



PreK 4s News

October 2018

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 singing songs, 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. "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 songs, too. Idea: If your child doesn't have a picture Bible at home to look at – it might be a great Christmas gift.

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 at home for sharing days. **No worries** if your child forgets their sharing day item on Wednesdays – just send the object on Friday. Be sure to ask your child about the red "sharing stool" and letter box that is specifically for PreK4s.

Thank You

Thank you for the amazing donations you have given to the Preschool this year. It is such a blessing to have such generous and supportive families. Thanks!

Leaves and Trees/Autumn Is Awesome

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 will be going for a nature walk, learn theme-based poems/finger plays, complete a really fun activity that I call “shake paint acorn”, complete a marble leaf activity and create a Fall tree. Loads of fun.

Our sensory table is another way to incorporate our theme and allow for hands-on experiences. The sensory table is changed close to every two weeks. It is an important part of our day. The children love to put on the goggles and discover something new. Early October, our sensory table will have straw and items from nature—apples, small pumpkins, mini scarecrows, leaves and much more. Mid-October the sensory bin will relate to the theme of creation with blue sand/sea creature toys, as well as fake grass/land animals. It is perfect for our fine motor skills and recalling the world God has made.

We are blessed to have side sensory opportunities, too. I just can't limit the experiences for the children to one area—so a few years ago I started side sensory bins to allow for more free exploring to support themes in the classroom. During the month our side sensory opportunities will be rainbow rice /ABC puzzle AND #1-10 magnets pieces/kinetic sand. So much to explore.

Our science area will have items from nature on it for the children to investigate. Once 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.**

Fall Days

The end of October brings the study of **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 songs and discover the life cycle of the pumpkin with our Repeated Read Aloud book titled Pumpkin, Pumpkin by Jeanne Titherington and other related 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 cookie cutters, paint a pumpkin bag and get excited with our STEM challenge of how to build the fence for the Five Little Pumpkins rhyme. All of these activities support learning, direction following, 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

Harvest/Halloween Celebration

We will be celebrating the season of Fall/Halloween on Wednesday, October 31. Our morning will consist of a fashion show, story and parade through the BIG school. And... then our party begins with the support of a few parents who are helping with the party details. It will be an exciting party filled with a snack, games, crafts and activities. Lots of fun.

Harvest/Halloween Party Details

- *Non-scary or non-violent costumes only. **Please leave** hats, crowns and accessories at home.
- *No need to send any treats.
- *Be sure the costume is child-friendly to allow for easy bathroom breaks.
- *Please dress your child in his/her costume at home. Thanks.

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!

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.

Kindergarten Screening

Kindergarten Screening is completed through the district you reside in and is currently mandatory for all children. 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.

School Marathon

Please join us on Thursday afternoon for the opening ceremony beginning at 1:30. It will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our school. There will be a designed area in the back-parking lot to use as our marathon course. I am excited to see the children walk, march, hop and run the course. Go Preschoolers!!

Snacks

Thank you for sending in napkins and 5 oz. cups. **NOTE:** the 3 oz. cups are too flimsy/small and anything larger than 5 oz. is hard for little hands. It has been wonderful having healthy and nutritious snacks for the children. Pre-cut and washed fruit is always a hit. I know this takes time and effort on your part—but know it is appreciated. 😊

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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