



# SARAH CORSON CHILD CARE & LEARNING CENTER

March 2021 Newsletter

## Welcome New Staff

We have had three new staff members join us since the beginning of the year. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Nikko, Infant Teacher; Lillian, Infant Aide; and Caitlin, Pre-K Aide. They all come to us with prior experience working with children.

## Happy St. Patrick's Day

We will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day on Wednesday, March 17. We encourage all staff and children to wear green! All Toddler and Pre-school classes will be celebrating with class parties on this special day.

## Annual Inspections

We passed our annual fire and health inspections with perfect marks. We are awaiting the Licensing Inspection.

## Easter Celebration

Easter Egg Hunts will be Friday, April 2, in all our Toddler and Preschool classes. We will gladly accept donations of plastic eggs, peanut-free treats, and small toys to add to what we already have. We wish to help our children celebrate in a BIG WAY this year, as we did not get to have an Easter Egg Hunt last year.

## COVID Update



Two Pre-K girls enjoy playing a game of Bingo



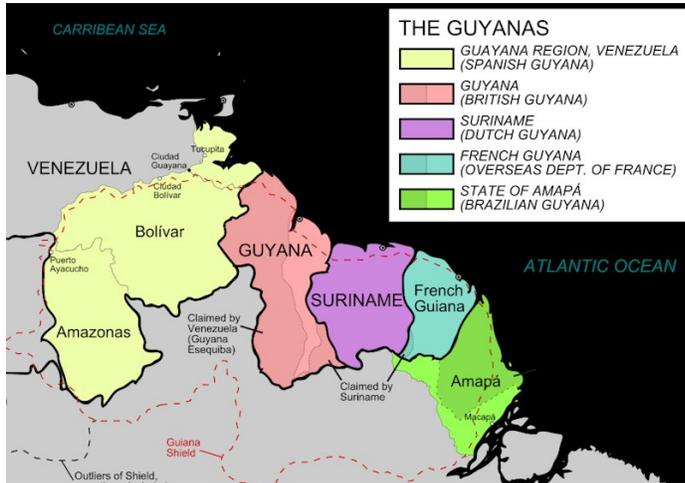
We continue to operate under our Emergency Child Care License status. We must keep Infant, Toddler 1 and Toddler 2 students separate in their stable groups. Our Preschool and Pre-K classes remain as technically one class, although we continue to operate this one class in two separate groups. We continue to take temperatures of children and staff and any other adults who must enter the building. Sanitizing hands before entrance is also required. All adults in the building must wear masks, and parents must mask up for drop off and pick up.

Our operating hours are from 8 a.m. to 5p.m. We anticipate that we may be operating under these conditions for quite some time yet. Just as soon as any information about going back to "the way things were" is learned, we will pass it on to all families.

—Jaime Snider, director

# Tales from the jungle

By PAULETTE AVERY



New member Jan Barrett had a childhood most of us can hardly imagine. Born second to the youngest in a family of five children, Jan grew up in what was then British Guyana, a small country on the northern coast of South America where her parents were missionaries. The family left Guyana after Jan completed the third grade. They moved to the jungles of Brazil and Jan lived there until she graduated from high school and came to the U.S. to attend college at Seattle Pacific University.

When asked about stories from her childhood, Jan told me of these interesting experiences:

- There were no showers in the jungle so they bathed in the river. Sometimes while bathing they encountered globs of oil, dumped by upstream refineries. The oil got into their hair and required repeated shampoos to remove. The air

was so hot and humid that mold could grow in their hair. So whenever their hair got wet they tried to get it totally dry with time in the sun.

- The river also contained what they called sucker fish and sticker fish. They did their best to avoid both. The sucker fish might adhere to their skin and the sticker fish could inflict their stickers. And then there was ant bottom season. During this time each year, the children would catch ants, carefully screw off their bottom portions, and when they had enough, fried them into a treat resembling popcorn.

To Jan and her siblings, it was a normal life. Their family returned to the U.S. for a year after each four years of service, and to Jan and her siblings being in a place with so many people and all the traffic was abnormal and frightening. It's all a matter of perspective.

Jan is the mother of three adult children and has two grandkids. She is a nurse and works part-time at Asante. When we can be together again at church, you may find Jan helping assemble bag lunches or working with the Food Bank. And if you ask, she probably has other interesting stories to tell.



Guyana's logo, adopted at independence from Britain in May, 1966

**PARTY BY ZOOM**

*Sunday March 14 at 7 p.m.*

Watch for an email with the zoom link.