

Special Parent Edition

TSCS Bulletin

June 2007

“The Special Edition” of this bulletin for parents is to continue our conversation about the upcoming changes at TSCS. As you will quickly see, in many areas there are NO changes. There are some, however, which you will need to read and anticipate. Thank you for your patience and understanding making it a privilege to work with you and your children. As always, we encourage you to be in touch with Carey Smith, Judy Sebastian, your teachers and/or therapists or myself as you have questions.

Changing Places & Faces

The alliance with the public school means some changes in titles, positions and faces here at TSCS. Changes in the classroom will be minimal. Only one teacher will not make the transition, Fran Collier. She will be leaving the school to relocate to South Carolina. The biggest changes will be seen in management, administration and support positions. Clinical services such as speech, occupational and physical therapy will continue as they have in the past.

TSCS will continue to operate with a Board of Directors and an Executive Director. New to the school will be the position of Principal, which will be appointed by the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (WS/FCS). We will also have new staff assigned to the school that we have never had before such as Curriculum Coordinator, Data Manager and an Adaptive PE Teacher. We will also get to have “specials” as other public schools such as Art and Music Teachers.

We are saddened that Sharon Leak, our Parent Liaison, will be leaving her position at the end of June to relocate from the area. The school will use this opportunity to reorganize the enrollment process to better suit the needs of the transition. Support staff in the custodial, nursing and kitchen areas will see the biggest changes and those areas are highlighted in this bulletin.

The Classrooms

The most visible change in the class program at TSCS will be the new hours for the educational portion of the day. While day care hours will remain the same, 7:30 am to 6:00 pm, the school day will begin at 8:45 am and end at 3:25 pm. Infant/Toddler and Preschool teachers will have the opportunity to use a new curriculum, the Carolina Curriculum, along with the Creative Curriculum that is currently being used. Both programs act as a guide for teachers as they assess the skills of children with special needs and plan the Individual Education Program (IEP) and the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP). The inclusive component of our program will continue to provide all children with role model peers. Our teaching staff will join the WS/FCS preschool staff for a variety of staff development opportunities. A snapshot view of the classrooms before the alliance and after will show happy, smiling faces engaged in fun activities.

Food Services

The WS/FCS food service is managed through Chartwells. TSCS has included the cost of meals in the tuition, so there is no additional cost to parents for meals and snacks. Meal planning is done through Chartwells and monthly menus for breakfast, lunch and snacks will be available before the first of each month. TSCS will reimburse the WS/FCS for each meal and snack that is served. For that reason, parents will be asked to complete the Free and Reduced Meal Benefit Application. The completed application will be used by the Food Service staff to determine the reimbursement rate for meals. Children will continue to eat meals in the classroom. At this time, two WS/FCS employees are already working in our kitchen and preparing food for the children and staff.

Building Maintenance

One thing that will not change with the alliance is ownership of the building. TSCS will continue to own and be responsible for improvements to the building and property. WS/FCS will provide custodial services and maintenance or minor repairs up to certain limits. One of the advantages of the alliance is the school's ability to use the public school's highly skilled maintenance department for the upkeep of our building.

Sadly, we bid a fond farewell to our Building Facilities Manager, Terry Tonn, in May. With the agreement, two full-time custodians will be assigned to our school.

The Nurse's Office

The Dept. of Public Health is responsible for nursing in the public schools. The department hires, orients, and supervises the nurse. On a day to day basis, there will not be a change in the services provided to the children at TSCS. Medications will still be given out by the nurse and the nurse will continue to oversee the health of the children at the school and be a resource to the classroom staff. We sadly bid farewell to Kathy Goodwin and Robin Anderson who have left to pursue other opportunities. Until the new nurse is hired for TSCS, we are fortunate to have our experienced sub nurses Caron Hood and Trish Gillispie helping out.

Day Care

There will not be significant changes in day care next year. Day care will open at 7:30 am and close at 6:00 pm. Parent Agency Agreements will be maintained to document the hours agreed upon for day care. There will be designated classrooms for day care. Children will be assigned a room and will remain in that room for the duration of the morning or afternoon session. The staff in each room will remain constant throughout each morning or afternoon session.

Parents will receive new enrollment forms in the mail before the end of June. The forms are very important for the new school year. The Parent Agency Agreement will allow TSCS to plan staffing needs for day care, so if a family needs day care starting in August, it is very important to return the forms.