

Dear Chesterbrook Families,

Thank you all so much for the huge welcome you have shared with me over the past few weeks as I have become acclimated to your school. Everyone has been very patient with me as I learn about your school and the daily schedules. In the upcoming weeks, I will be focusing on getting into the classrooms more frequently to visit and observe. During the week of October 19<sup>th</sup> I will be attending the Nobel Learning Communities, Inc. Principal's Conference in Las Vega, Nevada. I am very eager to go and learn what new initiatives and developments our company has to offer you the supportive families.

Since this is my first official newsletter please allow me to provide you with a little bit of personal information about myself. I have 27 years experience working in child care. I started working at Chesterbrook Academy in Royersford, on October 7, 1996 as an Infant Room teacher; I then became a Beginner teacher, prior to starting as a management team member in 1998.

I am a bit embarrassed now to admit, that when I called to schedule my interview, I was not aware of a town called Royersford, or was I familiar with 422. My hometown and where I reside now is Boyertown.

I hold a certificate in Early Childhood Education Teaching, a dual Associates Degree in Early Childhood Education Teaching and Management, a Dual Bachelor's Degree in Applied Psychology and Human Resource Management, and I am currently attending Shippensburg University for my Master's Degree in ECE Curriculum and Instruction and have attended over 500 hours of trainings for Early Childhood Education.

In addition to my daily placement at Chesterbrook Academy in Limerick, I also assist throughout our District with our accounting program, auditing processes and have become a trainer for our company on an individual basis as well as for our staff development days.

In my personal time I enjoy spending time with my significant other and my 16 year old niece who I am a guardian too. Hobbies I enjoy participating in include reading, attending motorsport events and car shows, home improvement projects, flea marketing/antiquing, craft projects and adding to my Donald Duck collection to just name a few.

I am honored to be a principal at your child's school, and look forward to assisting in the enhancement of their early childhood education experience as a part of Chesterbrook Academy.

**Don't forget that our IN-SERVICE DAY has changed.**

**WE WILL BE CLOSED ON ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 3, 2015 for TEACHER IN-SERVICE DAY**

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to stop by the office, send an e-mail or reach out by phone. I am here to assist and support you in any way that I can.

Have a great month!

We hope to see you at the Halloween Costume Parade on Friday, October 30, 2015 at 3pm!

*Donna Baus*

Donna Baus, Principal

# ***WE DID IT!***

I am coming in on the tail end of the process, but KUDOS to Miss Lisa, Miss Rebecca, Miss Deirdre and the teachers for obtaining a level 3 STAR Status. Over the next few months, we will be receiving a grant to provide more educational enhancements in the classrooms, the teachers will each receive a retention reward bonus, and we will start focusing on raising our status level to a Star 4 school. For those of you who might not be aware of exactly what Keystone STARS is I have taken the following excerpt from [www.pakeys.org](http://www.pakeys.org) for your clarification.

## **Keystone STARS: Improving Quality Through:**

**S** –Standards

**T** - Training/Professional Development

**A** – Assistance

**R** – Resources and

**S** – Support

Keystone STARS is an initiative of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) to improve, support, and recognize continuous quality improvement efforts of early learning programs in Pennsylvania.

The Keystone STARS Performance Standards provide the foundation for the program.

The Performance Standards are grouped into four levels:

**STAR 1, STAR 2, STAR 3 and STAR 4.**

### **STAR Level 3**

- Even more professional development and training hours than STAR 2 requires.
- Half of the staff completed or are enrolled in credentials or degrees.
- Learning materials are available for a large part of the day.
- Literacy activities, including reading to children, storytelling, and encouraging written and verbal communication take place often during the day.
- Increased parental involvement
- Written policies and procedures
- Implementation of a financial system, increased staff compensation, and benefits

Each level builds on the previous level and utilizes research-based best practices to promote quality early learning environments and positive child outcomes. The standards address staff qualifications and professional community and leadership and management.

This is a great accomplishment that could not have been completed without the support and dedication from you our families.