



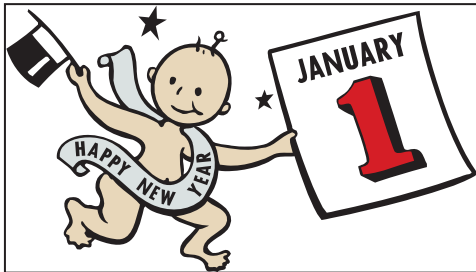
# Happy Hands Education Center

THE CENTER for Hearing, Language and Speech Services  
A Total Communication Program

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*A Christian School for Children with Hearing Loss and Communicative Disorders*

## Parent Newsletter January 2011



2010 was certainly an eventful year for Happy Hands. Moving into this beautiful new building, the grand opening celebrations, new children, new staff...God is Good! 2011 will be just as exciting. Our enrollment will grow. New donors will commit to supporting the ministry. New events are already in the planning stages! We are so very blessed.

In January the Board of Directors, Administrators and Staff will be participating in a weekend of Vision Casting and Strategic Planning for the next 5 to 10 years. One way parents can be involved in this exciting time of planning and dreaming is to complete a survey that will be available to you in the next couple of weeks. Please pray for our leadership as we plan for the future.

In February the Education Staff is hosting the Association of Christian Schools International District Meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> and the ACSI Regional Early Education Conference on the 26<sup>th</sup>. These meetings will bring in educators from all over Oklahoma and our five state area for professional development AND to see our facility!

In March Happy Hands will again present our biggest event...Hollywood style! It's a benefit auction and dinner to be held at NSU BA on March 19<sup>th</sup> and all the "stars" will be there! We hope you'll make plans to join us as guests or volunteer for the event.

In May we have a new event for Happy Hands – the Kite Festival – on Mother's Day Weekend. The event itself is not new to Tulsa, but this year the proceeds will benefit Happy Hands! Of course there will also be our Kindergarten Graduation and Spring Show featuring all our precious children.

In June another new event happening is a Car Show! Did you know Mr. Al and also Miss Phyllis' husband are into restoring cars? This will be a fun event for the whole family!

It's truly going to be a busy and exciting year! Best of all, your children are going to be growing and communicating and learning! Again...God is GOOD!



## JANUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> – MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

- Regular School Day for Happy Hands classes
- Gold Fish Class will be open for school age children who are out of school.

## FEBRUARY 21<sup>ST</sup> – PRESIDENTS' DAY

- Regular School Day for Happy Hands classes
- Gold Fish Class will be open for school age children who are out of school. \*Please note that Tulsa Public is also closed on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> for Professional Day. The Gold Fish Class will be open all day.

## **VERY IMPORTANT FOR ALL HAPPY HANDS FAMILIES!**

Happy Hands will be closed Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, for Teacher Professional Day and preparation for the ACSI conference to be held that weekend! No classes, no childcare, no afterschool care.

## **WELCOME!**

*Please welcome Miss Margaret Ann Wright as the new Assistant Teacher to the Purple Class. Margaret Ann recently graduated from USAO in Chickasaw with her Bachelor's degree in Deaf Education. She is a Broken Arrow High School alum and a member at Arrow Heights Baptist Church in Broken Arrow. We are blessed to welcome her to the Happy Hands family!*

## **abcSIGN LANGUAGE CLASSES TO BE OFFERED AGAIN!XYZ**

TSHA will once again be offering a sign language class to be held here at Happy Hands. Classes will be held on Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. from February 17 – April 14. This class is titled “Signing with Children”. The book will be “Signing for Me” by Bahan and Dannis. Cost of the class is \$45 and cost of the book is \$20. Child care will be offered. Be watching for more information and sign up instructions.

## **Abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz**

### **Parent Conferences**

The Parent Handbook states that your child will be evaluated in the first month of their attendance at Happy Hands in order for the teacher to prepare goals and objectives for their specialized education here at Happy Hands. This applies to children with hearing loss or diagnosed communication delays. You should hear from your child's teacher within the first 30 – 45 days to set up a Child and Family Education Plan (CFEP). The teacher will again request a parent conference 6 months later to do a midyear review. After that, CFEP meetings and midyear reviews are held annually. You as the parent may also request a parent/teacher conference at any time.

For children who are typically developing – no diagnosed delay – parent conferences will be held in the spring each year. Each teacher will set up a schedule with you to meet and discuss your child's progress at Happy Hands. Again, you may request a parent/teacher conference at any time.



### **Parent Surveys are now available**

Each year we conduct a parent survey to help us in evaluating our program and setting new goals for the school. This year the survey is EXTRA important as we are seeking our re-accreditation with the Association of Christian Schools International and we are also hold a Strategic Planning Session for future planning. The survey is a little bit lengthier this year but we hope you will complete it and let your voice be heard. We appreciate all your comments.

## PHYSICAL THERAPY SCREENINGS

During the month of November, Amanda Caperton, Physical Therapist with Therapy Source, offered free physical therapy screenings for all children at Happy Hands. This was a wonderful free resource for our children and families. Amanda has been serving several of our families at Happy Hands for many years now and we know and trust her completely. If your child did not get the chance to receive a screening and you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please let Jan or Phyllis know and we will provide the permission paperwork. Amanda will schedule a screening and report the results directly to you.



## Nursing Station by Nurse Tricia

Fact or Fiction: Don't kiss your child if you have a cold

The truth: A peck on the lips probably won't hurt, says Neil Schachter, M.D., author of "The Good Doctor's Guide to Colds & Flu." Unlike a sneeze or a cough, which contains the virus, the saliva hanging out in your mouth has very little cold virus -- so it's surprisingly hard to pass the illness through kissing. The best way to keep your child from catching your cold: Wash your hands often. Last month I shared a fun lesson about hand washing. I knew hand washing had been implemented in the classrooms but I gave them a little insight as to why it's important.



## INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

On school days, if Union Public Schools close for snow or ice or other inclement weather that affects travel, Happy Hands will close as well. **We hope to be able to post closings on Channel 6 KOTV.** If public schools and other businesses close due to power outages but roads are passable, Happy Hands will be open. Happy Hands is equipped with a generator and we will hopefully be able to operate despite power outages.

## WHAT IS HAPPY HANDS?

When sharing the program and ministry of Happy Hands with friends and family please remember that we are a ministry and a school first. Our childcare program is an added benefit to assist those parents whose work schedules make before and after care necessary. We refer to ourselves as an Education Center and not a day care center. We are an accredited early education school through The Association of Christian Schools International.



## REMINDERS!

- Please remember to check your child in and out daily. This is a DHS Childcare Licensing requirement for us. Don't forget to hit the "finish" button or the entry does not go through. Thanks for helping us in this way
- Keep a change of clothing at school at all times for your child, extra diapers or underwear, and a jacket. As the weather changes from day to day the children often need a jacket to play outside. We WILL continue playing outside for short periods as long as weather permits so they will need to bundle up sometimes.
- Call the school office if your child is going to be late or absent. We keep a close check on where children are to make sure they are always safe!
- Collect take home papers, notices, envelopes, etc. out of your child's cubby daily.
- Keep us informed of new phone numbers, addresses, email addresses and emergency contact numbers so that we can always reach you in case of an emergency. If we can't reach you we will call the police for assistance.

**"Let them know that it is your hand, that you, O Lord, have done it." Psalm 109:27**