Sharos
Nicole Starks
Betty Tester
Jody Warren
Kendra White
Julie Wiegmann
Sarah Williams
Egin Willis

Collinsville Head Start pre-schoolers Abigail and Sierra, often jump for joy in Jeanette Rowe's class. She enjoys getting them up and moving to teach them gross motor skills...and to burn up some energy! National Teacher Day is May 6. Thank you to the 52 Head Start educators for teaching our children so well.

The purpose of National Teacher Day is to honor classroom teachers, but we know that parents, a child's first and most influential teacher; case managers, who visit hundreds of homes each week to teach children and parents; family service workers, who teach parents how to strengthen their family through community resources; therapists, who teach families how to heal, cope and live well; and employees who step in to cover a classroom or help a family also deserve acknowledgement for teaching children and families. THANK YOU, TOO!

FAMILY FOUNDATIONS...from page 1

The Alton Foundation awarded the program \$4,000 to offer its high-risk families help with oral health issues such as painful tooth decay. Oral health care services are not supported by the program's funding source. "We are grateful to the

Alton Foundation for providing our families the opportunity to receive this dental care." said Sandy Kelley, Director of Family Foundations. Funded by a Prevention Initiative grant from the Illinois State Board of Education, Family Foundations works in partnership with Madi-

son County school districts and health and human service agencies to identify high-risk children ages birth to three, and pregnant mothers, who could benefit from intensive home-based case management.



Riverbend Connections

Timely information for employees of Riverbend Head Start & Family Services

May 2008

VENICE HEAD START WILL STAY OPEN

In a recent memo to employees, RHSFS president, Chuck Parr, said the Illinois Department of Human Services is awarding a one-time grant to Riverbend Head Start & Family Services for \$200,000.

The grant allows the Venice Head Start center to serve children and families through May 2009. Carol Adams, Director of the Illinois Department of Human Services, said, "It buys us time for a year."

RHSFS board, staff and parents will use this time to determine a course of action for the center's future beyond May of 2009. This is hopeful news for Venice families.

A contract for the funds remains to be signed.

EDWARDSVILLE HEAD START BENEFITS FROM BOOK FAIR

Borders book store in Edwardsville chose the local Head Start center to be the beneficiary of its inaugural Spring Book Drive. Starting April 13 and continuing through May 3, customers at Borders will see displays of books on Edwardsville Head Start's wish list.

These books can be purchased for donation to the Head Start center. Categories include children's books for its pre-school classroom, parent-

ing books, professional development books for staff, and resource books for Head Start parents to use to find solutions to their challenges such as obtaining a GED or college degree, or finding work or training to obtain a higher-paying job.

Books for Head Start children and families to use for learning to read, write or improve their lives is a step toward a stronger community.

BORDERS

This partnership between Borders and Edwardsville Head Start connects customers with solutions to a need in their community, making the need easy to meet.

Encourage your family and friends to support the Edwardsville Borders book fair through May 3, 2008.

FAMILY FOUNDATIONS SUPPORTED FOR TRAINING & HEALTH

Family Foundations has received support for professional development and oral health care for its clients.

Family Foundations Case Managers will attend The Brazelton Touch-

When we strengthen families, we ultimately strengthen the community. Our goal is that parents everywhere work with supportive providers, feel confident in their parenting role, and form strong, resilient attachments with their children. To help achieve this, providers must be responsive to parents, knowledgeable about child development, and eager to see every parent succeed.

-T. Berry Brazelton, MD, Founder

points Center that gives effective and proven tools to support infants and parents at the beginning of their lives together. A grant from the State to Ounce of Prevention allows ISBE Prevention Initiative programs like Family Foundations to attend at no cost.

Developed by Dr. T. Berry Brazelton, the Touchpoints model "aims to build alliances between parents and providers around key points in the development

of young children."

These predictable issues and milestones can disrupt family relations, but can also provide an opportunity for practitioners to connect with parents.

The Center trains professionals to incorporate Dr. Brazelton's relationship-based, anticipatory guidance model into their individual practice and to infuse it in their communities.

continued on back ...

MAY DATES TO REMEMBER

RHSFS Employee Birthdays

1 Mickey Finley
 6 Melissa Morgan
 6 Dawn Fuentes
 8 Virginia Chatman
 9 Vickie Hickman
 14 Kobe Rives
 22 Stacy Beck
 23 Stacey Logan
 24 Betty Tester
 25 Coral Lipe
 25 Gene Howell
 27 Jody Warren
 27 Scott Brodhacker
 27 Linda Watson
 27 Jody Warren
 28 Melissa Sumner
 29 Melanie Brockington
 30 Pat Ballard

Special Days

3 Join Hands Day
 5 Cinco de Mayo
 4 World Laughter Day
 6 Childhood Depression Awareness
 9 Child Care Provider Day
 11 Mother's Day
 12 Florence Nightingale's birthday
 12 International Nurses Day
 15 Peace Officers Memorial Day
 17 Armed Forces Day
 20 I Am An American Day
 21 Employee Health & Fitness Day
 25 National Missing Children Day
 26 Memorial Day (RHSFS closed)

Special Weeks

Week 1
 Health Care Administrator's Week
 Safe Kids Week
 Suicide Awareness Week
 Teacher Appreciation Week
 Volunteer Week

Week 2
 Alcohol and Other Drug-Related
 Birth Defects Awareness Week
 Nurses Week
 Police Week
 Week 3
 Emergency Medical Services Week
 Week 4
 Pickle Week

Month-Long Observances

Better Hearing and Speech Month
 Egg Month
 Foster Care Month
 Historic Preservation Month
 Mental Health Awareness Month
 National Bike Month
 National Military Appreciation Month
 Physical Fitness & Sports Month
 Trauma Awareness Month

RETIREMENT 101



Every day you delay planning for your retirement, you rob yourself of valuable time and money no matter what your age is now.

The more time your money is invested, the greater the growth potential and the opportunity to enhance that growth potential even more.

Maximizing your retirement plan options and diversifying your investments are the best strategies for building your retirement savings.

How far you are from retirement is one factor to consider when deciding where to invest your retirement plan contributions. When selecting investment options, consider how much risk you are comfortable with.

Mutual of America offers an array of accounts to suit every investor type. Their regional consultants and service representatives work as a team to answer your questions and provide the highest level of service. Have them help you

meet your retirement goals.

Our Mutual of America representative, Ralph Jost, is available to meet with us to review our agencies current pension plan. He also has information relevant to those staff who are reaching a time in their life where they are beginning to explore disbursement options for their retirement funds.

Please contact either Janice Hoene at 463-8701 or Lori Bostick at 463-8700 in the Human Resources department if you would be interested in participating in a meeting with Mr. Jost.

www.mutualofamerica.com

RHSFS COMMUNITY AWARD PRESENTED TO DIANA ENLOE



Julian and Antonio, pre-schoolers at Essic Robinson Head Start in Alton, Illinois, assemble an alphabet puzzle with Diana Enloe. Best-known for her illustrious teaching career and prolific volunteerism for Alton Little Theater, Enloe is the recipient of RHSFS prestigious Circle of Care award.

On June 10, 2008 at Lewis & Clark Community College in Godfrey, Illinois, Enloe will be honored at the Circle of Care award dinner. The event will start at 5:30p. m. with a reception and silent auction, then dinner and a charming program focusing on Diana's lifetime of achievements in entertainment, education and empowerment.

Funds raised support all of RHSFS programs and help us achieve our mission: to enable children and families to discover positive solutions to life's challenges.

A popular English, Theater and Speech teacher at West Junior, and Alton and East Alton-Wood River High Schools, Diana Enloe retired from teaching in 1989. She then taught classes and mentored teachers at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville.

Enloe is a lifelong volunteer for Alton Little Theater and a tireless volunteer in community service organizations that brought cultural gems such as First Night, Vintage Voices and Chautauqua to the Riverbend.

Because of Enloe's continuing impact on the region through entertainment, education and empowerment, RHSFS will honor her with its annual Circle of Care award at a June 10 dinner gala.

Proceeds from corporate sponsorships, reservations, donations, program advertisements, raffle tickets and a silent auction directly benefit RHSFS's programs.

Sam Stemm, president of Alton-area WBGZ radio, will emcee and tasteful roasts and toasts will be offered by him, Lee Cox and Jane Hill. Live musical performances by Ann Davey Cirillo, Emily Ottwein, Kevin Frakes and Michael Frazier include selections from

Wicked and Into the Woods.

Would you like to salute Diana with us?

There are plenty of opportunities, volunteer at the event, donate your artwork, a gift basket or other item to the silent auction, or attend the award

dinner for \$25. A formal invitation to the event will be sent to you in May.

For more information contact Judy Gann 463-5946, judyg@riverbendfamilies.org or Debby Edelman 463-8913, dedelman@riverbendfamilies.org, in the public relations department.

Circle of Care Award Recipients 1994-2008

Dr. Paul Pierce
 Rod & Jane St. Clair
 Essic Robinson
 Dale & Carol Neudecker
 Judge Nicolas Byron &
 Josephine Beckwith
 Jim Goodwin
 Buddy Davis
 Paul & Sandy Lauschke
 Jack & Betty Jacoby
 Don Miller
 Anna Beach & Andy Simpson
 Ron McMullen
 Steve & Mary Lou Cousley
 Senator William Haine
 Tom & Jeana Hutchinson
 Bill & Pat Kessler
 Diana Enloe

Steering Committee

Gay Bryant
 Steve Campbell
 Lee Cox
 Jane Hill
 Linda Nevlin
 Joan Sheppard
 Sam Stemm

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