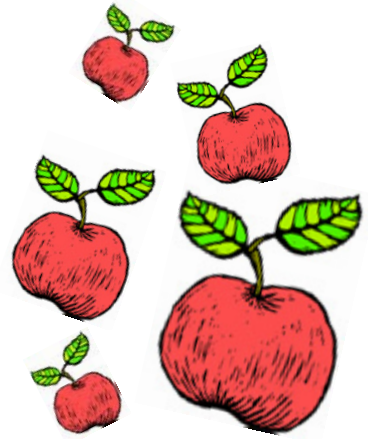




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## Preschool Newsletter

[Preschool Webpage](#)



September 21, 2006

**H**eritage House was filled with the comforting smell of simmering apples coming from the classroom preschool this week. After washing, cutting, and cooking the apples, the children put their upper-body strength to work to turn the crank of the Foley food mill. This pressing separated the sauce from the seeds, cores, and skin of the apples. The sweet sauce was served with an optional touch of cinnamon. Yummmm! The recipe is at <http://geocities.com/fshpseyesonly/recipes2006.html>



**A**pple prints were made by two apples cut in half, one lengthwise and the other widthwise. It was fun to see the star appear!

**W**hile playing on the greenhouse equipment at the rear of the classroom, we could hear the distinct sound of the fire alarm coming from the School House. It was the first of ten fire drills that will occur throughout the year. It was pretty amazing to over 200 people filing silently to the field behind our play area. The preschoolers watched with great interest as instructions and feedback were given by Teacher Martha. The next day, preschoolers had their own mock fire drill. We talked about all the things we do to prevent fires at school and to keep ourselves safe.



**I**t might be helpful for families to know the rules that children are expected to use while on the playground.

- Sticks and stone stay on the ground
- Slides are to be used while seated; no head first or belly sliding!
- The hanging rings are for children in Grade I through Grade VI
- Children must stay on the fall-zone of the greenhouse equipment

### IMPORTANT DATES

**September 26, Tuesday**  
Curriculum Night  
7:00pm

**Oct. 4, Wednesday**  
Admissions Open House  
9:00-11:00am

**October 6, Friday**  
Faculty In-Service Day  
PUPIL HOLIDAY

**October 9, Monday**  
Columbus Day  
SCHOOL HOLIDAY

**October 27, Friday**  
Parent/Teacher Conferences  
PUPIL HOLIDAY

**October 31, Tuesday**  
Halloween Parade  
8:30am

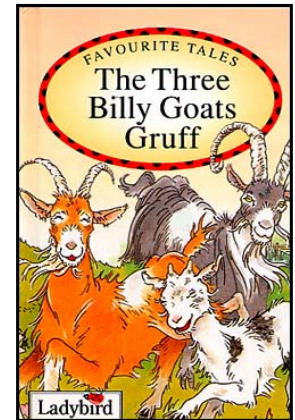
**November 22, Wednesday**  
Grandfriends Day  
Thanksgiving Holiday Begins

**November 27, Monday**  
School Resumes

**December 5 & 6, Tues & Wed**  
Holiday Gift Sale (PTO)

**December 15, Friday**  
All-Scholl Coffee  
10:00am  
Holiday Meeting for Worship  
11:00am  
Winter Holiday Begins  
NOON DISMISSAL

In preparation for our ultimate destination of the climbing tree, the class took a stroll down Quaker Walk last week. As we got within sight of the foot bridge, we stopped to have a meeting. *What could be under the bridge?* Children made many guesses - water, fish, shark, shells, plants, and even a troll. The group stopped again to listen for any sounds that would be a clue. The expected sound of rushing water was replaced by the reality of rushing cars as they sped underneath the bridge. Upon reaching the bridge, we asked one obliging college student if he was a troll. His friendly smile reassured us that he was not! And we assured him that we were not the Billy Goats Gruff. We look forward to many trips across that bridge during the year. *(Tina recently ran into Pat Roche, a FSH alum and daughter of a FSH alum, the mother of the Head of School at Northern Virginia Friends School who is also a FSH alum, and grandmother of several FSH students! Pat remembers her trips to the climbing tree as a young child and sitting in the branches of that majestic Osage orange. How lovely to have intergenerational connections within this community.)*



Last week's rain gave the preschool a great opportunity to set up an in-room obstacle course. It included a tunnel, "stepping stones", balance boards, hopping pads, and a ramp to climb and jump from. The activity was accompanied by the great Latino tunes at 104.5 FM, the perfect music to get us moving and to support our Spanish program!

Winnie Doyle, mother of Frank (FSH '07) and a graduate student in education at Cabrini College, has been spending three mornings a week in the preschool classroom providing guidance and learning from the children. Her cheerful, supportive, and unflappable presence as well as her respect for young children have been wonderful gifts to the preschool program. We are grateful to "Mrs. Doyle" for giving us her time and talents including her photographic skills. We are lucky to have her with us.



Spanish classes began last week when Profesora Adriana came to the classroom. She read to the children the Story of Goldilocks and the Three Bears in Spanish. New vocabulary included: *ola*, *adios*, *uno*, *dos*, *tres*, and *oso*. During the class, it became obvious that today's children have a great deal of exposure to the Spanish language before entering school.

In addition to the homemade applesauce, our snack times have included a variety of nutritious foods such as cheese and crackers, grapes, apples, celery and carrots served with ranch dressing, and kettle popped popcorn made right in the classroom. You might have seen pictures of children raising their hands with one or five fingers. This is preschool code for more snack or more water. It works really well at school and might explain the raised hands at your table at home.

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Books we have recently read include:

*Down the Road*, Alice Schertle  
*The Story of Ping*, Margaret Flack  
*A Tree is Nice*, Janice Udry  
*Apple Pie Tree*, Zoe Hall  
*Don't Touch*, Suzy Kline



The children had a personal encounter with a caterpillar of a polyphemus moth (see picture on right) last Friday. The already sizable caterpillar, found in Tr. Jennifer's backyard, looked huge under the magnification of the Preschool CCTV (a gift of the friends and family of the class of 2014). There was discussion of safe handling of backyard critters and the need to return all faunae to their natural habitat.



Lily & Emily

**NOTE:** The preschool teachers hope that families will share their treasures of nature – alive and otherwise – with the class. Please let the teachers know ahead of time what is being sent in so that a little research may be done before the critter's arrival. This is also true for interesting flora. With the CCTV, what looks ordinary with the naked eye, becomes extraordinary when magnified hundreds of times.



The children have been hearing lots of Spanish in preschool. Profesora Adriana made her first visit to the classroom and introduced new vocabulary through the Spanish version of *The Three Bears* - *Los Tres Osos*. Ola, adios, uno, dos, tres, and oso will be used during the week to reinforce vocabulary acquisition. At the snack table, children can say thank you in Spanish - *gracias* - and teachers respond "de nadd".

Music permeates much of the preschool day. Music marks transitions during the day and is often sung spontaneously during free play. Much of the music sung at circle time and during the twice weekly classes with Teacher Joanna can be located on the preschool webpage. Be sure that your speakers are turned on. Windows Media Player allows one to simultaneously view the lyrics and hear the music. <http://geocities.com/fshpseyesonlymusic/music2006.html>



Emily goes for a two pointer!

Each week the preschool class spends time in the gym. Under Jen and Tina's supervision, the children play with a range of equipment including: balls, scarves, seated scooters, hoops, and percussion instruments. This gross motor play is accompanied by a wide range of original world music including the Beatles, Native American ceremonial music, Scottish highland pipes and drums, the music of the calliope and music box, Sousa marches, and music from the Caribbean and Africa. Last week young Noah, a Beatles fan who recognized the voice of Ringo singing "The Yellow Submarine", asked, "Is that the White Album?"

***Bee! Bee! Bumble bee!  
Stung a man upon his knee,  
Stung a pig upon his snout,  
I declare that you are out!***

This is the time of year when yellow jackets seem to be everywhere. Preschoolers are learning that these hungry critters are very nearsighted and need to get a close up look to identify flowers in their environment. The children stand very still, waiting patiently for Miss Bee to see that the only flowers in our room were on a pair of shorts!



In the morning, preschool "scouts" venture out to see if the slides are wet or dry. When the slides are covered with dew or rain, preschoolers get to work with their squeegee and chamois cloth to dry the slides for the day. Sometimes adventurous children slide down the boards and dry the wet slides on their bottoms! We call the resulting damp clothes "puddle pants". Both methods are fun and quite effective in drying the slides - a sort of preschool service project!



Moments for scientific discovery happen everyday in preschool. On two recent occasions, the children have spotted elaborate spider webs constructed on the play equipment at the rear of our building. Once discovered, great lengths are taken to preserve the spider's habitate and to observe the spider as she waits for her prey. The children have been incredibly respectful of these discoveries.

The children enthusiastically ate the freshly popped kernels of corn on Monday. They watched as the oil and kernels covered the bottom of the pot, and waited for the smells and sounds of the popping corn. The children performed a dramatic reenactment of a kernel of corn sitting in a pot waiting for just the right moment. The poem was created years ago by young Jamie, a former preschooler, now in college.

I'm a kernel of popcorn  
Sitting in a pot  
If I'm going to pop you see  
I have to get real hot.  
**POP!**



The Preschool Class Parents for 2006-07 are Emily's mom, Patsy, and Noah's mom, Lisa. We are grateful for your offer to help us this year.

