

Neighbors

ONONDAGA COUNTY WEST

THE POST-STANDARD
THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2012

CALENDAR:

Have some free time?
Here's what's going on
PAGE 22



Michelle Gabel / The Post-Standard

BASCOL EXECUTIVE Director Candace Edwards is shown with Jack Stott, 6, a first-grader, during the after school child care program, BASCOL, at Willowfield School in Clay. BASCOL marks 20 years of providing child care. There are 13 sites in five school districts.

20 Years of Childcare

BASCOL serves students in 5 school districts in county **PAGE 3**

LOU'S
CAR CARE CENTER
315-638-0281

AMAZING
MONTH OR 24,000 MILE
Parts & Labor Warranty

MULTIPLE TOP SHOP AWARD-WINNER

Family Owned & Serving the Baldwinsville Community for Over 35 Years

WE WILL MATCH OR BEAT COMPETITORS PRICING ON TIRES

For in stock and non-discontinued tires.



0% FOR 6 MONTHS
DRIVE NOW, PAY LATER!

On purchases over \$299 and pending approval

\$24.95

"The Works"

- Synthetic Blend Oil Change
- 35-Point Courtesy Check
- Rotate & Inspect 4 Tires
- Inspect Brakes System
- Check Belts & Hoses
- Top Off Fluids

Cannot be combined with other coupons. Most cars. With this coupon.



Don't get stranded with a dead battery

FREE Battery Check

\$10 off

New Battery or Battery Service

Cannot be combined with other coupons. Most cars. With this coupon.



WWW.LOUSCARCARE.COM • 7361 State Fair Blvd. • Baldwinsville, NY 13027

COVER STORY

A Safe Environment

Child care program, started by working parents, grew from 1 to 13 sites

By Becky Voss
Contributing writer

Two decades ago, concerned working parents had the idea to create a licensed, quality childcare program for school-age children for before and after school hours.

That is how Before and After School Child Care on Location Inc., known as BASCOL, got its start.

Now, as it celebrates its 20th anniversary, the program is still going strong. Since it began, it has expanded from its original site in Liverpool to 13 sites in five school districts in Onondaga County.

"We opened our first site in September of 1992, and two additional locations were opened that December — that's how quickly it took off," said Candace B. Edwards, executive director. "By 1995, there were a total of 11 sites."

BASCOL provides before- and after-school child care throughout the school year, including school holidays, week-long breaks, snow days, school delays and half-days. It currently operates in the Liverpool, Onondaga Central, Solvay, West Genesee and Westhill districts.

It also began providing summer care in 1997. The program is designed to meet each child's physical, social, emotional and intellectual needs, the organization's literature says. The core curriculum includes art, dramatic play, fine motor skills development, literacy, physical education, health and nutrition, science discovery, social and emotional development and special events including field trips.

"BASCOL's mission is to provide every child in grades K-6 with the best before- and



Michelle Gabel / The Post-Standard

YUNA WHEELER, 8, a third-grader, is shown on the monkey bars during the after school child care program, BASCOL, at Willowfield School in Clay. BASCOL marks 20 years of providing child care. There are 13 sites in five school districts.

after-school program. Our goals include being a fun and recreational-based program," Edwards said. "We create a safe, nurturing environment and our caring staff encourages each child to grow to their fullest potential."

In the beginning, BASCOL had a staff of two. That number has climbed to 42. In the classroom, the student to adult ratio is 10-1.

Edwards attributes 20-year success story to the people who make up the organization.

She called the staff "wonderful, caring and nurturing."

Katelyn Calkins, 10, from Liverpool said she likes spending her mornings and afternoons at the program. Her family has participated for six years.

To learn more

Before and After School Child Care on Location Inc., known as BASCOL, currently is enrolling new students and participants for the summer program. For more information on BASCOL, visit bascol.org, email information@bascol.org or call 622.4815.

"I would have never met my best friend if it wasn't for BASCOL," she said.

Katelyn's mother, Karen Calkins, of Clay, agrees, but for different reasons.

"As a working parent there is nothing more comforting than knowing your child is in good hands while you need to work," Calkins said.

"My children love the staff and the activities that are planned for them. Honestly, at times when picking up my kids, they have asked if I could come back later because they were having so much fun," Calkins said. "I am very grateful for the care they give my children."

Currently, there are 437 students enrolled.

Over the past 20 years, BASCOL has served more than 7,300 families.

However, the organization has experienced its ups and downs with enrollment.

"In the past 20 years, the demand for (the) child care has greatly increased year after year as more families began to need both parents working," said Edwards.

BASCOL locations

Liverpool Central School District:

Chestnut Hill, Donlin Drive, Elmcrest, Long Branch, Liverpool, Morgan Road, Nate Perry, Soule Road and Willow Field elementary schools.

West Genesee Central School District:

Stonehedge Elementary School

Westhill Central School District:

St. Ann's School

Onondaga Central School District:

Rockwell Elementary School
Solvay School District:
Solvay Elementary School

To visit

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, BASCOL will host open houses at its various locations. Children can participate in creative art activities within the classroom. All open houses are 4 to 6:30 p.m. Dates and locations for BASCOL open house are:

- April 26, Chestnut Hill Elementary School, Liverpool
- May 1, at Long Branch Elementary School, Liverpool
- May 2, at Rockwell Elementary School, Syracuse
- May 3, at Soule Road Elementary School, Liverpool
- May 7, at Liverpool Elementary School, Liverpool
- May 8, at Nate Perry Elementary School, Liverpool
- May 9, at St. Ann's School, Syracuse
- May 14, at Solvay Elementary School, Solvay
- May 15, at Elmcrest Elementary School, Liverpool
- May 16, at Stonehedge Elementary School, Camillus
- May 17, at Willow Field Elementary School, Liverpool

BASCOL, PAGE 5

BASCOL aims to expand across Upstate New York

BASCOL, FROM PAGE 3

"However, during the past three years, with the changes in the economy, more families are looking to alternate care — older siblings providing care, other family members, and older children staying by themselves," she said.

Looking to the future, Edwards said their goals are to

expand into new areas in Upstate New York and to seek both state and national accreditation.

Within the next school year, BASCOL will apply for the state afterschool accreditation by Afterschool Works! New York, as well as The National Afterschool's accreditation for standards for quality school age care.