



RCMA HOY

Redlands Christian Migrant Association

We Can Make
A World of
Difference

Helping Our Youth



April 2000

Issue 84

OUR MISSION: Helping Parents Restart, Giving Kids a Head Start, Helping Staff Develop

Lessons from a mother bird

By Tara Huls
Early Childhood Specialist

In the garden behind our center, there is a robin's nest. We have all been enjoying watching the miracle that has occurred in the past month. One week there were just four eggs. The next week, we found two, then three tiny, helpless, featherless baby birds peering out at us. The third week these three birds were so large that the tree branch was weighed down. When the children looked into the nest, the rustling of leaves triggered the birds to open their mouths wide, awaiting food. And this week, the birds have flown away.

These changes and growth occurred so quickly, and although we as staff members grow more slowly, it reminded me of what my center coordinator, Juanita Galan, does for me every day at our center. She is like that mother bird, working hard to create a good work environment for us, our "nest". It is hard work and takes time, but she is very patient and gets the job done.

The mother bird shelters her eggs, keeping them warm as the eggs develop. This is what Juanita does for me, she supports me and quietly helps me to develop as an administrator and as a professional. As the mother bird nour-



BONDING FOR TOMORROW: Juana Galan, center coordinator at Ruskin Migrant Education Center and Tara Huls, early childhood specialist come together as part of a larger center team. They work together with children and families as their focus.

ishes her young, Juanita nourishes me by modeling how to be consistent, firm, but always fair in her decisions. She has such an organized manner of getting things done, and I have never seen her get her feathers ruffled.

She is an amazing woman who can be a friend to her staff, but never loses sight of decisions she must make for the betterment of the center. The children always come first. She has a quiet conviction about her that makes her such a joy to work for. She doesn't even know how much I learn from her every day, that she is my mentor.

When I remember watching the eggs & the baby birds developing, the mother bird was never in the nest (hey, it's hard for 60 preschoolers to be quiet about such an awesome thing). She was always close by though, gathering food, doing things to help her babies.

Juanita is the same, always close by, ready to help, and ultimately, she helps all of her staff so that we too can fly.

Thank you Juanita!

FROM
THE
DESK
OF
OLGA



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DEL ESCRITORIO DE OLGA

Many times we forget to say "Thank you for a job well done." East Coast Migrant Head Start staff monitored us in March.

The day had started earlier than usual for Barbara and I, and for Area Coordinators with Migrant Head Start centers. Today was the Policy Committee meeting and we were going to have visitors. I wasn't too concerned, our members (parents) are wonderful and participation is always good.

The part I was concerned about is that Mr. Espinoza is the new President, and is shy. He had only chaired one meeting. He knew we were going to have visitors (East Coast staff were coming after lunch), but the rest of the Committee did not know. I was not prepared for what happened. Mr. Espinosa came in and started the meeting and I sat back and thought **WOW!**

The parents as usual were magnificent. Because we don't have a habit of priming parents, when they gave their center/community reports they also voiced their concerns about their centers. The training by Gloria Padilla, Elida Gomez and Jorge Velazquez was great. Thank you Policy Committee Members, parents on the focus group, and all the parents who participated.

Remember this was not a marshmallow group. They were tough! If you don't believe me ask Board member, Ron Melacon. They called him in Washington! He too, was wonderful. Thanks to Clem Miller for being supportive at the Management Team interview.

Our centers did great also. I don't have all the particulars but the exit interview report was glowing. I felt so proud. Thank you center staff for a job well done. We know you always give your best, but you out did yourselves!!

Mucha veces se nos ovida decir "Gracias por hacer un buen trabajo". El staff de East Coast Migrant Head Start nos hicieron una evaluacion recientemente.

El dia empezo mas temprano de costumbre para Barbara y para mi y tambien para las Coordinadoras del Area con centros de Migrant Head Start. Hoy se llevaria acabo la reunion del Comite de Poliza y habria visitantes. Yo no estaba preocupada, nuestros miembros (padres) son admirables y siempre participan.

Lo que me preocupaba un poco es que el Sr. Espinoza es un poco timido y solamente habia presidido reunion. El sabia que habria visitantes (el staff de East Coast estarian presentes a la una de la tarde) pero el resto del Comite no lo sabia. Yo no estaba preparado para lo que sucedio. El Sr. Espinoza llego, empezo la reunion, yo me relaje y pense **WOW!**

Los padres como costumbre estuvieron magnificos. Como no acostumbramos a manipular a los padres cuando dieron su reporte del centro/comunidad tambien nos dijeron acerca de las necesidades de sus centros. El entrenamiento proveido por Gloria Padilla, Elida Gomez, y Jorge Velazques tambien estuvo buenismo! Gracias Miembros del Comite de Poliza, padres que estuvieron en el grupo de enfoque, y a todos los padres que participaron.

Recuerden que estos evaluadores no eran personas mansitas. Vieron listos para la batalla. Sin no me creen, preguntentele a Ron Melacon. A el le llamaron en Washington! Y ...El tambien estuvo formidable! Gracias a Clem Miller por brindarnos su apoyo.

Nuestro centros tambien estuvieron estupendos. No tengo todos los detalles pero el reporte en la entrevista de salida fue sobresaliente. Me senti muy orgullosa. Gracias a todos los empleados de los centros por un trabajo bien hecho. Sabemos que siempre dan lo mejor pero esta vez estuvieron sobre salientes!!

R-Day 2000 Special Millennium Edition



... ready set, go:
R-Day 2001
Will be here sooner
than you think!

Please send any suggestions to editor :
Irene G. Brammertz
RCMA North Regional Office,
PO Box 207, Ruskin, FL 33570

April 2000 Issue #2 – Reading is FUNDamental

Pomona Park Kids Teach Wonder Dog A Lesson

By Tom Moonan,
HOY Staff Writer

Sam B. Waffles knows that she has an important job to do here on earth. A job to grow and become the Wonder Dog she is meant to be.

However, sometimes Sam misses the mark. She barks up the wrong trees and on Saturday nights she hangs out with a bad pack. That has all changed now thanks to the children and staff at Pomona Park CDC.

You see Sam was there on R-Day and what she saw has changed her life. Sam saw groups of kids listening and watching as book after book was being read. Sam listened as the

books described growing up, sharing and learning to Love.

Sam had to take a serious look at herself. You see Sam sometimes is mean to cats. No more -- after the visit to Pomona Park Sam insisted that we go to the library and get books about cats. Thanks to the books Sam has begun to see cats in a new light. She has gained a deep respect for cats and is now asking that we adopt a cat from the animal shelter. Never underestimate the power of a Book.

A special thanks to the fine students and staff at the RCMA Pomona Park CDC for inviting Sam to the center.

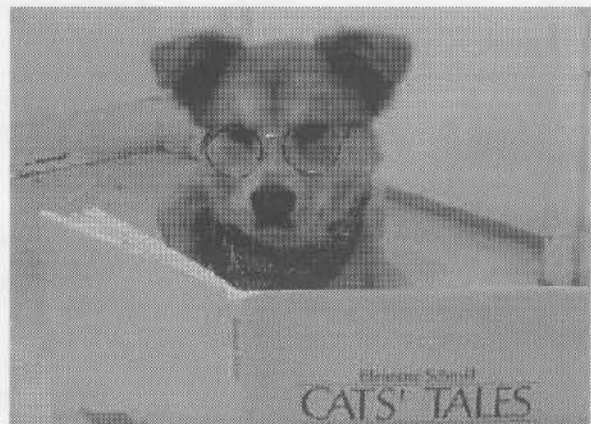


Photo by Tom Moonan
Sam can't read yet but she's learning. She likes to look at the pictures and make up stories.

Crescent City Parents And Staff Celebrate R-Day

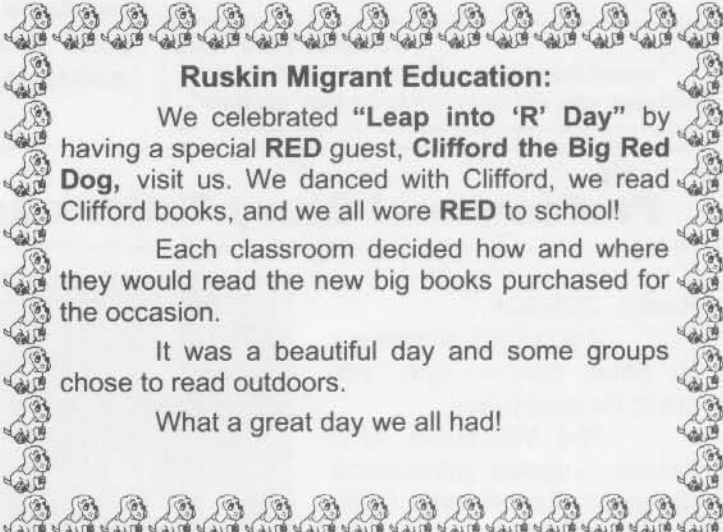
Crescent City, February 29, 2000:

On this Tuesday the Crescent City CDC participated in R-Day in which parents and educators read to their children for 15 minutes.

The Head Start class enjoyed stories read by Ms. Valerie Mims "The Very Hungry Caterpillar",

Ms. Artissa Williams "The ABCs of Lunch", and Ms. Yolanda Robinson did flannel board stories titled "The Three Little Pigs" and "Old McDonald".

The Toddler 2 class listened as Ms. Ayesha Tiller read "The Three Little Bears". They also listened to Ms. Annette Blocker read



Ruskin Migrant Education:

We celebrated "Leap into 'R' Day" by having a special RED guest, Clifford the Big Red Dog, visit us. We danced with Clifford, we read Clifford books, and we all wore RED to school!

Each classroom decided how and where they would read the new big books purchased for the occasion.

It was a beautiful day and some groups chose to read outdoors.

What a great day we all had!

"Mrs. McNosh Hangs Up Her Wash", and Ms. Samantha Richardson read "The Gingerbread Man".

The Toddler 1 class listened to stories read by Ms. Helena Rodriguez "El Pez Arco Iris", while Ms. Teryl Williams read the story "Clap Your Hands".

Leaping into R-Day: More stories from around the State...

"Clowning around with books" is important fun!

Delray Beach, Farmworker CDC:

Sissy the "Special Book Clown" made her grand entrance at 9 AM on R-Day, lugging a huge suitcase.

The Preschool classroom was decorated with brightly colored balloons, clown faces, a life size clown poster hanging from the ceiling and — of course — many, many books!

Sissy and her assistant read a big book to the children, but every time she sneezed, confetti came out of the book! What a sight and what magic!

Sissy also accompanied the children to the playground for more fun activities.

Each child then selected a book of their own to take home.



Photo by Monica Rivera
Sissy the "Special Book Clown" entices children to appreciate books following her grand entrance....



Photo by Mike Clark
Isabel Garcia, Pre-K Senior Teacher, is all wet; she volunteered to be the "dunkee".

RIF Festival includes Pony Rides, local celebrity guests

Nocatee, 2/29/00:

R-Day was celebrated from 9:30 to 11:30 with numerous activities: fingerprinting of the children, a cake walk, face painting, a dunking tank, pony rides, and a clown.

First Assembly Christian Academy visited and the guest students took turns reading to the children from

some of the early reader books.

Pony rides, use of dunking tank, food, other items, and money were donated by local residents and businesses.

And of course, all the children went home with a book of their very own that they had chosen themselves!

Professional Story Teller captivates After-School crowd

Ruskin, 2/29/00:

If you think stories are for small children only, you are in for a surprise!

The Wimauma After School program participants (Success Center and DOP) were treated to a performance by world renowned professional story teller, Ms. Margaret Olivia Wolfson.

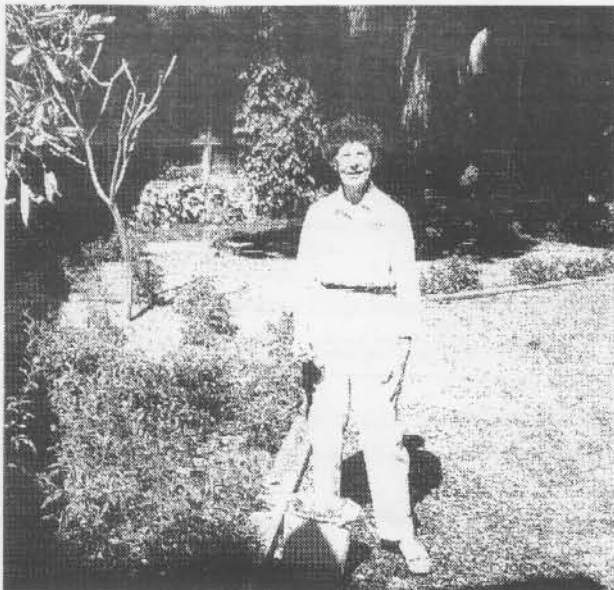
Ms. Wolfson capti-



Photo by Josie Gracia
Enthusiastic audience helps Ms. Wolfson make the stories come alive.

vated her audience of approximately 125 children with her rendition of the South African myth "Rain Goddess" and other stories from around the world.

Other R-Day activities at the Success Centers included story-telling in a camping tent at Iglesia de Dios and library card sign-up at the Ruskin library.



ROLLASON CENTER GARDEN BLOSSOMS:

Thanks to Doris Lee, number one volunteer at the Rollason Center, the flowers and shrubs received some tender loving care. When Doris is not in the garden she can be found helping to file, stuff, and sort large amounts of needed paper. Thank you Doris for your commitment!

Wahneta staff and Sysco man team-up to provide rapid response to fire

Fire was coming from the stove. Without hesitation, Graciana Flores, cook, and Maria Martinez, teacher acted to protect the children. Olga Rojas, early childhood specialist pulled the alarm and the children were out of the building in under a minute.

Meanwhile, Mr. Otis Edwards, "The Sysco Man" was making his normal food delivery. When he spotted the flames he moved to action. The Sysco man smothered the fire with the foamy contents of his extinguisher. Center coordinator, Cristina Dragustinovos calls him a hero.

It turns out that the fire was caused by a cleaning brush that was wedged in the grill. After the fire, inspectors from the gas company came to check the stove. They found two leaks. The leaks did not start the fire, but in the future, could have caused a much bigger fire. Special thanks go out to the excellent RCMA Wahneta staff for protecting our children, and to Mr. Edwards for putting out the fire.

**Professional Development
Corner**

Congratulations to Betty Graham, lead teacher at Avon Park Head Start for accomplishing her goal to receive her High School Diploma. Joining Betty are Debra Neverson, early childhood specialist, Lake Placid, Margarita Ferreyra, service support assistant, Redlands CDC, and Marlene Mirande, teacher, at Bonita Springs Migrant Head Start.

Not only do these individuals have their diplomas as a reward, but thanks to an RCMA benefit they are \$150 dollars richer!



WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Join Marlene Miranda of Bonita Springs Migrant Head Start!

Seen here with her diploma and a \$150 bonus!



APPLAUSE

Congratulations to Chenett McGahee, and her family. They will be moving into their new home on April 29th!

Congratulations to Rollason Pre, Infant and Annex on receiving their NAEYC reaccreditation! If your center has recently received reaccreditation please share this news with the HOY!



Proud Parents

Congratulations to Martha Perina, teacher at Redlands CDC, and family who welcome Juan Ramiro, born February 11, 2000.

Congratulations to Maria Garcia, office manager, Rollason Center and her family. They welcome Ramona G. Garcia who was born on February 24, 2000.

Parents as Teachers program helps staff help parents

By Karen Budnick
Social Service/Mental Health Specialist

If you want to know the keys to having success with your families just call or visit Juanita Gilyard, family support specialist, and Aurora Perez, outreach worker at the Pomona Park Head Start Center in Palatka. Juanita and Aurora are having satisfaction and success with their parents/families because they are trained parent educators. Both of them are certified Parents As Teachers educators who are using the PAT curriculum to help them help parents succeed.

Parents as Teachers is an early childhood parent education and family support program designed to help all parents give their children the best possible start in life.

The program provides parents with information on child development ages 0-5, and suggests learning opportunities that encourage the development of language, intellect, physical and social skills.

Well, what exactly are some of these keys? Some



of the most basic keys to having success, fun and satisfaction with your families are to believe and understand the following:

- ◆ Children are born learners.
- ◆ Children learn the most from the people they love – their parents.
- ◆ Parents are the experts on their own children.
- ◆ All parents deserve support in their parenting role.

- ◆ Diversity and cultural differences are valued.
- ◆ All families have strengths, and all parents want to be good parents.

Knowing and using these basic concepts is a plus when working with families. However, there is more to do.

Juanita and Aurora have taken it to the next level. During home visits Juanita and Aurora use the step by step instructions of the Parents As Teachers Curriculum with the parents. They sit and talk to both the Mom and Dad as to how things are going at home. From there they talk about the child's development, what concerns the Mom and Dad may have and model for the parents what activities will promote healthy development for their child.



Both are supportive, show care and understanding and reinforce the good about the parents. At the end of the visit they leave an activity for the parents to do with the child. How did the parents feel about the home visit? The father and mother loved it. They want to learn how to be good parents. They want their child to grow and develop. How did Juanita and Aurora feel about PAT and the home visit? Both feel proud and happy to help their families. Plus they have new enthusiasm because they have the keys to be knowledgeable, successful and competent with their families.

If you are interested in learning more about Parents As Teachers call Juanita & Aurora at 904-649-6790.

Editor: Leslie Moguil
Staff Writer: Tom Moonan
Please send suggestions, comments, and Letters to the Editor to the following address:
RCMA HOY Editor,
Redlands Christian Migrant Association
402 West Main Street, Immokalee, FL 34142
PHONE: 1-800-282-6540 FAX: 1-941-658-3571

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