

FALL 2022

THE ACADEMY POST

OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back!

by Lesley Walsh-Everhart, Chief Executive Director

With great pleasure, I welcome you to the 2022 -2023 school year at Academy Child Development Center, and Academy's K.A.V.E. Club for School-Age students (Kids Active Enrichment). I hope you had an opportunity to spend quality time with your children, and they are rested, recharged, and prepared for a new school year filled with promise. As the Chief Executive Director of Academy, I am proud to lead this organization who has always prioritized children, values staff, and provides high-quality programs to families throughout the communities we serve.

“ACADEMY'S GOALS THIS YEAR WILL REMAIN FOCUSED ON CHILDREN FIRST.”

As Academy enters its 41st year serving children and families throughout Montgomery County, I assure you that the Academy team and I remain committed to developing and maintaining high-quality programming for the children in our care, as well as developing relationships and partnering with families, and providing ongoing, transparent communication.

WHAT'S IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

Welcome Back!...pg 1-2

Important Dates/Info...pg 2

Academy's Team...pg 3

SPLASHING into Fall...pg 4

A Successful Back-to-School...pg 4



Academy's professional staff is the solid foundation that our programs are built upon. As you read through our Academy Newsletter, you will see that there are numerous members of our Academy team who have spent the majority of their professional careers with our organization, and have served in various capacities over their decades of service to the Academy. We take tremendous pride in our staff who are passionate about children, education, child development, and school-age programming. I am honored to work with such an amazing and loyal team of individuals. As Academy looks to the future, we are excited about

our newest staff members who have joined our Academy team in recent years. We are extremely fortunate to have longtime staff to mentor and coach the future generation of Academy staff. Academy's goals this year will remain focused on children first and to follow our Mission:

- To offer high quality developmentally appropriate early childhood/school age programs.

- To provide safe, healthy and reliable early care and education, as well as child care options for working parents.

We recognize that parents are their child's first teachers. We support and partner with families to provide an environment that welcomes their collaboration and supports both cultural and family preferences, as our partnership plays a key role in their child's development and learning.

- Academy is committed to supporting and empowering families and communities through respectful and reciprocal relationships.
- To maintain a dedicated, professional staff through competitive salaries, benefits and ongoing professional development training.
- To develop and maintain partnerships with parents, staff, community, local, state and national organizations.
- To achieve and maintain the highest levels of EXCELS ratings in the State of Maryland

On behalf of Academy's Administration, Board of Directors, and Staff, we thank you for choosing Academy to meet your family's early care, education and school-age child care needs.

Once again, WELCOME BACK! Here's to an outstanding year at Academy!

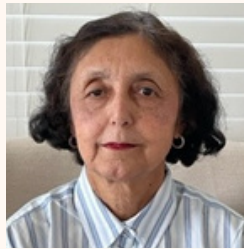
IMPORTANT DATES & INFO!

- **First Day of School**-Monday, Aug. 29, 2022
- **Student Drop-Off & Pick-Up:** ALL parents are responsible for escorting their child to and from their child's classroom (designated door) AND for signing their child in via the ProCare App. If you are a new family and have not accepted the invitation to join ProCare, please email your Center Director on or before Friday, August 26, 2022. YOU MUST DO THIS IN ORDER TO SIGN IN/OUT DAILY.
- **COVID Health and Safety Protocols:** All Academy programs/locations will continue to follow the CDC, Maryland Department of Health, and Montgomery County Health Department COVID 19 practices. Parents, if you are exhibiting any signs/symptoms of illness, please do not enter the center. We thank you in advance for helping us maintain a safe and healthy environment for all.
- **Center Hours:** As a reminder, each Academy center has its own hours of operation. Please contact your Center Director for further information.

ACADEMY'S TEAM



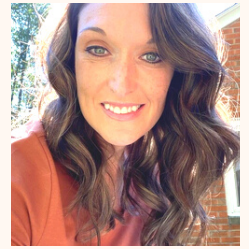
Lesley Walsh
Chief Executive Director



Naushaba Bokhari
Accreditation Director



Margaret Earl
IT Department



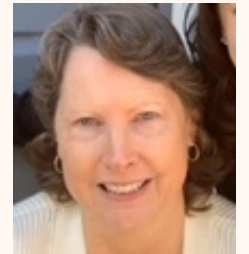
Amber Impton
Accounting Department



Megan McHale
Customer Relations Manager



Heather O'Brien
Accounting Department



Debbie Sullivan
HR Department & Pre-K
Grant Monitor

Kusum Rathod
Special Projects



Galway Team

(Left to Right: Clara Calderon, Sera Kim,
Azra Ali-West, Marissa Jagne-Shaw)

Splashing into Fall!



Summer 2022 treated us well! It was our first Summer here at Academy where things started looking a little more "normal" again since the COVID-19 outbreak and our students were able to be out-and-about a whole lot more. Academy's Summer in the K.A.V.E. program spent a lot of time making new friends, getting crafty, and cooling-off at the pool, while our Infant, Toddler, Preschool and Pre-K children splashed around during water play days, went on field trips and enjoyed some fun in the sun! Our staff are eager to create new memories, grow, and learn with their friends, old and new, this school year!

A SUCCESSFUL BACK-TO-SCHOOL!

Validation: It's normal to be nervous about the start of school, tell your child that. Most kids (and adults) have a hard time adjusting back to the school year routine. Let your child know that they are not alone!

Morning Routines: Sit down with your child and talk about what is expected before leaving for school in the morning. Ask your child to draw out each task as you talk about it (i.e. clothes for getting dressed) or if your child is older, they can write it down as you discuss it to engage them and help them feel involved.

Bedtime: Setting your child up for a successful night of rest may be the most important thing you can do to ensure they have a great day at school. Similar to morning routines, keeping the same schedule at night will help allow their bodies and minds to settle and relax.