

Chestnut Hill Local

Vol. XLVIII, No. 23

Thursday, April 30, 2009

75¢/Copy

Tree House Café celebrates reopening in new space



Rachael Williams, founder of the Little Treehouse Play Cafe, checks out the new space with her three adopted daughters (left to right) Eva, 4 years old; Rosa Bianca, 3 years old; and Lydia, 5 years old. The Little Treehouse Play Cafe, in Chestnut Hill, provides a fun and stimulating place for both parents and children to enjoy.

By Jennifer Katz

In its new location, the Little Tree House Café is the epitome of a child's vision of an ideal playroom. With its wooden toys and oversized stuffed animals, padded slides and matted floors, and large brightly colored flowers suspended from the ceiling, the play area beckons to the knee-high set.

This weekend the café will celebrate its grand reopening with a three-day celebration that kicks off on Friday, May 1.

"It's a way to thank our customers," said Williams of the approximately 1,500 families that currently frequent the café. "We want people to see the new space and to hear about our plans for the future."

The celebration will include music and movement class by Sally's Music Circle, magic shows by Enchantment Theater

Company and JacobJax, face painting, a balloon artist, free play on all three days and a children's concert from Peter Moses.

In April the café moved from its original location at 8524 Germantown Ave. Williams owns the new building, which boasts more than 3,000 square feet on the first floor and another 3,000 square feet in the basement. Williams said future plans include creating a tumbling room and a party room in the basement.

"With the space we were able to add more toys," she said. "And more structures made out of wood."

Williams puts thought into every aspect of the café, from the selection of wooden toys — a choice she attributes to the Waldorf School her three adopted children attend — to the café area's arrangement of tables and chairs.

"Most places are geared to either children or adults," she said. "I wanted to create a place that was geared to both."

"Kids have a great time while absorbed in wholesome imaginative play in a very safe way and for adults it's become a meeting place."

The grand opening festivities begin on Friday at 10 a.m. with a music and movement class, followed by an 11 a.m. ribbon cutting ceremony and a grand prize drawing later on that day. On Saturday, guests will be treated to magic shows every 30 minutes, a children's concert and another grand prize drawing. And on Sunday, the fun begins all over again with repeat magic shows and music and movement classes as well as a final grand prize drawing. A full list of the activities can be found on the café's Web site at www.treehouseplaycafe.com.