

EDUCATION

BVG welcomed as READY! for Kindergarten sponsor

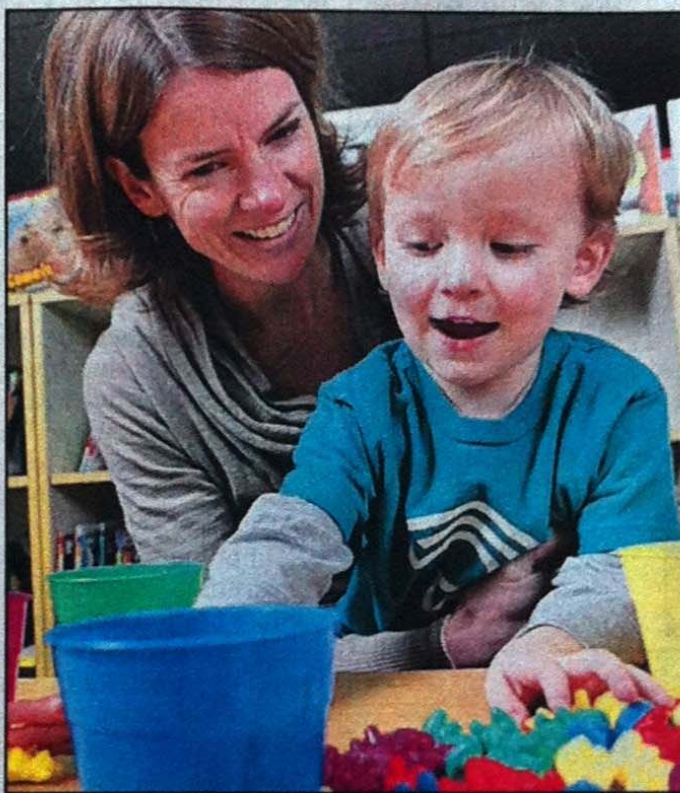
By KATHLEEN MULROY
For the Bee

SANDPOINT — Panhandle Alliance for Education is pleased to announce a charter corporate sponsor for the READY! for Kindergarten early childhood literacy program: BVG Incorporated, the developer of Seasons at Sandpoint.

"As a third-time benefactor of the Panhandle Alliance, BVG is again honored to be able to participate in a program that benefits so many of the children that live in this beautiful community," Brent Johnson, vice president of BVG Incorporated, said.

Johnson said BVG Incorporated understands the value of being able to give back to the communities in which they build.

"This includes donations to local charities, schools, and to help aid in improvements that benefit the local municipalities," he added. "Since Seasons opened in 2004, BVG has made substantial donations to a variety of organizations in Sandpoint, including the Festival at Sandpoint, the city fire department, and



—Photo courtesy PAFE

Amy and Pax Longanecker enjoy READY! toys.

as a major contributor to help finish the city marina in 2012."

Founded in 1999, BVG is an award-winning boutique-style resort developer which has built more than \$700 million dollars of exclusive waterfront condominium

communities in Florida, the Bahamas, and here in the Pacific Northwest. Seasons at Sandpoint, with its unmatched amenities, its picturesque location on the lake, and being within walking distance of downtown, is a unique community.

READY! for Kindergar-

ten is a national, research-based early childhood literacy program developed in conjunction with The Children's Reading Foundation. The fall, winter and spring workshops are offered free of charge to parents, grandparents and other caregivers of children from birth to age five.

Each workshop is held on a Saturday morning from 10-11:30 a.m., with free childcare offered for children from 13 months to 11 years old; parents new to READY! also attend an orientation at 9:30 a.m.

Each session focuses on a particular area of child development: literacy and learning in the fall, math and reasoning in the winter, and social and emotional growth in the spring. Parents learn how to "play with a purpose" with free toys, games, music and activities, which they then take home for their child. Also thanks to the Alliance, READY! for Kindergarten attendees receive a free monthly children's book, through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

The next session of READY! for Kindergarten parent workshops will

be held in Sandpoint on Saturday, Oct. 12. To register, please visit the website, www.readysandpoint.org, or call the Alliance office, 208-263-7040, as soon as possible. For more information on the READY! for Kindergarten program you can go to the national website, www.readyforkindergarten.org

The Panhandle Alliance for Education is a nonprofit organization composed of local citizens, businesses, and educators. Their mission is to promote excellence in education and broad-based community support for the Lake Pend Oreille School District. Donations are distributed as a working pool of money used to fund local teacher grants, a district-wide reading program, college/career guidance opportunities for high school students, and READY! For Kindergarten, an early childhood literacy program for families.

To learn more about PAFE, or to make an on-line donation, visit the website at www.panhandlealliance.com or call the executive director, Marcia Wilson, at 263-7040.