

A Child Becomes Newsletter 2011

Happy Holidays



“Being a parent is a blessing. Together you and your child are carving a life, by helping your child grow into a beautiful human being, you are giving something of immense value to humanity and all of us are enriched.” J. F.

December News from the Director

Parents, As December falls upon us, I want to mention just how blessed we are to have such immensely supportive families at this school as well as children who are loved and cherished at home with parents who care about their uniqueness and learning.

It is proven in research as well in my heart that the early childhood years are the most important years of a human being’s life. We are helping form the foundation for a love of learning, for an ability to attend to one’s behavior, to communicate, and most of all build compassion and empathy for those we encounter in our lives.

Sometimes I wonder how it was for my own 3 boys to have their mother be their teacher. Something funny happened on the weekend that gave me reassurance that some things just never leave the mind. My sons are 26, 24, and 19. When it was time to clean up the condo in Canada and head for home, Alex the oldest who was in preschool 22 years ago, sang verbatim the cleanup song I used in preschool off of a vinyl and his brothers joined in. I was completely dumbfounded! To think they remembered! Consequently, it doesn’t usually happen at my house now, but I thought it was a funny story to share.

As many of you know, I have a strong conviction about recognizing those in our community who have less than us. To be honest, I feel like we all probably have our story about how the recession has affected us in some way. It is this time of year that I am extremely grateful for what we have at home and often think about those who can't afford gifts for the holidays. The past two years we have supported a toy drive using the local fire station's bins and I know that these gifts are used right here in our community. As a school, we are asking that each child bring in a \$10-20 gift unwrapped and we will store these until the 15th when we will walk down to the fire station and deliver.

The 3's, 4's and 5's will help deliver the toys. After the delivery, all classes will join together in the Social Hall and the pre-K will lead a sing along for everyone. Please join our school in helping us give a gift to someone in need. Talk about this with your child. Help them pick a gift out. Model gratefulness: to always be grateful for what we have.

Dates to Mark on Your Calendars

Each classroom will set individual field trip dates and times. Please refer to your Monday letter each week for more detailed information.

ALL SCHOOL EVENTS

- 12/15 Field trip - Walk to the Fire Station 11:15 AM and 2:45 PM
- 12/16 Last day of school before break (Friday classes only)
- 12/19-1/2 HOLIDAY BREAK – No school
- 1/3 School resumes on TUESDAY the 3rd, not Monday (note)
- 1/16 No school - Martin Luther King Jr's Birthday

Early Registration for 2012-2013 School Year

- Early registration will begin Monday, 1/30/12

All families will be sent a registration packet this month via mail with new guidelines as well as an increase in tuition for the 2012-13 school year. This tuition increase will offset rising operating costs, like maintaining a high quality staff, rent, insurance etc.

It is our hopes that you will find we are competitive with all of the schools in this area. We have researched prices and made comparisons. We are right in

the middle ground: not too high and not too low. For what we provide for our students, I anticipate that you will find our prices worth the outcome.

Along with slightly higher fees, there will be:

- Additional specialists added to both the 3's and Pre-K programs: Spanish, Art, and Music.
- An optional fourth day available for the 3's.
- An extra ½ hour added to the 2's class time.

It is my hope that you will find next year's options accommodating for you and your families.

Positive Discipline for January

This was a huge success this fall. Classes took place at our school for 6 weeks from 7-8:30 PM. The leaders are offering a 6 week course again – look for the registration and information form in this email. “What a positively grand idea!

Summer Camps for 2012

- Camp information will be available in early March.
- Registration begins Monday, 4/2.
- Children must be 5 by 6/30/12
- Camp dates: Last week of June through end of July
- Each camp session: Tu/Wed/Th from 10 AM – 3PM

Camps fill fast! The camps are intended for those entering Kindergarten to the end of second grade. Look for more information next month.

Wrap Up for 2's, 3's, Pre-K

Pre-K

Pre-K began the month with a visit from a local hygienist, Shelley Lebert, Leo Lambert's Grandmother. She talked all about dental hygiene and foods that keep us healthy. She had an enormous impact on our students in regards to sugar and teeth brushing. She was fun and positive and had some great puppets with big teeth. We also discussed during the week foods that build our bones strong: milk, cheese, yogurt, etc-calcium as well as foods that build strong muscles: eggs, fish, chicken, meat, and nuts-protein! We made a

stomach and an esophagus so that could understand that our food does not go down our windpipe but another pipe close by!

The following two weeks were spent studying the Northwest Coast Native Americans. We made Totem Poles and Raven-the trickster bird who brought us the sun with his cleverness. The highlight was our trip to the Northwest Puppet Center where we saw *Tales of the Mackah Tribe*. Here we learned many ancient stories that taught lessons to the young children in the tribal days of long ago. The puppets were beautiful and the puppeteers, true professionals. We ended the 3rd week with a potlatch on Friday. The students learned that the NW Coast Native Americans were very rich. Not with money-gold-minerals-oil-Rather FOOD. These Indians had a smorgasbord: fish, whale, clams, mussels, oysters, elk, bear, berries, nuts, vegetables, roots, and much more. Did you know it has been said that there were so many salmon in the rivers that a person could walk across the backs of salmon without touching the water? An abundance of food allowed them to have extra time carving totem poles, weaving baskets and mask making. A potlatch was simply a celebration for anything needing celebrating! It could be a Birthday, a wedding, a great hunt, or even to rise a man up from embarrassment or shunning if he fell off a canoe while hunting. These people were truly generous, humble, and prosperous in so many, many ways.

Threes

The 3's Class pretended to be time traveler's in November through our studies of pilgrims, Native Americans, and pioneers!

We thought about the clothes we would have to wear if zippers were not invented, and put on our imaginary hats, bonnets, aprons, britches, and shirts each day at Carpet time. We made covered wagons, and Teacher Leanne helped us make soda bread! We moved pictures of covered wagons across a map of the United States to illustrate that some wagons didn't make it the whole way to Oregon. Our field trip to the cabin at Kelsey Creek was amazing!! It was a hands-on opportunity to get to be involved with pioneer life, from grinding wheat to using a water pump- it was a memorable experience for our teachers, parents and students.

Our study of Native Americans included making dolls from "The Story of the Bluebonnet", a legend of the Texas Comanche tribe. We also read about Native Americans of the Plains and pretended brown paper bags and watercolor

paints were tanned leather and berry juices. We created art the Native American way! Teacher Brenna visited our classroom with real Native American artifacts. She shared her Native American father's shoes, headdress and beautiful white, doe skin jacket with intricate embroidery and fringe.

Teacher Brenna's generosity helped to bring our studies to life, we love having special guests in our classroom.

As Thanksgiving approached, we began to talk about Pilgrims, being thankful, and foods we eat at Thanksgiving. We were very lucky to host another guest, Azalea's mom, Janet Hinson, who brought us pictures from Plymouth Plantation. We made puppet Mayflower ships, and helped them land on very colorful Plymouth Rocks. We made presents for our families Thanksgiving table and had a feast of our own just before the break. We celebrated each other and felt thankful to be a part of such a special 3's Program.

Two's

What a busy month we have had in the two's! We celebrated Olivia's birthday and Thanksgiving. We've discovered why animals choose the homes they do. The children made their very own dinosaur teeth and bone necklaces. Some of which were still being worn days later! As you may have noticed turkey projects of all shapes and sizes come home. Our conferences were excellent and Teacher Ruth and I really had such a good time meeting everyone.

In kindness,

Your,
Director,

Teacher Shelley, MAT