



PreK 4s News

October 2020

Happy Fall!

I hope you and your family have been enjoying the beginning of the school year and all the excitement relating to Preschool! This newsletter will give you a glimpse of a few of our school themes and activities.

Faith Focus

God's Gifts to Us is our faith focus for the month of October. The children will be learning chants, listening to stories, exploring items from nature and more. This is a beautiful time of the year to enjoy first hand by touching, observing and becoming more aware of the beauty God Created in the world. In addition to noticing the changes in our world around us, the children will be introduced to the Bible in class. I am excited to show the different types of Bibles that are in our classroom. Idea: If your child doesn't have a picture Bible at home to look at – it might be a great Christmas gift.

"How God Made the World" is our Bible story focus for the month. The children will listen to various versions of the story of creation using our Bible Read Aloud, flannel story pieces, and other books. In addition, the children will learn a few creation chants, too.

In addition, the children have been learning age appropriate prayers at the beginning and end of our day, as well as during snack time. The children are learning the words and actions to the sign of the cross, too. With routine practice at both home and school, the sign of the cross will become a natural part of your child's prayer ritual.

Letter of the Week

Our letter of the week is underway and going very well. The children have met the zoo-phonics animal that goes along with each letter. The zoo-phonics program supports the children in learning the letter sound and formation. Each letter animal that is introduced has specific movements to help the children learn the sound that corresponds with the letter. The animal and sound are introduced first—and then the letter of the alphabet.

The children are being fabulous letter detectives by finding something in our Class letter box pertaining to the sound and letter of the week.

The long weekend might be a great time to review the sounds and letters we have covered so far: F, H, and T. After the MEA break will be C and P.

Thank You

Thank you for one of our Preschool parent reps, Shannon Campbell, for helping us organize a signup genius for parent donations. It is such a blessing to have such generous and supportive families. Each and every item donated goes right back into the classroom to be used by the teachers or children. Thank you, thank you!

Our Preschool Parent Reps

Thank you to Katie Mahoney and Shannon Campbell who have graciously volunteered to be our Preschool Grade Reps. Please be open to Katie and Shannon if they contact you during the school year for assistance with an activity.

Fall Trees

The children will be very busy learning about the season of Fall. Our Repeated Read Aloud book is titled The Leaves on the Trees by Thom Wiley. The children will observe the weather and nature outside. We have already enjoyed completing a really fun activity that I call "the acorn shake", as well as a fall tree made with crayons and duplo blocks. This week we plan to fingerpaint a BIG leaf, complete an October journal page, add Fall stickers to our number booklet and of course continue to listen to wonderful literature and learn theme-based poems/finger plays. Loads of fun.

Our science area will have items from nature on it for the children to investigate. As the leaves start to change---**please send colorful flattened leaves** to school. In addition, **bark from trees, abandoned nests and other interesting things from nature are fabulous for our science area.**

God's Creation: Pumpkins

Mid-October brings a unit titled God's Creation. This ties in perfectly with our overall Faith Focus theme. In addition to learning about the days of creation---the children will also be exploring with one of God's creations---PUMPKINS! A sure favorite for all! The children will learn vocabulary, predict the weight, circumference, and height of our class pumpkin. There will be opportunities to discover the inside of the pumpkin, too. We will learn a few chants and discover the life cycle of the pumpkin with our Repeated Read Aloud book titled Pumpkin, Pumpkin by Jeanne Titherington and other books. Be sure to ask your preschooler how a pumpkin grows by the end of our unit.

For more pumpkin pleasure, the children will pound toy nails in a paper pumpkin, match jack-o-faces, explore play dough with pumpkin cookie cutters and paint a pumpkin bag. Our STEM challenge---how to build the fence for the Five Little Pumpkins rhyme will certainly be a hit. All of these activities support learning, direction following and assist in fine motor skills by using various materials. By having multiple experiences, it allows for the children to feel successful and pleased with all they do.

Sending Home Your Child's Work

Many times, there will be projects created at school that will be sent home, but it perhaps is not the project of the day. Often the project is still drying or proudly displayed for all to see. In addition, items do get saved for the memory folder or to observe progress during the year

Our Projects

Every time the children are involved in a project, they are spending valuable time enhancing important skills. Many times, the fine motor skills involve Crayons, scissors, pencils, paint brushes and some out of the ordinary tools. Other skills may be listening to directions, following a step-by-step process or trying something for the first time. Whatever the outcome—your children are so proud of themselves and that makes all of us happy!

Hallow-Fun Day

We will be celebrating the season of Fall/Halloween on Friday, October 30. Our morning will consist of a fashion show, story and parade through our Classroom. It will be an exciting party filled with a snack, games, Crafts and activities. Lots of fun.

Harvest/Halloween Party Details

- *Please have your child wear orange and black on October 30.
- *No need to send any treats.

Early Childhood Screening

Early Childhood Screening is completed through the district you reside in and is currently mandatory for all children entering Kindergarten. Be sure to make an appointment for the screening earlier rather than waiting until your child is closer to the Kindergarten year. It is a very valuable tool for both teachers and families. **The target age is 3.5.** If your child hasn't been screened yet—I am highly encouraging you to make the appointment now. The screening dates can sometimes be six weeks out. Thank you.

Snacks

It has been wonderful having healthy and nutritious snacks for the children. Thank you for sending individually packaged snacks for the children. Please see the Suggested Snack list that was sent to families in August and September for ideas. It is appreciated when you send 2/4 food groups for snack, as we are a licensed Preschool and follow the MN Early Childhood requirements for this age group. 😊 Thank you for helping make snack time possible for all of the children.

Notes

- *Watch for a signup genius in your email box after the MEA break. Parent/teacher conferences are on November 2 & 3. Conferences will not be "in person" but instead will be conducted on the phone.
- *See the monthly calendar for letters of the week, days off of school, color days, etc.
- *Please label all coats, mittens, hats, etc.
- *Please be sure your child leaves home with a warm coat as the temps are getting lower. It can be quite windy and chilly at the park.
- *Please ask or email me if you have any questions or concerns. I am here to help you and your child in any way possible. Thank you for the gift of being your child's teacher.

Enjoy the spectacular season of Fall--

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