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## Preschool Newsletter

[Preschool Webpage](#)



September 28, 2006



Next week, the preschool children will meet their Grade III partners for the first time. To help the younger children learn the partners' names, a [list of partners' names](#) is posted on the webpage. To learn more about the partners' program at FSH, visit the spring issue of [Links](#) where you will find an article about the partners' program on page 2. This article was written from the perspective of former preschool assistant, Abi Tenenbaum.

### IMPORTANT DATES

**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 17, Friday**  
All-School Coffee  
10:00am  
Holiday Meeting for Worship  
11:00am  
Winter Holiday Begins  
NOON DISMISSAL

**January 2, Tuesday**  
School Resumes

[The first trip to the climbing tree](#) occurred on a picture perfect late



[Directions to the climbing tree](#)

summer day. The walk had many serendipitous highlights that included:

- Watching as the fire hydrant near the climbing tree bridge was being flushed by a maintenance worker.
- Discovering the seeds from the osage orange tree and Kentucky coffee tree.
- Uncovering overgrown paths that surround the tree.
- Transcending terra firma as the kid-friendly branches welcomed the preschoolers.



Sofia enjoys the speed!

Friday morning at the Greenhouse, the children noticed that the trips down the slides were particularly slow. Out came the waxed paper and down the kids flew as the waxy paper polished the surfaces to a sheen. After a few runs, the slides were good to go. We hope the other classes enjoyed the faster rides!



Friday's snack was delicious! The recipe for these apple tarts is on the webpage at the ["Recipes"](#) link.

Monday's snack was sweet apple butter spread on pieces of cinnamon swirl bread. Yum!



Books we have read recently include:

*Dappled Apples*, Jan Carr  
*Corduroy*, Don Freeman  
*My Brown Bear Barney*, Dorothy Butler  
*All in One Piece*, Jill Murphy  
*All By Myself*, Anna Grosnickle Hines



Monday's children tested their courage as they traversed a horizontal wooden ladder suspended about eight inches in the air between two saw horses. Balance and body planning are skills that are being learned during this play. It's not easy, but everyone chose to stay with it until it became easy and fun!

Spanish class included counting to ten using ten stuffed animals and the reading of *Feliz Cumpleanos/Happy Birthday*, Mark Risk.

Happy birthday to Madison who turned four years old September 27!





Preschoolers watched as teachers peeled and sliced apples to be placed in an electric food dehydrator. After feeling the warm air blowing on their hands everyone decided the dehydrator must be a fan that we were using to dry out the apples. Today, after 2 days waiting, preschoolers will finally get a chance taste the chewy apple chips.

Preschoolers are born naturalists. This is an especially rich time of year to discover the signs of the changing seasons. This week the children have brought in some seasonal treasures. They include locust seedpods that had an unusual smell and a sound like baby rattles. The pods generated this spontaneous ditty:

Shake-a, shake-a, shake-a  
 Shake-a if you can  
 I have a locust seedpod  
 Right inside my hand  
 OH!  
 Shake-a, shake-a, shake-a  
 Shake-a if you can  
 I have a locust seedpod  
 Right inside my hand

We also had a collection of acorns, acorn caps, and leaves and seeds from a Japanese maple. Remember the days of making earrings and nose rings from maple seeds? Ahhhh, nature, the original Toys R Us!

Preschool entomologists have encountered many critters recently while spending time outdoors. They include a mosquito, a bee, a daddy-long-legs, ladybug, worm, and a grasshopper.

Mostly, we use our eyes to observe and use words to describe the living things we see in our environment; occasionally, when a critter has found its way onto the sidewalk, we will guide it back to safety. Preschoolers are learning that we share this space, this land, this earth with lots of creatures big and small and we treat them all with respect. It is never okay to purposefully step on or poke at an animal or an insect or its habitat.

On the playground one could hear the unmistakable sound of childhood Wednesday morning.

Ring around the rosey  
 Pocket full of posies  
 Ashes, ashes  
 We all fall down

During their play, the children initiated and organized their own musical circle (cooperation, inclusion, empathy, body planning, and organization) that grew increasingly bigger as more children added on. It was impressive to watch the process. (Unfortunately, due to a memory card failure, those pictures were lost, but you can picture up to eight children working together and experiencing gales of laughter as they all fell down!)

In music class this week, an example of integrated curriculum was clearly demonstrated. The preschoolers were singing a song about children in an orchard shaking apple trees to coax the ripe apples to the ground. As the children sang, Joanna placed 12 apples on the floor in random arrangement; the children counted the apples in unison (one-to-one correspondence). When the children sang the song a second time (ordinals), Joanna placed the apples in groups of two (subsets). Children again counted and came up with the same number 12 (conservation). Upon the third, fourth, and fifth times of singing the song, the apples were grouped in threes, fours, and sixes (multiples). Exposure to concepts through play and music provides a rich and necessary first step to more complex thinking. We must not underestimate the power and value of play. You can hear the music and sing along to ["Hurry Little Johnny"](#) at the music webpage.

