



# shadow rock

## P R E S C H O O L

### Meet the Teachers/Carnival

We have an exciting event the evening of Friday, September 25th. Our Meet the Teacher/Carnival gives you several things to participate in.

From 5:00 to 6:00 PM you can drop in and visit your child's teachers and let your preschooler show off the room.

The playground will be open the whole time and you'd be amazed how the kids flock to it even though they go daily.

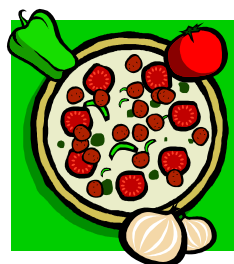
You can buy dinner and visit in Smith Hall or eat on the patio. There will be bouncies and fire trucks to explore. A craft will be offered plus just soaking in the atmosphere which makes our school special.

Everything but the dinner is free. Dinner tickets will go on sale September 22 or you can buy at the door.

Please remember when talking with the teachers that this is not a

time to have a parent/teacher conference. Those are held when the children aren't with you. Should you need to speak with the teacher, you will find each one's phone number printed in the directory. It will

be coming out very soon. Hope to see you on



Friday,  
September 25th

### FREE 2010 ENTERTAINMENT COUPON BOOK WITH SALLY FOSTER

Receive your 2010 Entertainment coupon book for spending \$50 or more online during the Sally Foster Fundraiser. The Sally Foster Fundraiser is a program that earns Shadow Rock Preschool up to 50% on every item purchased. They have quality giftwrap, unique gift items, gourmet chocolates and edibles, and much more. And, everything is value priced at \$20 or less!

Place your order online and tell others about our fundraiser. Go to the seller's section at [www.sallyfoster.com](http://www.sallyfoster.com) to sign up. Our account number is 0738000.

The sale ends **September 22<sup>nd</sup>**. So please take time now to earn your coupon book worth hundreds of dollars in discounts and help Shadow Rock Preschool. There is a display located in the lobby at the school with samples of some of the products.

Please email Debbie Barker at [debbiebarker1@cox.net](mailto:debbiebarker1@cox.net) if you have any questions.

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### Shadow Rock Preschool

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### Special points of interest:

- ☺ Carnival 5-7, 9/25
- ☺ Sally Foster due 9/22
- ☺ Picture Days coming up. Sept. 29-Oct. 1
- ☺ Fall Break starts with no after school KDO on Friday, October 9. School resumes Monday, Oct. 19

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# Helping our Families: The SRPS Scholarship Fund

If you were at the Ice Cream Social last May, you may have noticed a large empty jug printed with the words *Shadow Rock Preschool Scholarship Fund*. Since we received just under \$100 in contributions, we are assuming many of you did see it and we thank those of you who contributed. During this school year you will be hearing and seeing more about our scholarship fund because it was almost depleted last year. The scholarship fund has always been taken care of quietly but now we are asking for your awareness and future support for this important fund.

Traditionally, we think of scholarships as helping students and their families to attend places they may not be able to financially afford. At Shadow Rock our fund works a bit differently -- the funds mostly go to assist families of *children who are already here at Shadow Rock*. They are immersed in their classrooms, they have bonded with their

teachers and made friends. Suddenly, a parent loses their job or gets sick or some kind of financial hardship befalls the family. That's where the scholarship comes in. It allows a family already experiencing a tough time to avoid uprooting and frightening a young child because they can no longer make the entire monthly tuition payments. Some parents just need help for a few months, some can pay a portion of each month and *all* families pledge to help fundraise and do their part for the preschool in exchange for the scholarship. This year we have already helped two of our returning families, probably even ones you know. We don't anticipate that the economy will be too much better as the year goes on and this means more families may be coming to us for help. We want to be able to work with them. We want their children to remain in the community of Shadow Rock. So we are looking to our generous Shadow Rock families for support and help in this

venture. We realize that the same reason we need to ask for money to build up this scholarship fund is a reason that might prohibit some of our families from contributing: the economy is tough for all. But we ask that you thoughtfully consider donating to Shadow Rock Preschool's Scholarship Fund. Your tax-deductible contribution will not only help the school retain an enrolled student, but may help your child keep a friend and classmate.



Please help

## Bad Mood Triggers You Can Avoid

Suddenly your cheerful preschool's mood hits the skids. Why? Dr. Sheila Ribordy offers some observations.

1. **Hunger:** A child who's feeling out of sorts may not realize she's hungry. It's up to you to make the connections-- always carry healthy snacks.
2. **Fatigue:** Lack of sleep can make young children moody.
3. **Perceived injustices:** If your child

thinks you're being nicer to her sibling, her mood may take a nosedive.

4. **Growth spurts:** Subtle progress in brain development or physiological growth can cause your child to feel cranky.
5. **Overstimulation:** Some kids become hyper or irritable, or simply shut down after rushing from one activity to another.

6. **Changes in routine:** Any shift can throw their mood out of whack.

Parents Magazine,  
August 2009

Young children do not differentiate between play, learning and work.

Cosby S. Rogers

## And We Are Off!

Our school year is off to a good start. The children are getting comfortable with their teachers and the teachers are settling in with this new group they have been given.

Just a reminder, when teachers are dismissing children, they are being very careful that the children get to the right grown-up. This is never a time for a conference about your

child. If you have concerns, please make arrangements for talking when your child is not around.

Another reminder, please drop your child at the door and leave quickly. The longer you stay, the longer your child will hang on to you.

Some of the children are enjoying afternoon classes which run for six weeks at a time. If you are inter-

ested in signing up, a flyer will be out for the next session in just a few weeks. Children in the Red and Blue Rooms are not old enough for these classes. They do better in the afternoons staying with their morning teachers.

If you want to borrow parenting books, feel free to drop in and check them out in the preschool office.

## Let's Bring Back Appropriate Kindergartens

It is not the job of the preschool to make children ready for Kindergarten. It is our job to help them be the 2, 3 or 4 year old they are right now. We help them feel good about themselves and be emotionally and socially secure. And then when they enter Kindergarten, they will be ready to be Kindergartners. Unfortunately there is so much pressure on elementary school teachers and administrators to hurry up these children and push them faster than is developmentally appropriate.

Recently the **Boston Globe** ran an article about the "Pressure-cooker Kindergarten" We want to share it with you.

A new emphasis on testing and test preparation-brought on by politicians, not early education experts—is hurting the young-

est students. This is kindergarten, the happy land of building blocks and singalongs. But increasingly in schools across the United States, little children are being asked to perform academic tasks, including test taking, that early childhood researchers agree are developmentally inappropriate, even potentially damaging. If children don't meet certain requirements, they are deemed "not proficient."

Christine Gerzon, an experienced educator knows how much a child can soak up in the right environment. They learn through experiences. They learn through play. Ms. Grazon had a girl who was barely 5



Let's play!

when she entered the classroom. She didn't know her ABCs, but one day in class she made up a song and taught it to the other children. But because of the school's requirements, her teacher had to send a letter home saying she was "not proficient." Gerzon says, "you tell me that she is not proficient in language skills!"

Ms. Gerzon bristles at such an evaluation. "It's destructive, even abusive. That's a pretty strong word, but what do you call it when you take a group of children and you force them to do something that they are not developmentally ready to do? What do you call that? It's abusive."

## Heard in the Halls

Each month we will include quotations from our unique and unrepeatable preschoolers. Heard in the halls this month...

Madyson Rainer was cleaning up the playdough and putting it into a baggie when she said, "*When I get bigger I'll be able to close this baggie all by myself!*"

Abi Williams said, "*What do we do now?*"

at the end of the first school day.

Our children are now putting in orders for particular treasure from Mr. Jim. Lily Harrison told him that she needed a star crystal, "*to make my collection complete.*"

On the first day of school "*What happened to your hair?*" was heard in the hallway about Mr. Jim's hair.

While building with blocks in the Uni-

corn class. Maddy told Colette that they needed a ramp "*so if they can't walk, they can use their wheelchairs to go up.*"

Food is an important part of a balanced diet.

Fran Lebowitz

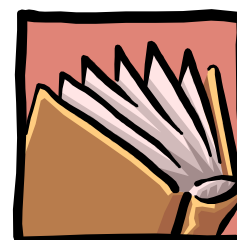
## Start Saving Those Books

The Shadow Rock Preschool Used Book Sale is back this winter and we need your used books – children's books and adult titles!

Please start saving them and ask friends and family to do the same. The preschool doesn't have extra storage space, so start a box in your home and look for drop bins

after the new year.

If you need to get them out of your home before then, contact Maria Levine to make other arrangements 602-938-0140 or [mariazlevine@gmail.com](mailto:mariazlevine@gmail.com).



Used books are well loved books.

## Shadow Rock Preschool

12861 N. 8th Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85029

Registrar-Mary Saunders  
602-978-5259

Tax ID: 86-0279463



Free weekend admission to museums is available to all holders of Bank of America ATM, debit and credit cards. More than 100 museums, zoos and science centers in 26 states and the District of Columbia participate in the *Museums on Us* program on the first full weekend of every month. Cardholders get free general admission but must pay for special exhibits and ticketed shows. In Arizona the Phoenix Art Museum, the Phoenix Zoo and the Tucson Art Museum are included.

Find a complete list of participating institutions at [Http://museums.bankofamerica.com](http://museums.bankofamerica.com).

## Open-ended Play

Last summer we took our two oldest grandchildren to LegoLand for the first time. There are amazing structures and characters to view but the sales area was disturbing. Each child was allowed to purchase an item. Every single box was all about making the item pictured on that box. Most were quite elaborate and beyond the abilities of teen-agers (or adults).

It was no surprise to read an article about Legos recently. While Legos sales jumped 32% last year, experts like Dr. Jonathan Sinowitz, a New York psychologist who also runs a psychological services company, Diagnostics, wonders at what price these sales come.

"What Lego loses is what makes it so special," he says. "When you have a less structured, less themed set, kids have the ability to start from scratch. When you have kids playing out Indiana Jones, they're playing out Hollywood's imagination, not their own.?"

Even toy analysts who admire the company and its recent success acknowledge a broad shift. "I would like to see more open-ended play like when we were kids," says Gerrick Johnson, a toy analyst at BMO Capital Markets in New York. "The vast majority is

theme-based, and when you go into Toys 'R' Us, you'd really be challenged to find a simple box of bricks."

Back to my grandchildren and their purchases that day at the park; neither one has been able to assemble the Legos they bought. They are forgotten in shoe boxes where they live in little pieces never to be brought out again.

The old standard unit blocks sometimes offer more creativity Legos can be just as great, of course, when using an open-ended approach.

