



OP TIMES

The Onionpatch
Academy

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Deck the Halls

Christmas is almost here! It's the time of year that we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the excitement of that upcoming event dominates the month. Children are introduced to the sights and sounds of the holidays but we keep Jesus as the primary focus!

We discuss Christian principles and explore Mexican Christmas, Kwanzaa, Christmas in Bermuda and of course the joy of Christmas Day.

We will fill our hearts with the joy of Christmas making sure to take time to renew it in the Bible study and prayer time. This is the formula for keeping the birth of Jesus as the focal point of the season and the keeping the hustle and bustle and rush of the holidays in their place.

Merry Christmas!



Monthly Themes

December

This month we are learning about joys and celebration of Christmas.

Events

Friday, 16th December, 2011
Christmas Presentation and Party
Starts at 3:00 p.m.

Friday, 23rd December, 2011
Last day of school for Christmas
Break – school closes at 3:00pm

School closed until **3rd January, 2012**

Upcoming Birthdays

Amaris Munya – 7 December

Adriano Esdaille – 10 December

Micaela Pitcher – 10 December

Rajun Cox – 19 December

Le'ona Burgess – 23 December

Staff News

Last month we said goodbye to Rebecca DeShield who has moved on to other career prospects. We wish her success in her future endeavors.

We would like to officially welcome our new staff:

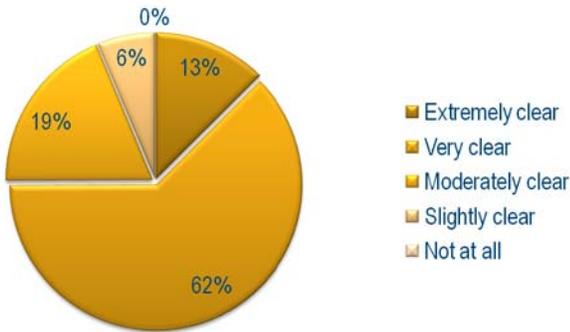
Lyndell Davis – Baby Onions

Kimberley Simmons – Baby Onions

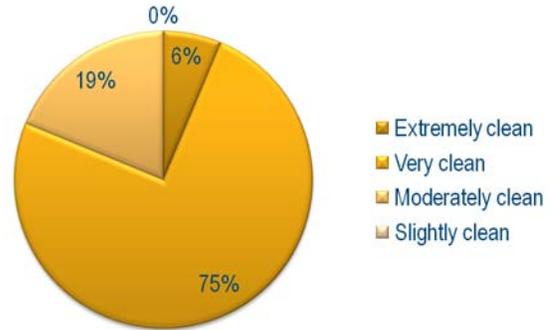
They join Nakia Furbert who has been instrumental in bringing creative and additional resources to the Baby Onions class.

Parent Survey Results

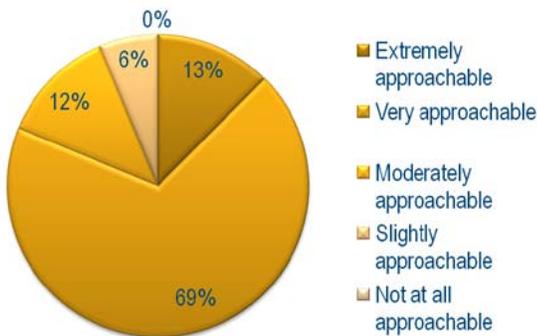
How clear is the information available on the website?



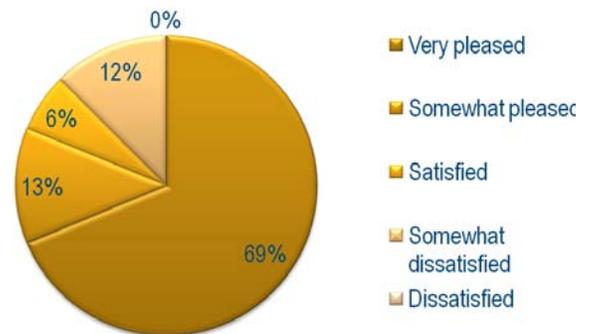
How clean are the facilities at Onionpatch?



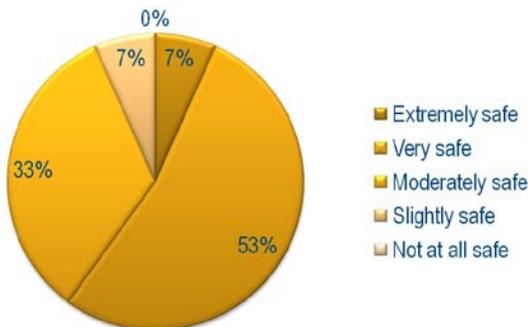
How approachable is management?



How do you feel about the education your child is receiving at Onionpatch?



How safe are the facilities at this school?

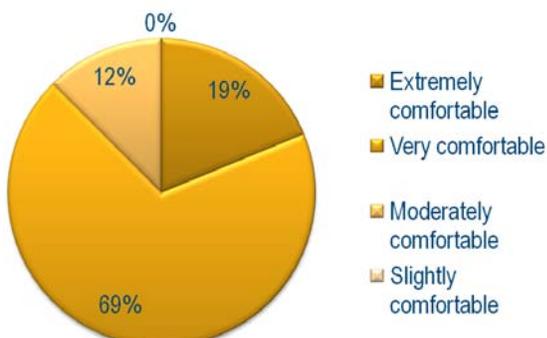


What are your opinions on the school uniform?

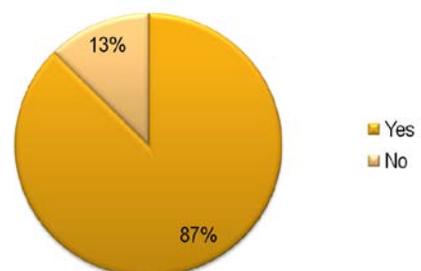
While the majority of people are comfortable with the current uniform, some persons expressed a desire to see the shirt color or the requirements for a uniform for children under 2 to be changed.

We are currently exploring these options. At the moment we do not have plans to change the school uniform.

How comfortable do you feel talking to teachers at Onionpatch about problems your child is having?



Do you feel you are receiving value for money?



How can we improve our services?

Thank you for your comments. There were so many we cannot relay them all. However, we would like to share with you some of the changes we will be making as a result of the comments. These include but are not limited to:

1. We will have daily checklists for children in the Baby Onions, Little Onions and Shallots classes to give parents an idea of what the child has been doing during the day. All teachers will be emailing weekly schedules to parents. We encourage parents to review the schedule and ask the appropriate teacher if there are any questions.
2. Some parents were interested in us offering additional programs such as music, dance or Spanish. We will be asking you shortly which of these you are willing to support and if there are any additional costs.
3. Before school closes on December 23, all parents will receive written correspondence on the academic and behavioral progress of their child.
4. We will be purchasing new toys and resources for the children but if you have anything that your child is no longer using and you think it would be helpful for us to add to our academic resources, please feel free to bring them in. We appreciate all donations.

We welcome all your suggestions as we continue to improve our services and build an environment where children can grow and learn aspiring to ever be the best!



Winter Uniform Reminder

1. Children under 12 months – white long sleeve onesies with logo with navy skirts or trousers
2. Children under 12 months blue jacket with logo
3. Children 12 months to 2 years – white long sleeve t shirt with logo navy skirts or trousers
4. Children 12 months to 2 years – navy hoodie with logo
5. Children 2 years to 4 years – white long sleeve polo shirt with logo navy skirts or trousers
6. Teachers – grey long sleeve polo shirt with navy skirts or trousers
7. Navy blue knee high socks or tights
8. Navy blue nylon jacket with logo
9. Navy blue school sweater (vest or cardigan) – no embellishments please!

Students should be in winter uniform no later than Tuesday, 3rd January, 2012 – the First Day of School.

Small Gifts for Children to Treasure

"Childhood is the world of miracle and wonder: as if creation rose and bathed in light, out of the darkness, utterly new and fresh and astonishing. The end of childhood is when things cease to astonish us. When the world seems familiar, when we have gotten used to existence, one has become an adult."
- Eugene Ionesco

Young children literally find the world wonderful - filled with wonder. Unfortunately, most have learned to value the store-bought item over the natural; the advertised item over the unknown surprise; the contents of the package over the colorful, crinkly packaging (especially that fun-to-pop bubble wrap).

But parents can try to maintain some balance in their approach to gift giving by taking advantage of the young child's openness to the world as a wonder-filled place. The key is for us to believe in the power and charm of the gift and turn the giving and the receiving into a ritual.

Some suggestions for inexpensive gifts for young children are:

- **Treasure boxes.** Any small box, tin, velvety jewelry box, or glasses case can be made special by decorating it and using it to store those secret treasures.
- **Secret journals.** A blank journal or notebook for those secret thoughts or ideas; for younger children, expressed in scribbles and drawings.
- **Items to collect.** Children are born to collect. They have a powerful implanted developmental disposition to acquire, sort, and order pieces of the world around them from stones, shells, leaves, and pine cones to match books, stamps, glass figurines, or foreign coins and currency. Almost anything small will do.
- **Stamps and inkpads.** These are great to collect and use in conjunction with journals for older preschool and school-age children. Of course, children need to be taught to be careful about stamping.
- **Ribbons.** Preschoolers find ribbons almost as valuable as BAND-AIDS and can use them to decorate everything from bedposts to bears.
- **Store-bought and homemade stickers.** Young children like stickers because they are a way to literally make an impression on their surroundings (and themselves). Giving children peel-off removable labels and markers, glue, glitter, ribbons, and so forth, allows them to create their own homemade stickers that won't ruin walls.

There are of course several other possibilities for inexpensive gifts you can give children for party favors, holidays, or special occasions. The more we observe our children and note what ends up in the pockets of these young growing scientists, artists, and collectors, the more we can surprise them with gifts to treasure.

**From the Staff and
Management of The Onionpatch
Academy we thank you for
your support and wish you a
very Merry Christmas and
Happy and Blessed New Year!**

