

Ministerial Day Care Association

2570 Superior Ave.

Cleveland, Ohio 44114

Phone: (216) 363-0400

Children's First Learning Centers

8409 Hough Ave.

12421 Superior Ave.

1416 Hayden Ave.

Superior Academy

7020 Superior Ave.

Brackland Academy

12416 Brackland Ave.

Church of the Master

4050 Monticello Blvd.

St. Mark Head Start

11123 Buckeye Road

Cory Head Start

1117 East 105th St.

Avon Head Start

10902 Avon Ave.

Zion Chapel

4208 Lee Road



Happy, Happy, Happy Birthday!

January

Belinda McBryde 1/2

Regina Corbin 1/4

Damita Davis 1/5

Secdonia Hall 1/14

Laura Terrill 1/16

Londria Hope 1/19

Tamika Chandler 1/23

Sheila Morris 1/23

Jacqueline Gardiner-Ford 1/24

Wilma Covarrubias 1/28

Valarie Thorpe-Baldwin 1/30

February

Kimberly Steele 2/1

Arianna Deadwyler 2/3

Patricia Williams 2/8

LaSandra Maynor 2/12

Jillian McGhee 2/15

Takita Smith 2/17

Zenaida Cristobal 2/17

Ethel Augustus 2/22

Lucy Reid 2/24

Florence Scruggs 2/24

Ebony Booker 2/26

WELCOME!

We have several new employees at our centers.

Please be sure to welcome them all!

MARCH/APRIL NEWSLETTER

If your center is doing something great, be sure to take a few photos and let the entire MDCA family know about it in the next newsletter.

So that there is no delay in getting the newsletter out the **first week** of March, please have everything to Darlene Jeter by Wednesday, Feb. 23rd.

Thank you in advance.

Our Vision: "The Sooner They Start, The Further They'll Go."

Ministerial Day Care/Head Start Association, a visionary trendsetter, will meet the diverse needs of our children, families and communities by offering high quality, comprehensive services, in an environment where diversity is valued, power is shared and individuality is respected and rewarded. We will develop and sustain relationships in the community, building partnerships and opportunities that are responsive in meeting and exceeding the performance standards of our lines of business. We will be the stellar early childhood development and supportive services agency committed to excellence at all times.

MDCA-Head Start

January/February 2011

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Shout Out To...

Maya Emory, a child care worker at Superior Academy, for receiving her CDA.

Verneda Bentley

Executive Director's Notes

Our Children Deserve The Best

At MDCA, our children are No. 1. That is our agency's motto because our children deserve the best. They deserve to have the best teachers and staff members who want to serve as examples. They deserve to be shown love. They deserve to be ready for kindergarten.

We, as MDCA staff members, must get back on track and remember that we are Head Start. Head Start's mission is to give children a head start at being successful.

MDCA children should receive special treatment. The type of treatment that is no different from the way we would treat our very own child. We want our children to know their ABCs. We want our children to know how to count. We want our children to be sociable during mealtime. We want them to learn about science.

Head Start's mission is also to empower our parents. Over our agency's 40 years, we have been one of the best at helping parents. If we don't give our parents a good Head Start, we have failed. We do not want our parents to be disenfranchised or remain impoverished because of missed opportunities. We want our parents to grow with their children.

As you serve our children, keep in mind that we have a responsibility to serve our parents to help them grow. We should invite them to let us know how we can help with education or job training or anything that they may need. They trust us with their children and our goal should be to help not only the children but the families.

We must want to make a difference. We must make a difference for our children.

Holiday Cheer



Santa Bentley (Verneda Bentley) handed out gifts to staff during the Employee Holiday Party.



Mrs. Berkeley Dixon and Mrs. Brinda Agee enjoyed the food and fun.



Staff members talked, laughed and ate plenty in celebration of the holidays.

Photos by Daryl Thomas



Mmmmm Mmmmm Cupcakes!

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 5 & 12: Family Literacy Library & Training @Hayden at 4 p.m.
- Jan. 19 & 26: Family Literacy Library & Training @ COTM at 4 p.m.
- Jan. 13: Avon Parent Meeting at 4 p.m. Superior Academy Parent Meeting at 5 p.m.
- Jan. 17: Martin Luther King Jr. Day - ALL sites closes in observance of holiday.
- Jan. 18: CFL Hough Parent Meeting at 5 p.m. and Zion Parent Meeting at 5 p.m.
- Jan. 20: Parent Policy Meeting @ Superior Academy at 5:30 p.m.
- Jan. 27: Policy Committee Meeting @ Superior Academy at 5:30 p.m.
- Feb. 9: CFL Hayden and Brackland Parent Meetings at 4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 15: CFL 124th Parent Meeting at 5 p.m.
- Feb. 22: Cory Parent Meeting at 8 a.m.
- Feb. 22: MDCA Skating Party Fundraiser from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. at United Skate of America, located at 30325 Palisades Pkwy in Wickliffe. The cost is \$5.
- Feb. 24: Black History Program and Family Dinner @ Superior Academy at 6 p.m.

Avon's Holiday Gift Shop

Avon Head Start held a Holiday Gift shop for Christmas. The children got a chance to experience the joy of choosing their own holiday gifts for family and friends. No gifts exceeded \$5. It was well worth the money to see their faces light up. The Holiday Gift shop was sponsored by John Traylor's Johnai's Candy & Gift Shop, located at 4839 Turney Road in Garfield Heights.



Mr. John Traylor and Ms. Gandora Johnson helped Avon children shop for the holidays. From left to right, the children are Sha'Riff Johnson, Keri Knight and Staysha Old.



Sha'Riff Johnson filled his bag with goodies for his loved ones. Mr. Kelvin Barnes, a parent parent volunteer (in background), helped another student.



Left: Mr. John Traylor enjoyed the shopping experience with the children. His daughter, Johnai, attends Avon Head Start.

Photos by Ms. Yvette Giles

Brackland's Holiday Celebrations



Left: Brackland's children performing at the Christmas performance. **Right:** Ms. Renee Ross and Mrs. Thelma Seward with Santa.



Brackland's children with Santa and their Christmas toys.
Photos by Mrs. Brinda Agee, Ms. Kimiko Jones, Ms. Valarie Baldwin

Christmas Giving



Five families from Brackland Academy received turkeys and food baskets because of the success of Brackland Academy's food drive. Ms. Michelle Norman and her daughter, Maurkita, received one of the turkeys. Turkeys were donated by Ms. Fonda McClain, grandmother of toddler Jahmar McClain. Thank you!!!!

Church of the Master's Breakfast With Santa

Thank you to Church of the Master's Parent Committee and CJ's Catering, located at 1431 Warrensville Center Road, for providing food for the Breakfast with Santa event.



CJ's owner Carl Horton and one of his employees.



Jacen Greene smiled for the camera.

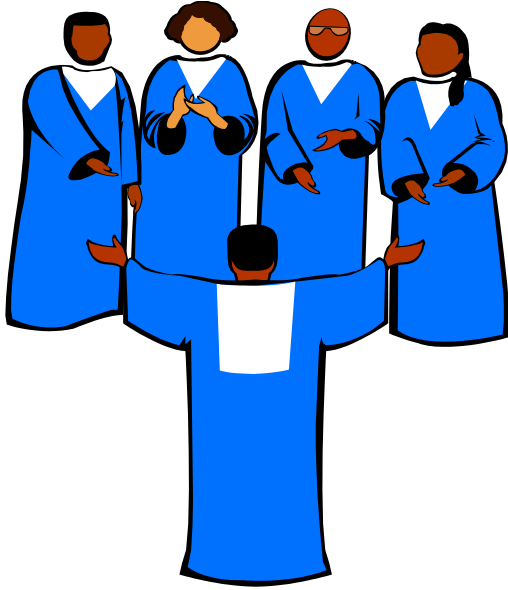


Makenna Reddix, Antjuan Boyce and Amya Wallace.
Photos by Ashanti Allison



Celena Boykins and her father, Walter Boykins.

Lift Ev'ry Voice And Sing MDCA



If you like lifting your voice in praise, the MDCA agency-wide Black History Month Choir wants you. The Choir will perform at this year's MDCA Black History Month program at 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 24.

While celebrating is part of the choir's mission, the other mission is to meet staff from other centers. Even if you are not the greatest singer, join the choir for the fellowship.

It will not take up a lot of your time. There will be approximately three rehearsals. The times and locations will be announced.

If you are interested in joining please contact Ms. Darlene Jeter or Mr. Daryl Thomas although Ms. Beverly Wright will serve as the Choir Director.

February Is... Black History Month and Children's Dental Health Month



National Children's Dental Health Month began as a one-day event in Cleveland, Ohio on Feb. 3, 1941. The American Dental Association held the first national observance of Children's Dental Health Day on Feb. 8, 1949. This single-day observance became a week-long event in 1955, and in 1981 the program was extended to a month-long celebration known today as National Children's Dental Health Month. ~Source: <http://www.aap.org>

Black History: Did You Know?



Clarence Otis, Jr. is the chief executive officer of Darden Restaurants, which includes Olive Garden, Red Lobster, Longhorn Steakhouse, The Capitol Grille and Bahama Breeze restaurants. He is one of the few black CEOs of a Fortune 500 company.

MDCA Goes To Disney On Ice

Over 600 MDCA-Head Start students got a chance to attend Disney on Ice Toy Story 3 Sunday, Jan. 16 and Monday, Jan. 17 because of a donation from Feld Entertainment. Based on the feedback, our families enjoyed the show immensely.



Toy Story 3



MDCA families were among thousands who enjoyed the show.



Janiya Antanea Thomas enjoyed the show with her grandfather Daryl Thomas, MDCA's receptionist.



The set for Toy Story 3 was full of bright colors and animated Disney characters who kept the attention of the young and old at heart.