

# HOOT-N- HOLLER



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
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THE RICHARD F. BLAKE CENTER

65 HORSEHILL ROAD, CEDAR KNOLLS, NJ

SPRING 2023 ISSUE

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

A newsletter for enrolled families of the Blake Center

## A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO MEGAN AND DAVID!

### PLEASE GIVE A WARM WELCOME TO BABY MARIA!

The Blake Center is so pleased for Megan and her growing family! All of us at the Greater Morristown YMCA as a whole wish to say that this is a beautiful time in your life, Megan, that you will never want to forget. We hope you have a happy and healthy journey ahead with your family."

Congratulations again, and we look forward to seeing baby Maria at the Blake Center soon!



## DID YOU KNOW?

The Richard F. Blake Children's Center was the first childcare center to be accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) in New Jersey. Today, only 7% of childcare facilities receive this prestigious recognition which is recertified every five years via a rigorous application process. We work hard to ensure we maintain our stellar reputation of providing top-notch childcare to our enrolled families. We are pleased to announce that we just received our reaccreditation this year!

## STAFF WORK ANNIVERSARIES

Meghan B - 23 years February 5th

Stephanie - 1 year March 21st

Jessica R. - 10 years March 25th

Adriana - 1 year March 29th

Joseline - 2 years April 26th

Karen L - 9 years May 20th

Marleen - 17 years May 22nd

## BLAKE STAFF BIRTHDAYS

Jan.	3rd:	Carly
	18th:	Marta
	22nd:	Erika
	27th:	Rickeisha
	28th:	Stepanie

Feb.	10th:	Meghan B.
	18th:	Kim V
	28th:	Sarah S.

March	14th:	Megan R.
	16th:	Selenia
	27th:	Cris
	30th:	Zory

April	27th:	Eve
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May	3rd:	Charlize
	4th:	Vivi
	7th:	Jess G.
	25th:	Samantha

# MARIA BARAKAT

Our new Director of Child Care for the Richard F. Blake Children's Center.

Dear Families,

I am thrilled to be joining The Richard F. Blake Children's Center as your new Director! Working with children and families is a true passion of mine. For the past 6 years, I have been a Director who has worked with hundreds of children from infants to elementary students and their families. Providing high quality care and education in an environment that fosters child development is the most valuable gift that can be given to any child. I have earned my Bachelor's Degree in Family and Child Studies with a Psychology minor.

I enjoy my job and could not imagine doing anything else. I am also a mother to three amazing children. I understand how crucial caregivers and educators are with the most important people in your world.

I look forward to getting to know everyone and continuing to uphold the reputation of this excellent center.

Sincerely,  
Maria Barakat



## INFANT & WADDLER UPDATE

Our infant area is always very busy with many of our babies on the move. There is always a lot of action! A few of our babies have grown into Waddlers during the last few months, but we love getting to see them in their new classrooms. We will also soon be welcoming new babies to our Blake Family!



## TODDLER UPDATE

February has been fun-filled and fabulous! Toddlers have been learning new songs and fingerplays. They have also been making beautiful artwork to decorate our classrooms using a variety of different mediums. These different mediums have provided them the chance to learn and discover. March will also be busy because we have lots of exciting activities planned.



# PRESCHOOL UPDATE

We are very busy learning to be independent individuals. The children are learning to take care of their own belongings, such as putting their bags in the own cubbies and hanging up their own jackets. Throughout the day the children are learning to use their words to solve problems, to play together, talk and listen to each other. The children are also learning to recognize their colors, shapes, alphabet, numbers and much more through play, talking to each other and to their teachers.



# STAFF PROMOTIONS

Please be aware of the following staff and classroom changes:

Ms. Karen M. will be moving from Preschool 1 to Preschool 2 and working with 3-4 year olds. She will be taking over room 15 (currently Ms. Bambi's room), just around the corner from her current room.

Ms. Adriana has been promoted to Lead Teacher for Preschool 1 (room 13) and will be taking over Ms. Karen M.'s class.

We are truly excited for these new ventures for our hard-working teachers!

Thank you as always for your continued support of our dedicated staff. Should you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us.



# PRESCHOOL UPDATE (MSD)

Preschool MSD- We recently finished our roads study! We learned a lot about Roads: How roads are built, why we need roads in our everyday lives, why road signs/traffic signs are important (and what happens when we do not follow road/traffic signs), how to stay safe driving on roads, and so much more! We truly enjoyed the Roads study; we know that, throughout the school year, we will continue to refer to the many things we learned about Roads. We are working on the water study now and next we will begin the camera study.





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**THE RICHARD F. BLAKE CHILDREN'S CENTER**

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Cedar Knolls, NJ 07927  
973.984.2255

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER IN 2023!

Monday, September 4th:	Labor Day
Thursday, November 23rd:	Thanksgiving
Friday, November 24th:	Thanksgiving Break
Monday, December 25th:	Christmas
Tuesday, December 26th:	Christmas Break
Wednesday, December 27th:	Christmas Break
Thursday, December 28th:	Christmas Break
Friday, December 29th:	Christmas Break

### WE'RE HIRING!

At the Richard F. Blake Children's Center, we are always looking for qualified individuals who love working with children. We offer competitive salary, great health benefits, free gym memberships and flexible schedules. Please call us at 973.984.2255 with any questions. We also accept volunteers!

