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June 2002

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In some American Indian tribes the vibration of the drum beat is thought to reflect the earth's heartbeat, the pulse of life. Being interested in how we create life here for the children, I stop and think about such perspectives whenever I hear them. All over the globe when people come together they create community; whether intentional or not a "culture" of acceptable ways of being comes into play in a company, school, family, church or temple. Intentionally creating the culture that we want moves us into the big picture of what it is to be a human being and to be at one with our humanness in the world. It is this pulse or beat between the concept's intention or ideals and the practicality, details and action that create the culture. As the heartbeat attends to the wholeness of the body we build a culture that addresses body, mind and soul of the child. This wholeness creates joy and peace in the human condition.

As students of child development and early childhood education there is little conversation about the bigness of life and all the complexities that affect being a person.

We categorize areas of development - cognitive, emotional, social and physical - and know they all have to work together, influencing each other like an intricate puzzle. Yet here we are adults who have tumbled through life's experiences enough to realize that the mind works as an important back-up for the heart's wisdom. So it is odd that the importance of the heart and mind working together is not acknowledged in the study of early childhood education.

It is unconventional to openly discuss love and childcare and yet to leave it out is equally strange. Love, with all of

[AGAIN — Grandparents' Support](#) its multi-dimensional, amorphous qualities, is the keystone in the creation of the culture of this agency — it is definitely a big picture item!

[CDC Recommends New Vaccine](#) One of the things that is fun about managing the school is that we have control over things that we can't control in the world. At AOCs we can control our environment (we don't have to tell children that they can't climb on the

[Car Seat Safety](#) couch when we don't have couches, eliminating many confrontations). We control what the children eat and naps are built into the day. The school structure is very

[Zigler Criticizes Narrow View Of Literacy](#) consistent. The teachers' response to the children is disciplined as they are trained to control the way they speak to the children using their words, tone of voice, timing and the energy behind their response all for the child's positive growth. The artificial structure sets in place a world for the children that feels safe and rich with interesting things to do, solid in the foundation of goodness and love. With all this in place the child

[The Auction and Raffle](#) naturally feels the pulses and rhythms of life just as we connect to that pulse on a camping trip or restful vacation. It is the ability to float in these big rhythms that gives us access to inner peace, joy and the harmony in all life.

[2002 Auction Donors Businesses which donated goods:](#)

[Board of Directors Report](#) Now as summertime comes we reinforce the pulse by changing the older children's day, flavoring it with our memories of childhood summer experiences. The teachers are thinking about their summertimes growing up all over the world and bringing these memories to school for the children as they plan their days. By embracing the flow we move into summertime in harmony, with the culture of the school supporting the peace and joy you feel as you move though the campus. -

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Claire

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Nursery School Summer Plans

This year the summer program for children in the three Nursery School classrooms (Playroom, Homeroom, Schoolroom) begins on July 1 and runs through the half-day of August 30. These groups will close at noon on Friday, June 28 in order to give the teachers time to set up the Summer Program. The entire school will be closed for Independence Day Holidays July 4-5.

Both children and teachers welcome the change of pace

that says "It's Summer!" The program allows children from the Playroom group to take their time becoming familiar with the Ellen Sherwood Nursery School building, gives the Homeroom group a chance to be the "big kids" helping the Playroom children learn the ropes, and prepares the Schoolroom group to move on to elementary school. Here are the details:

Playroom and Homeroom children form a combined group. Gates and doors are opened so the children can move freely from space to space using the Playroom class and yard, the Homeroom and its porches and yard. The Playroom is set up for extensive dramatic play with a large playhouse and a rotation of grocery store, laundromat, beauty salon, shoe store, hospital, restaurant, etc. to keep variety going. There will be cognitive activities, duplos, puzzles, tinkertoys, stacking and sorting on tables outside. The Homeroom yard is ready for trikes, digging in mud and relaxing on the garden swing. The Homeroom porch will be the science porch with animal visitors, play tables, magnets, bubble blowing, etc. The Homeroom will be an art room with easels, play dough and new projects for added fun.

The Playroom and Homeroom teachers staff this program, so the children have their "anchors" available while they get to know their new teachers. By mid-July some of the Playroom children will start eating in their fall class spaces. Usually the children move in groups of 3 or 4 to their new napping area and move their baskets (and a teacher!) with them. By the end of summer when the fall programs begin, the children are all comfortable in their new spaces and ready for Homeroom and Schoolroom! As a special summer treat we set up special days with visiting groups to come to the school; the Scrapmobile is coming again to do art projects and Music with Bonnie Lockhart will continue through the summer, as well as the science program. I'm looking for a gentle story-teller, and perhaps some children who would come and dance or play instruments.

Schoolroom children have a special program separate from the rest of the school. They are getting ready to move on to kindergarten in the fall. The Schoolroom becomes their full-time headquarters.

The teachers plan more Kindergarten-type projects. The areas used for these children will be the Schoolroom yard and porch plus the Big Yard. We have some "big kid" activities for these spaces: basketball hoops, reading

stories without pictures, writing journals dictated and/or written by the children. All children going to kindergarten will have rest time under the trees or in the classroom, but napping is de-emphasized in preparation for kindergarten.

The pre-kindergarteners sometimes take short field trips if we have parents who can help with the driving. In the past we have taken trips to the AC Transit Bus Wash, Crab Cove, to the stables to watch a horse-riding lesson, and a visit to the library. We'll see what this summer brings!

Schedule for children in the Summer Program is similar in structure, although the activities change. Programs begin at 9 a.m.; prior to 9 a.m. the children will gather in the same places as usual (e.g., Playroom in their yard, older children in the Big Yard). Nap and lunch will be the same in the beginning, with each team of teachers collecting their children and bringing them for story, lunch and nap in their familiar class spaces. Thus the important consistent nurturing is still present for the children in the midst of this exciting summer program. Afternoon wake-up will be the same, and when the program begins again at 2 p.m. the children may choose among the wide variety of spaces and activities. At 4 p.m. the children go back to their present schedules for the P.M. program, making evening departure much like usual. Please note that because the children are flowing from one area to another, the charts will only reflect lunch and nap news. If there is anything earthshaking that happens during the day a teacher will leave you a note on your sign-in. - *Claire*

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Staff Appreciation Dinner

The annual staff appreciation dinner on Friday, June 7th was a roaring success. Thanks to all who came with delicious potluck contributions and shared in the celebration of our wonderful staff. Thanks especially to Amy (Tyler's mom) and Charlie (Shoshana's dad) for the charming keepsake photos presented to each staff member, and to Audrey (Ben and Aidan's mom), Loretta (Jerrott's mom), Amy, Molly (Caleb and Ellie's mom), Nancy (Kessa's mom) and Jana (Aden and Lanie's mom) for all their preparation and management of the event.

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Coming Soon

Welcome to AOCS

- Sullivan (parents Pam & Cordell, big brother Tate) joins the Infant Group.
- Huong is a new teacher in the Wobbly Walkers
- Emily (AOCS Class of '89) is subbing at AOCS for the summer.
- Scottie will teach in the early morning in the Wobbly Walkers.
- Alexandra (Maru's daughter) will sub in the Infant group.

Farewell to

- Maria, Student Aide in the PM program
- Betsey, Teacher in the Wobbly Walkers
- Danielle, Assistant Teacher in the Todds
- Alli, Teacher in the Schoolroom

On Leave

- Julieta will take 4 months' leave to celebrate her husband's retirement, then return to AOCS in the fall.

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Snapshot in the Playroom & Todds

One of the Playroom boys hurrying to get out the door knocks a smaller classmate down as he rushes past. Several steps later he stops, turns around and comes back to say "I was running too fast and knocked you down." Another child sees the incident and comes over to stroke the head of the child on the floor. In the Todds, a girl pushes another child who's standing between her and where she wants to be, gaily says "sorry!" in response to the pushed child's howl and runs off.

Sometimes children are taught to say "sorry" before they understand the concept of being sorry. The teachers feel better about the first incident than the second. They know that a young two-year-old who says "sorry" and runs off thinks that saying "sorry" ends her personal

responsibility for managing herself in relation to others, and of course that's not true. The Playroom child recognized that he had made a mistake and came back to acknowledge it — that's a big step towards taking responsibility for one's actions, and ultimately that's the foundation on which one learns to say "sorry" and mean it.

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AOCS Anniversaries

We honor the following staff with AOCS anniversaries in June:

- Lucy, at AOCS (as an employee) since 1999 — 3 years!

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Friendly Parking Habits

Please remember that the driveway on Brookdale closest to the store does NOT belong to AOCS; park there at your own risk! The activities of AOCS have quite an impact on neighborhood parking and we need to be as considerate of our neighbors as possible. The bus, too, needs to be able to get through the maze of AOCS parents at pick-up and drop-off time; consider driving around the block when traffic is thick rather than turning around in a driveway on Brookdale. Try to allow a few minutes in your schedule for parking and walking so you won't need to be frantic if it's necessary to park half a block up the street.

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Workday thanks

May 11 found a crew busily tidying up the grounds so they would shine at the Auction on the 19th (who would have predicted we'd be improvising a rain set-up on Auction day!). Chuck (Simone's dad), Jeff (Paige and Grant's dad), Jon (Jerrott's dad), Brant (Tess's dad), Dhruv (Nishant's dad), Paul (Andy's dad), Mari (John's mom), Hong-Sze and Doris (Maya's parents) were here painting fences, weeding and planting flowers, and

setting flagstones in the boulevard strip in front of Brookdale as well as completing the rebuilding of the back stairs' railing. Ginny (Cameron and Alex's mom) arrived with pizza and goodies for lunch.

On June 1, Spruce Up for Kids day (the workday supported by Alameda County Every Child Counts funds), Jon, Jeff, Cordell and Derek continued the painting and other projects.

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Birthday Books

- The Dirty Little Boy from Alex for his 1st Birthday.
- Daisy Comes Home from Robert for his 1st Birthday.
- Cowgirl Rosie and her Five Baby Bison from Paul for his 6th Birthday.
- Big Red Barn from Genevieve for her 3rd Birthday.

To celebrate your child's birthday or another event, choose a book from the "Birthday Book" shelf, look inside for payment instructions, insert the check in the book and put in Liisa's box.

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Summer Reminders

Part of what makes summer so much fun at AOCS is ready access to pleasant outdoor spaces. Though much of that space is shaded, the children are often in the sun as well. For that reason every classroom has a supply of sunscreen (rated 45) which is applied to each child (except the Infants who stay on the shaded porch) on a regular basis. Be sure the teachers know if your child has allergies or other reasons you do not want sunscreen used.

Children spend a lot of time combining sand and water in the summer, so they may need extra shorts and t-shirts in their cubbies. Sometimes sand in sandals distresses children, and sometimes sandals are unsafe for climbing so it's good to have a pair of shoes in the cubby, especially the first few times your child wears sandals to school.

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Babysitting Co-op

Forms are now available to sign up for the Babysitting Co-op! Sign up and you will receive your Babysitting Bucks within a few days. Start using them whenever you want. The first roster will be distributed June 25th, with updated rosters distributed as needed.

If you are interested in a leadership role in the Babysitting Co-op (Need Parent Participation hours? Maybe Social Coordinator?), let Cindy (Andy & Katie's mom) know.

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AGAIN — Grandparents' Support

The next AGAIN support group meets Thursday, June 27 from 6 - 8 p.m. in the small AOCS cottage at 3035 Brookdale Avenue. The Discussion will center on "Communications with Our Adult Children" (and how these communications affect the parenting of our grandchildren). For more information leave a message at AOCS for Patricia or Glendora.

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CDC Recommends New Vaccine

"National Focus" (Winter 2002), the quarterly newsletter of the National Child Care Association, includes a recommendation from the Centers for Disease Control that the licensed vaccine Prevnar be considered for those children under the age of two who attend child care centers.

According to this report Prevnar protects young children against the seven most common forms of pneumococcus, the leading cause of pneumonia, ear infection, and meningitis in children. Every year in the US, roughly 200 deaths and millions of ear infections are caused by pneumococcal infections. Drug-resistant strains of the bacteria continue to be problematic, especially in child care centers where children are often in close proximity to each other.

After investigating a recent outbreak that surfaced in late 2000 among children in a child care center in Georgia, the CDC issued a recommendation highlighting the benefits of Prevnar. Ninety percent of the children at the center were carrying the bacteria. The CDC noted that the frequent use of antibiotics to treat the illnesses of these children likely increased their vulnerability to the bacteria. The CDC also found that a survey of parents whose children attended the child care center indicated that two thirds were not familiar with Prevnar.

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Car Seat Safety

Vehicle crashes are the number one killer of children. The National Safety Council reports that 97% of parents believe their children are properly restrained in car safety seats, but they're wrong — 80% of the seats are used incorrectly. Parents can call the [California Highway Patrol](#) office in Oakland at 450-3821 to make an appointment to have their seat installation inspected and corrected. For more information, you can also look at www.seatcheck.org.

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Zigler Criticizes Narrow View Of Literacy

Edward Zigler, Ph.D. from Yale, one of the founders of Head Start, recently (February 12, 2002) testified in the United States Senate about moves to turn Head Start into a reading program:

"Of late there have been criticisms that Head Start is not doing a very good job teaching literacy to its young students. I will offer my suggestions on that point in a moment. First, let me state that I concur that the ability to read is absolutely essential for an individual to have a successful life. I therefore applaud President and Mrs. Bush for the impetus they have provided to assure that every child in America will be a successful reader. However, as someone who has studied the growth and development of children for some 45 years, it is my responsibility to point out that reading is just one aspect of cognitive development, and that cognitive development is just one aspect of human development. Cognitive skills are of course very important, but they

are so intertwined with the physical, social, and emotional systems that it is myopic, if not futile, to dwell on the intellect and exclude its partners.

"Think about what goes into literacy. Yes, it involves mastery of the alphabet, phonemes, and other basic word skills. But a prerequisite to achieving mastery is good physical health. The child who is frequently absent from school because of illness, or who has vision or hearing problems, will have a difficult time learning to read. So will children who suffer emotional troubles such as depression, attention deficits, or post traumatic stress disorder. And think about motivation. A child's curiosity and belief that he or she can succeed are just as important to reading as knowing the alphabet. Phonemic instruction by the most qualified teacher will do little for a child who suffers from hunger, abuse, or a sense of inferiority.

"I am urging that we broaden our approach to literacy by focusing on the whole child. We must also broaden our understanding of when and where literacy begins. I've heard a lot of preschool-teacher bashing lately, but in reality, literacy begins much earlier than the age of four. It begins with the thousands of loving interactions with parents after an infant is born. It begins as a child develops a sense of self-worth by realizing that his or her accomplishments, whether they be learning to roll over or to recite the alphabet, are important to significant others. It begins with sitting in a safe lap, hearing a familiar bedtime story. Eventually a child will want to emulate the parent and read, too. Reading, then, begins with meeting the child's physical, social, and emotional needs, followed by exposure to more formal literacy skills."

Play for young children is not recreation activity,... It is not leisure-time activity nor escape activity.... Play is thinking time for young children. It is language time. Problem-solving time. It is memory time, planning time, investigating time. It is organization-of-ideas time, when the young child uses his mind and body and his social skills and all his powers in response to the stimuli he has met.

James L. Hymes, Jr., Teaching the Child Under Six, ch. 4 (1968).

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The Auction and Raffle

The 2002 Auction was a success despite a very wet start to the day. The valiant set-up crew emptied out a classroom for bid tables and though things were a bit squeezed the show was able to go on. \$12,280 was raised from Raffle ticket sales, \$13,230 from the auction and \$320 from donations. Thanks to the Board member who matched the winning bids for the Infant, Wobbly Walker and Todds class projects! The allocation of Auction proceeds will be determined by the Parent Fundraising Committee, but it typically goes to underwrite such items as childcare at parent meetings, workday expenses, some facilities maintenance; but the largest slice goes to supplement operating income and support scholarships.

Tremendous thanks are due to this year's Auction Chair, Eve (Kevin's mom) and Raffle Chair, Jan (Elizabeth & Robert's mom). Others on the Parent Fundraising Committee who also far exceeded their Parent Participation Requirements were Lucy (Nathaniel's mom), Marcia (Thomas & Jordan's mom), Cheryl (Claire's mom), Noelle (Colin's mom), Ann (Elizabeth's mom), Moira (Olivia & Michaela's mom), Kathy (Genevieve's mom), Jenny (Paige & Grant's mom), Lizette (Alyssa's mom), Norma (Jordana's mom), Caroline (Sophie & Laura's mom) and Marcia (Olivia's mom).

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2002 Auction Donors

Businesses which donated goods:

Albany Bowl - Altarena Playhouse - Ardenwood Historic Farm - Ashby Lumber - Bay Wolf - Berkeley Iceland - Berkeley Opera - Berkeley Repertory Theater - Berkeley Symphony Orchestra - Bette's Oceanview Diner - Big 5 Sporting Goods - Bill Graham Presents - Bodywork Central - Bread Garden Bakery - Broadway Pet Hospital - Brushstrokes - Caffe Venezia - California Academy of Sciences - California Palace of the Legion of Honor - Callback Communications - Cartoon Art Museum - Chabot Observatory & Science Center - Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose - Children's Fairyland - Club One - Concord Pavilion Associates - Corporation for Supportive Housing - Cost Plus World Market - Cotton Patch - Creative Memories - Crogan's - Dagnija Peterson Physical Therapy - Dave's Dugout Baseball

Cards - Disneyland - Dodge Ridge Ski Area - Downtown Berkeley YMCA - Dreyer's Ice Cream - Dunsmuir House and Gardens Historic Estate - East Bay Dance Center - Exploratorium - Farm Fresh to You - Filippo's Pastaria - Fourth Street Yoga - Glenview Florist - Gold's Gym - Grand Lake Ace Hardware and Garden Center - Gymboree Play and Music - Habitot Children's Museum - Head Over Heels - Home Chef Cooking School - Homewood Mountain Resort - Hotel Mac - Hunan Yuan Restaurant - Innkeeper Associates, Inc. - Isabelle Gerard Skin Care - Jack Hyde Soccer Camp - Jack London Cinema - Julia Morgan Center for the Arts - Katrina Rozelle Pastries & Desserts - KFOG - KGO Newstalk AM 810 - Kids in Motion - KTVU/Fox - Kumon Educational Institute Co., Ltd. - La Mediterranee - Ladyfingers Bakery - Lalime's - Lawrence Hall of Science - Lizard's Rock - Long's Pharmacy - Magic Gardens - Mailboxes Etc. - Making Ends Meet - Mama's Royal Cafe - Metropolis Baking Company - Moe's Books - Montclair Recreation Center - Museum of Children's Art - Napa Valley Wine Train - Noah's Bagels - Oakland Hills Tennis Club - Oakland Ice Center - Oakland Museum of California - Pacific Coast Brewing Co. - Paramount Theatre - Pizzeria Uno - Poppy Fabrics - Red and White Fleet, Inc. - Renaissance Rialto Inc. - Rick and Ann's - Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum - Roaring Camp Rail Road - Rockridge Cafe - Rockridge Kids - Rosenblum Cellars - San Francisco Giants - San Francisco Museum of Modern Art - San Francisco Symphony - San Francisco Zoological Society - San Jose Sharks - Scandia Family Fun Center - Sears Point Raceway - Semifreddi's Bakery - Six Flags Marine World - Slide Ranch - Stained Glass Garden - Sugar Bowl - Teddies Party Stores - The Basic Brown Bear Factory - The Gardener - The Oakland Zoo - The Old Spaghetti Factory - The Storyteller - Tilden Park Golf Course - Tommy Toy's - Trader Joe's - Trader Vic's - United Artists - Emery Bay 10 Movie Theatre - University Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive - University of California - Waterworld USA - Concord - What The Traveller Saw - Winchester Mystery House - Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

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Board of Directors' Report

Summary of the meeting May 30, 2002

The Board thanked Amy, Noelle, and Meredith for serving a lovely lunch to the staff on behalf of the Board.

Committee Reports:

- Quarterly Financials: Rik , Treasurer, reported that there was nothing unusual in the quarterly financials.
- Development Committee: Seth reported that the Development Committee is working on collateral, brag sheets, naming opportunities, parent letter, ways of giving, etc.. They are focusing on prospects for the fundraising campaign and building the pool of people. Linda suggested that the wheelchair ramp be added to the naming opportunities list.
- Facilities and Technology Committee: Linda reported that the F&T Committee has been meeting with the Architects, regarding the site plan. The bid includes master plan and working drawings for Phase I of the project.
- Nominating: Carla was asked to join the Board, and Marcia as the Parent Representative.

Budget for 2002-2003

Rik led a discussion based on his analysis of possible areas to increase income. The Board accepted the suggestions to:

1. Increase the minimum hours in baby house to 20 hours.
2. Increase the application fee to \$35.
3. Extend the drop in tuition 6 months, from 2.5 to 3.0 years of age.
4. Fold a \$300 facilities fee into the tuition.

The Board asked Rik to bring additional information to the June meeting regarding charging the full cost of care and the sibling discount.

Melba's minutes summarized by Liisa

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