

A Child Becomes Newsletter 2011

Quote: I believe that education is all about being excited about something. Seeing passion and enthusiasm helps push an educational message.-Steve Irwin-Former “ Crocodile Hunter “

November News from the Director

Parents, this is your second of 9 newsletters covering your child's year at *A Child Becomes*. I look forward to this opportunity to network with all of you and share some of the science or research in early learning as well as some of our ways of showing how we work to acquire the philosophies of our school. As mentioned at the parent's Open House, it is our higher hopes that, in the end, not only do your children leave our school with academic preparedness, but also a hint of those very essential life skills that we spoke of: Focus and Self Control, Perspective Taking, Communication, Making Connections, Critical Thinking, Taking on Challenges, and Self Directed Engaged Learning.

This month we will as a school practice perspective that goes beyond just empathy as we take part in a few charitable activities during this season of colder weather and more jobless people. It is a great opportunity to discuss with your child all that we have and all that others don't have. Usually it does not work to say “you should be grateful for what you have”. Instead try saying, “Wow, we are so lucky that we have jobs, good schools abound, somewhat cooperative weather (think of the East coast right now) and parents who love us”. Many children within a 20 mile radius, are hungry at night, have grandparents instead of parents that raise them, and very few trips if any to Target for toys.

The first charitable activity will be for your child to bring in non-perishable foods in their canvas bags. We will line these up in the Social Hall and have a Snail's Pace Race to meet the finish line. We will count by tens as each cube will hold 10 items. Can we make the 100 mark? The 200 mark? All foods will need to be picked up the week before Thanksgiving so I would like to get started next week. Thank you to all who take part in this first event. Please have your child bring the foods in. It has a far better impact.

The second activity will be our participation in *Toys for Tots*. Each family is asked to bring in a “boy's” or “girl's” toy unwrapped during the month of December. On the 17th, we will take 4 wagons down to the fire Station and deliver all that we

have collected in their *Toys for Tots* Barrels. Hopefully they will give us a little tour this year. The Fire Station is located just 2 blocks away and will be an easy and fun walk for the kids. Classes that are in session on Thursday the will take part. Parents are welcome to come and help.

Important Dates to Mark on your calendar:

11/1-11/17 -Everyone, Please sign up for a conference ☺

11/10-Pre-K to see a Northwest Coast Native American Puppet Show

11/11- No School-Veteran's day

11//19 -Threes go to Kelsey Creek Farm1

11/21-11/23-Parent Teacher Conferences

11/24-11/25 -Thanksgiving Holiday-No School

**11/30-AM Class Pre-K to see Frog and Toad at the Seattle Children's Theatre
(PM will attend in December)**

Pictures are promised to arrive before Thanksgiving!

Parent Education Column

A few Do's and Don'ts of Read Alouds (The Read Aloud Handbook-Jim Trelease)

To begin, writing begins long before the marriage of pencil and paper. It begins with sounds, that is to say, with words and simple cluster of words that are taken in by small children until they find themselves living in a world of vocables. If that world is rich and exciting, the transition to handling it in a new medium-writing-is made smoother. The first and conceivably the most important instructor in composition is the parent, the teacher or older sibling who reads aloud to a small child. (Clifton Fadiman)

Do's

Read with excitement and expression

Begin reading to children as soon as possible. The younger you start the better.

Use Mother Goose Rhymes and songs to stimulate the infant's language

Read as often as you and your child have time for

Try to set aside at least one traditional time a day for favorite story time-before bed and right before school?

Remember that the art of listening is an acquired one. It must be taught and cultivated gradually. It does not happen overnight.

Start with picture books and then build to chapter books and novels

More ideas next month!

A Few don'ts

Don't read stories you don't enjoy

Don't read above a child's emotional level

Don't be fooled by awards. Just because a book won a Caldecott Award, for example, doesn't mean it will be a good Read Aloud. Some books that haven't won an award, are award winners to me. Think of *The Big Orange Splot!*

Wrap Up for October

Pre-K

We are growing immensely in our pre-literacy domain. From writing our names to daily journals, the interest in writing is glowing as we call ourselves writers and authors. Pens and paper are seen in almost every center and students love to show us their work! Our letter of the week program is also blooming as we have learned the kinesthetic motions for letters A-F so far and have kept a tally of all the snap words we find in stories! Some children are using snap words when they write such as The, A, To, is, and And! One favorite part of our week is bringing the Letter Item where we share one item with the whole class that begins with the letter of the week. Please visit our classroom to see the growing alphabet wall. Our specialists have also been an excellent addition to our learning. With Ms. Kiran in fine arts teaching us about concentric circles, to Teacher Kristi with Spanish teaching us all of the colors and now fruits in Spanish. Both teacher Kristi and teacher Angela are fluent in Spanish! And let us not forget Grandma Dorothy. Her cookies and stories are impossible to match! Now with Halloween gone now, we have spent this week talking about

healthy bodies, good, foods, and how to keep our bones and muscles strong. Cant's wait till next week when we begin our Native Americans of the Northwest Coast theme!

Threes

October was an amazing month for the Three's Program as we really settled into our classroom routines. Being familiar with our classroom and our school friends really allowed us to get involved and work hard at our projects, our carpet time conversations, and playing appropriately with others. Your children are becoming real students who are making connections and transferring their learning into play, art, and questions! We love to hear them say, "Did you know?", "One time I...", "Don't forget", "Remember yesterday when..." This month we explored pumpkins, fall, farms, and leaves through our literature, art making, and play. We discussed the differences and similarities between apples and pumpkins and made observations about how things are changing due to fall settling in around us. Our field trip to Harold and the Purple Crayon was so special and very exciting! We used our very best theater manners and came back to the classroom eager to talk about events we saw in the performance.

We continued to talk about pretending/performance when we acted like sad, silly, happy and fierce jack-o-lanterns and experimented with faces appropriate to these adjectives. We also practiced two special poems to perform for our families and for the Pre-K students during our Halloween Parties. Thank you much to our wonderful and generous room parents, Janet Hinson (AM) and Kristie Berg (PM) for all you did to organize the Halloween activities for these classes. And, thank ALL OF YOU for being such involved and loving families and for sharing your time and talents with all of us. I really felt that the day was a huge success on many levels- your children were so excited to share that hour with you at their school, I am hopeful that it served as a nice social event for all of the parents, and I do believe it made for a very memorable time that as our children grow we will look back on with a very sweet "Remember When?"

This time goes by so fast, making these moments special helps them to last as memories for a long time.

XOXOXO

Twos

The 2s have had such a wonderful month learning about leaves, squirrels, spiders, pumpkins and Halloween. A big thank-you to Dignan's(M/W) grandparents for growing and giving lovely pumpkins to the entire class. The

students learnt two new songs for Halloween and how to sign "Pumpkin"
Everyone is now familiar with our routine and they are quick to remind us what
comes next. The T/TH class celebrated their party on Thursday and charmed
the entire school in their costumes. Thanks parents, we could not be so
successful without you. Teachers Jan and Ruth

Thank you families for your continual support of our school!
Happy Thanksgiving to all.
Stay warm and always loving!

Teacher Shelley, Director