



Your First Choice For Quality  
Child Care and Education

## Play Centers at West Towson Elementary School

6914 North Charles Street

Towson, Maryland 21204

410.494.7134

Hours of Operation: 7:00a.m. - 9:00a.m. / 3:00p.m. - 6:00p.m

[www.playcenters.org](http://www.playcenters.org)

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# May 2012



### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DIANE MELLOTT

As the temperatures continue to rise, please be aware of the following:

- According to school policy, domestic pets are prohibited in school buildings or on school grounds during school hours and when children are still in the building. Please be reminded that pets should be left at home when you are dropping off and picking up your children to and from Play Centers.
- We want everyone to be reminded that schools may occasionally close early due to high temperatures. As you know, *if schools close early*, we are *not* permitted to offer after school care on that day. Additionally, *if schools do not close early*, the BCPS Superintendent may still cancel after school activities and, if that occurs, we are *not* permitted to offer after school care on that day. We have just been cautioned by BCPS-Office of Purchasing and Office of Facilities that after school providers are not permitted to report to the school at all on those afternoons. Therefore, please be proactive with your child's teacher and school administration by letting them know, in writing, what the emergency procedure is that your child should follow in the event that a school early closing or after school activities cancellation should occur between now and the end of the school year. Many of our families have expressed frustration at receiving so many phone calls regarding these events and others have expressed frustration at not receiving phone calls in a timely way. Even in the best of circumstances, it is impossible to phone our 1,200 school-age families as quickly as we'd like, so we will no longer be calling parents to alert them to emergency closings. Please be reminded that there are numerous sources of information and alerts regarding such closings. Play Centers sends email alerts to all of the email addresses we have on file via the Play Centers' Email Notification Form. In addition, we offer emergency text messaging. Sign-up for text alerts is available on our website. Simply click "Lightning McQueen" and follow the steps. In addition, other alert systems such as schoolsout.com and the emergency alert programs offered by WBAL, for example, are also options. Of course, notifications are posted on the [www.bcps.org](http://www.bcps.org) website as well. Take time now to get set-up for all of your preferred notification systems, communicate with your school as to the emergency plan your child will follow, and talk to your child so he/she knows what to expect should we experience a super hot day and a closing/cancellation occurs. Planning and practicing with your child should alleviate most of the stress associated with these unexpected emergencies.

Thank you so much for the continued partnership and enjoy the rest of the school year!

School-age Participant Surveys were recently distributed. If you have not completed yours, you may download the survey at [www.playcenters.org](http://www.playcenters.org) or see your center Director.

### FROM ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE KARI THOMAS

Questions about your account?

Please contact your personal AR Coordinator,  
Kari Thomas, at 410.296.4880, ext. 111  
M-F, 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

*Please be sure to visit School-Age AR - Page 2 of All Newsletters via our "Important Information" tab for more detailed information!*

### FROM THE DIRECTOR BRANDON BILES

**Thursday, June 7, 2012**

School **CLOSES** 3 hours early.

Play Centers will offer care before school and from early dismissal until 6:00 p.m.!

**Friday, June 8, 2012**

School **CLOSES** 3 hours early.

Play Centers will offer care before school and from early dismissal until 6:00 p.m.!

### STAFF

Mr. Brandon, Ms. Nicole, Ms. Heather,  
Ms. Becky, Ms. Christin, Ms. Jess and Ms. Kyla

### THEMES

Hawaii Week  
Tech Week  
Arts & Crafts Week  
Invention Week

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**Monday, May 28, 2012**

**Memorial Day Observed—Schools Closed.  
Play Centers will be closed!**

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

■ Ethan D. 5/28 ■ Brandon D. 5/24 ■ Vincent G. 5/21  
■ Lilia H. 5/30 ■ Skylar J. 5/15 ■ Robert L. 5/12  
■ Colin M. 5/13 ■ Olivia N. 5/10 ■ Yunseo P. 5/14  
■ Carlyle T. 5/16 ■ Vicky Y. 5/6