

Preschool News Letter - August 2016

It is hard to believe that the summer will soon be coming to an end. Some children have started the transition to their Fall classrooms. The Older Preschool classroom has started to say goodbye and good luck to children that are heading to kindergarten, while the Middle Preschool and Young Preschool classrooms are welcoming new classmates.

The preschoolers all recently enjoyed a visit from the New England Aquarium which brought in live sea animals for the children to touch, hold and observe. Each classroom subsequently talked about and explored the topic of sea animals according to the children's interests.

Young Preschool Classroom:

The children in young preschool are exploring and experimenting with a number of different types of sensory materials. They are enjoying the feel of different textures, scooping and dumping materials from container to container and conversing with friends about their observations.

Children new to the classroom are exploring the larger room and finding new materials to build and create with. They are working on prewriting skills at the open writing table and creating art work with a variety of mediums. You may find the art work on display along the classroom walls.

Many are working on new self-help skills such as independent toileting, washing hands, helping to put away rest mats, pushing in chairs and cleaning up their materials.

***Come join your Young Preschool child for a sensory play date:
Friday, August 19, 2016 8-10AM.***

Middle Preschool Classroom:

As many of the children have enjoyed visits to beaches over the course of the summer months, the Middle Preschool classroom has created art work that puts them at the beach: they colored a beach umbrella, cut out the shape using scissors then posed for the picture that is attached. The preschoolers also designed individual flip-flop creations for walking on the beach: they traced their own shoe, painted the result and then strung beads on pipe cleaners to create straps.

After the Tide pool visit some children showed interest in learning more about sea animals which resulted in discussions on what lives in the ocean and what habitats support marine life. This emerging interest has led to the exploration of other types of habitats, including desert, ocean and rainforest.

Older Preschool Classroom:

The Older Preschool classroom presented their graduation program to families on June 30th. The children sang songs, received a diploma and watched the slide show of the year in review. (We are waiting on a few families to give permission for the slide show prior to it being released.)

As the older preschool children graduate on, they have an opportunity to share their portfolio with their peers and discuss what they miss about their classroom and friends.

Although the children are talking about bugs, a focus has been drawn particularly to dragonflies. The many drawings of bugs that the children have worked hard to create over the past few weeks are available for you to look at around the classroom. As part of their bug exploration, children visited the Muddy River to observe what types of insects and animals they saw.

The tide pool visit sparked curiosity from a few children in the wonders of the ocean and what organisms can be found in it. Some children are discussing sharks and creating 3D models out of recycled materials.

Family Involvement:

We would love your help! It is our vision for this program to incorporate more music and books that reflect the rich diversity of cultures, languages and traditions that exist within this center community. We welcome any copies of music CD's of children's songs or lullabies that would help us to know and acknowledge your family's culture. Also, any favorite books written in your home language that you would like to contribute to the school library would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about these requests, please talk with Robin Gossels.

Parent Topic: Numeracy Development

On July 13th I met with parents to talk about Numeracy Development and their role in supporting their children in working on skills that enhance future math success.

The following are some areas of numeracy that you can incorporate into your daily discussions with your child:

Counting: verbal/object, estimating, quantity, number subitizing;

Mathematical Language: numeral, written, math words, problem solving;

Sequencing: addition/subtraction, patterning;

Measurement: weight, length, volume;

Shapes: 2D and 3D, spatial thinking;

Grouping: parts to whole;

Data: graphing, organization;

REMINDERS:

Please label all items of your child's lunch: Individual fruit, drinks, yogurt, plastic bags, all container tops and bottoms. A marker and tape are available at the lunch sign-in station.

Please check that your child has clothes that fit and are weather appropriate in his/her cubby for those unexpected messy learning moments and sneak-outs.

Robin Gossels, July 2016