



888-SMILE UPDATE

TEAM UPDATE

Jenna graduated from beauty school and is chasing her dream of being a beautician. Thanks Jenna for all you have done, including our new toothbrush logo and our Smile Book.

We welcome **Jerilyn**, the newest member to our team. Jerilyn recently moved here from Denver and will be helping us with scheduling and running the front desk. Welcome to our team!

Do not fear, **Judy** is still here. Judy will be helping more with coordinating and explaining treatment with our patients in order to make sure no questions are left unanswered. This will also allow her to better coordinate our patients insurance benefits and allow patients to get back to dental health in a more expedient manner. Do not forget to wish her a happy 2nd anniversary in December. Thanks Judy for the long hours and dedication to patient & team satisfaction.

Anna has been on our team the longest and is a godsend to our hygiene department. We just celebrated her 2nd anniversary in August and hope to have many more. Her ability to work with and to provide exceptional care to both children and adults makes her an exceptional hygienist. If you have any questions on fluoride or the newest products out there to help you maintain your oral health, she is our expert.

Tish is our most experienced hygienist and just an exceptional person. She is one of those people that everyone loves. Do not forget to ask her about her niece, Gracie, and nephew, Christopher.

Erica is my third and fourth hands, literally. I could not treat our patients in such an orderly and precise way without her by my side.

Dr. Wexler earned his Bachelor of Arts in biology from the University of Colorado, Boulder. He returned to his hometown of Chicago, Illinois to attend the University of Illinois at Chicago Dental School earning a Bachelor of Science in Dentistry in 1996, and his Doctorate of Dental Surgery in 1998. While there, he was awarded the *Best-Of-the-Best Award for Excellence in Prosthodontics*.

Dr. Wexler enrolled in an Advanced Education of General Dentistry residency at El Rio Health Center in Tucson. He and his wife, Allison loved the Tucson area so much that they decided to stay.

Dr. Wexler opened his dental practice, as their family grew.... They have two beautiful daughters, Lily (4 1/2), and Bella (2 1/2) as well as their beloved pets; Frisco the dog, and Violet the cat.

WE WISH ALL OUR PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES A HAPPY, HEALTHY, & SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!



We appreciate all of you as patients. The best complement you can give us is letting your friends know about us.

Yes, we changed our logo to a toothbrush and added a new, easy to remember phone number: 888-SMILE (7645). Hope you like it!

DID YOU MAXIMIZE YOUR INSURANCE BENEFITS IN 2005?

I want to thank all of our patients for another great year. Along with the year coming to an end and the holiday season quickly approaching, most of you with dental insurance will want to maximize your 2005 benefits by the end of December. Some of you have dental insurance benefit year ends in other months, like October. Check with your human resource department at work to verify when your dental insurance benefit year ends, or give our office a call to find out.

Did you know that each year insurance companies make millions of dollars off patients who forego necessary and preventive dental care? Many individuals who are paying for dental insurance do not realize that their plans provide coverage up to a certain dollar amount annually. Consequently some patients are not scheduling the dental treatment they need, deserve and have insurance to cover. Thus, the insurance revenues allocated to pay dental claims on many patients are never used and unfortunately, those dollars cannot be carried over year to year. The bottom line...what the patients do not use they lose.

Clearly, it pays in many ways to schedule the preventive care or other dental treatment that you need. We are here to help you secure the insurance coverage available to you on every dental procedure you schedule. Call our office now to find out how much you have in unused dental benefits, and together let's make sure you are in excellent dental health. We look forward to seeing you again and sharing some of the many innovative means we now have available to provide you with superior dental health care.



The renovations are finally complete. Thanks to the input from my awesome team members, we came up with a relaxing and pleasant new look to make your dental visits more comfortable. Come check it out.



Are you unhappy with your smile, or even embarrassed? Have family members made you uncomfortable about how your teeth look? Call our office at 888-SMILE for a free cosmetic consult. We will customize a treatment plan for you by utilizing our "Smile Book" and spending time discussing your dream smile. Let us put a smile on your face with the latest advances in dentistry.

Did you know.....

- The amount of radiation exposure in a full series of x-rays (18 films) is equivalent to less than 3 weeks of everyday exposure to our environment? The amount of radiation with digital x-rays can be as much as 1/5th the amount of radiation as regular x-rays. Unfortunately, our previous digital x-ray system was not consistently taking diagnostic x-rays, so we are still in search of the best system for our patients. Hopefully, technology has advanced enough for us to get a system in by the end of the year. We will keep you posted.
- Dental insurance is not really insurance at all. It is actually a money benefit typically provided by an employer to help their employees pay for routine dental treatment. The employer buys a plan based on the amount of the benefit and how much the premium costs per month. Most dental benefits are designed to cover only a portion of the total cost. If you are unhappy with your dental benefits, it is best to talk to your human resource department or employer to possibly change plans.



Thumb Sucking...When is it a problem?

Many parents have expressed concerns about their children sucking their thumbs (or fingers).



Thumb sucking is quite normal for infants. An estimated 70–90% of infants suck their thumbs to some extent. It can be quite an effective self soothing technique.

Thumb sucking is usually a self-limited activity in infants. Some babies stop on their own at around 6 months. Although many children continue to suck their thumbs after this age, about 85% will stop on their own by age 3 or 4.

The American Dental Association notes that thumb sucking does not usually cause problems with tooth development until eruption of permanent teeth. Thumb sucking after this could be cause for concern.

Before the eruption of permanent teeth, however, it is probably best to let the child stop on his/her own.

It is important to avoid shaming or embarrassing your child when addressing your concerns about his/her thumb sucking.

Punishing your child for thumb sucking can result in a power struggle between parent and child. It's inappropriate and counterproductive.

Please call our office if you have additional questions regarding this matter.

RECIPE CORNER

CHERRIES IN THE SNOW:

- 1 Cup butter
- 3/4 Cup powdered sugar
- 2 Cups flour
- 1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
- Maraschino cherries drained (can substitute nuts or chocolate kisses)
- Powdered sugar to roll cookies in

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all except the cherries in mixing bowl. Roll teaspoon of dough in palm of hand and press one cherry (or nuts or chocolate kiss) in center and roll closed. Bake in oven for 15 minutes. Roll cookies while still warm in powdered sugar. Refrigerate. Fun to do with the kids or grandchildren.