



Curriculum Night

September 26, 2006

PRESCHOOL

Tina Thompson & Jennifer Wagner

Describe your journey to [FSH](#)

Is anyone having trouble accessing the webpage?

Typical day in Preschool can include:

- Arrival, thanking the safety (So far we are 100% for on time arrivals!)
- Independent stowing of gear
- Making choices during free play. Play ranges from isolate to cooperative.
- Art media (paints, play dough, crayon stubs)
- Baking and cooking
- Fine muscle activities (puzzles, sewing, stringing beads, water play, turkey basters, etc.)
- Clean-up
- Service opportunities
- Music
- Spanish
- Making transitions that are self/teacher initiated
- Sitting as a group at circle time
- Singing, dancing, public speaking, raising hands, waiting for turns, listening to others
- Helping with tasks around the room (mats, thank you, wake up person, setting up for snack)
- Books, books, books
- Snack and quiet resting
- Story time
- Rest
- Gross motor play (outdoors and indoors), sand play, wheel toys, balance boards, ramps, ladders, jumping, climbing, crawling, walking, running, hopping, sidling

[Grade III Partners](#)

Beginning in October, there are weekly visits with our Grade III partners for reading books, going for nature walks, counting vehicles at the bridge, playing together, playing a small role in the Grade III Play. For the months of October through December, we will meet on most Tuesdays. In January, these visits will occur on Thursday. The Grade III teachers are Teacher Melissa and Mrs. Scattergood. The [list of partners' names](#) will be posted on the preschool webpage.

Testimony of Simplicity is seen in...

- Use of resources (paper, water, soap) and recycling
- Daily schedule (self-contained classroom, minimum of transitions)
- Clothing, equipment, materials
- Celebrations

Fostering independence

- During school arrivals
- During free-play choices
- In dressing and bathroom use

Winter gear: [\(on webpage\)](#)

- Knit or fleece mittens
- Bib snow pants
- Pull-on boots
- Well-fitting jacket
- Scarf or gator
- Hat with chin strap or ear flaps

Nitty Gritty:

- ✓ ASAP please provide cool weather change of clothes for cubbies. (Long pants, long sleeve shirt)
- ✓ On the occasion of a late arrival (after 8:15am), please bring your child to the classroom before reporting to the Office to check your child in
- ✓ [Conference Schedule](#) is posted on the Preschool webpage. Appointments will be confirmed by the teacher in the order in which they are received.
- ✓ Visitor buttons are available in the Office for parents visiting during the day.
- ✓ Pin morning notes to backpack.
- ✓ Please save your child's umbrella for home use. They can become a safety hazard at school.

Past parent questions have included:

Q. *Who are the other people we see in the classroom and at dismissal?*

A. Teacher Adriana (Spanish), Teacher Joanna ([Music](#)), Mrs. Doyle (graduate student in education), and Cy Short (FSH staff). Marian McKenzie (Library), and Jennifer Harris (Grade I assistant teacher) help with the 11:45am dismissal.

Q. *Can my child bring in snacks to school?*

A. Children love to bring in special snacks. Please contact the teachers prior to the day so that we can avoid any conflict with cooking projects, birthday celebrations, etc.

Q. *Are there any allergies or food restrictions among the children in the class?*

A. **YES! For the safety of everyone, we will not serve any food items that contain nuts or were processed in a facility where peanut products are processed.**

Q. *How are birthdays handled in preschool?*

A. See the webpage for [the birthday calendar](#) . The child provides a favorite snack for the class.

Q. *Do you need a visitor's button when delivering a late-arriving child to the classroom?*

A. No

Q. *Where do the children play outdoors?*

A. The Greenhouse is the area right outside our back door. We also use the lower part of the driveway that is closed off to vehicular traffic to allow for wheel-toy play. Equipment includes slides, fire poles, ladders, sandbox (located at the rear of the field behind the School House), tricycles, wagons, carriages, and a rocking boat. We take frequent trips to the College to climb, run, walk and roll!

Q. *Can parents visit the classroom?*

A. During second semester families are invited to spend time in the preschool classroom. These visiting days are scheduled with the teachers to avoid conflicts with other activities or parent visits. More details will be provided at the January Parent/Teacher Conference.

Q. *Do the children use computers in the classroom?*

A. The preschool children do not operate the classroom computers. There are two computers in the classroom for teacher use. A growing body of research is raising questions about the educational value of computer use by

young children. [The Alliance for Childhood](#), a nonprofit advocacy group whose membership includes education professor Jane Healey, author of *Failure to Connect: How Computers Affect Our Children's Minds – And what We Can Do About It* (Touchstone Books, 1999) and *Endangered Minds – Why Children Don't Think and What We Can Do About It* (Touchstone Books, 1990) has published a [position paper on technology literacy](#). The paper addresses the use of technology at the elementary school level, the goals and objectives for technology literacy, and the best age for introducing computers to children.

Digital pictures are taken daily to chronicle children's work. At the end of the day, the pictures are posted on the preschool webpage for parents and children to view together. The pictures serve as conversation starters as well as a way of communicating what the child is working on at school.

Tina created the preschool classroom webpage, as it exists today, in 2000. Daily pictures are posted and an archive of all pictures taken throughout the year is maintained. Links to [newsletters](#), important announcements and information are updated as needed ([birthdays](#), [educational articles](#), [Parent/Teacher Conference schedule](#), [clothing needs](#), etc).

Using [Music Time Deluxe](#) software, classroom songs can be transcribed and posted on the webpage with lyrics for families to listen to at home together.

The Internet is a wonderful resource as questions arise during the morning. The teachers can search for images, background information, song lyrics, and answers to many of the children's questions.

Q. Do kids bring in items for "Show and Tell?"

A. Children are encouraged to bring in "gems of nature", e.g., bugs dead or alive, flowers, special leaves, bird feathers, nests, etc. Please let the teachers know ahead of time (email is a good way to communicate this information) to make sure that there will be an opportunity during the morning to meaningfully share the item with the group.

Children do not bring toys from home.

This preschool classroom is a refuge from the proliferating commercial marketing aimed at young children. Conversations about television, movies, and video games are avoided at school. These conversations exclude the segment of the group whose families choose not to expose their children to these media. We prefer to talk about good books, games, outings, ideas, etc.

Q. Do the children use the bathroom whenever they want?

A. Yes. At any time during the day, a child may initiate the use of the bathroom. There are two bathroom breaks scheduled during the morning.

Q. What is the ratio of boys to girls?

A. This year there are 6 boys and 12 girls in the class.

Q. Words can hurt. How is this handled in preschool?

A. Taunting language is replaced by the language of cooperation and finding the light within each person.

Language of Conflict and Competition	Language of Cooperation
"He's not sharing" in preschool speak means "I want that!"	"When you're done with that will you let me know?"
"Na, na, na, na boo, boo. You can't catch me."	"Let's run together."
"My picture is prettier than yours."	"We both used blue!"
"I'm bigger than you are."	"We are different sizes."
"I can't" in preschool speak can mean "I don't want to."	"This is hard for you.", "I'll watch you do it.", "Let's find a friend to help you."
"My shirt has sparkles on it; yours doesn't"	"We both have long sleeves."

Q. When is the first Parent Teacher Conference?

A. Friday, October 27. Sign-up forms will be in Thursday's Child Mail, September 28. Please respond early (by email or returned hard copy) to get your first choice of conference time. Check the webpage for [Conference Homework](#) and [Schedule](#).

Schedule Preschool 2006-07, Thompson/Wagner

(9/26/06)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-8:15	Arrival Period	Arrival Period	Arrival Period	Arrival Period	Arrival Period
8:15-8:30	Classroom Outdoor options	Classroom/Gym/ Outdoor options	Classroom Outdoor options	Classroom/Gym/ Outdoor options	Classroom/ Outdoor options
8:30-8:45	"	Assembly time	"	Partners	"
8:45-9:00	"	as needed	"	Partners	"
9:00-9:15	Greenhouse	GYM	"	GYM	"
9:15-9:30	Greenhouse	GYM	"	GYM	"
9:30-9:45	Circle	Spanish Class	Music Class	Music Class	Greenhouse or
9:45-10:00	Quiet books	Profesora Adriana	Tr. Joanna	Tr. Joanna	Climbing Tree
10:00-10:15	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack	Snack
10:15-10:30	Rest	Rest	Rest	Rest	Rest
10:30-10:45	Story	Story	Story	Story	Story
10:45-11:00	Bathroom break/books	Bathroom break/books	Bathroom break/books	Bathroom break/books	Bathroom break/books
11:00-11:15	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground
11:15-11:30	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground
11:30-11:45	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground	Playground
11:45	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal	Dismissal
12:00-12:45	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
12:45	Bathroom Break	Bathroom Break	Bathroom Break	Bathroom Break	Bathroom Break
1:00	Rest	Rest	Rest	Rest	Rest
1:30	"	"	"	"	"
2:00	Play	Play	Play	Play	Play
2:45	Dismissal/Ext. Day	Dismissal/Ext. Day	Dismissal/Ext. Day	Dismissal/Ext. Day	Dismissal/Ext. Day

- Children arrive at the classroom beginning at 8:00am. The program begins for all students at 8:15am.
- Other than coordinate classes, times are approximate. The schedule reflects the sequence of the morning rather than exact times.
- Two bathroom breaks for the children are included in the morning schedule, but children are free to visit the bathroom at any time.
- "Classroom" times are filled with activities including free-choice (blocks, housekeeping area, puzzles, books, and fantasy play), snack preparation, art media, teacher-led activities, etc. "Gym" times are supervised by the Preschool teachers. "Outdoor options" include all play areas on campus and at the college.
- "Circle" activities include conversation, public speaking, games, drama, and music.
- "Music Class" and "Spanish Class" led by coordinate specialists Teacher Joanna and Profesora Adriana respectively. To accommodate special events, Music and Spanish classes may be rescheduled for 8:15am.
- Preschool attendance at Tuesday assemblies is up to the discretion of the Preschool teachers.
- Grade III and Preschool partners meet for reading together, nature walks, drawing, celebrations, and special events.