



Preschool Newsletter
Preschool Webpage

October 26, 2006

Preschool Integrated Curriculum
Botany, Stewardship, Science (heat, melting, sorting), Language Arts, Mathematical/Logical (counting, spatial planning, sequencing)

The leaves - collected by committee - covered the table last Thursday. Each child selected and counted leaves of various colors, enough to cover their page of waxed paper. Another piece of waxed paper and an additional sheet of paper (a paper bag works well) were placed on top. With one hand behind the back and the other in the hand of the teacher, the children slowly pressed the layers with a hot iron and described the smells, tactile sensations, and images the ironing produced.

The smell was of the woods and, for one teacher, a trigger for a trip down memory lane, conjuring years gone by as a child and as the parent of young children, performing the same turn-of-season ritual.

The arboreal sun-catchers are hanging in the classroom windows.



Important Dates

October 27
Friday
Parent/Teacher Confer-
ences PUPIL HOLIDAY

October 28
Preschool Parent Party
5:00pm-8:00pm
CHEERS!

October 31
Tuesday
Halloween Parade
8:30am

November 22
Wednesday
Grandfriends Day
Thanksgiving Holiday Be-
gins

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
11:45am Preschool

January 2
Tuesday
School Resumes





Friday:

Rainy days don't dampen our spirits; they provide a great excuse for an indoor obstacle course. There are lots of gross motor opportunities that include balancing, crawling, climbing, and jumping - right in the classroom!



Books we have read recently include:

- Pretend You're a Cat*, Jean Marzollo
- Sunflower House*, Eve Bunting
- The Pumpkin Blanket*, Deborah Zagwyn
- Even if I Spill My Milk?*, Anna Grosnickle Hines
- Halloween*, Miriam Nerlove
- A Halloween Mask for Monster*, Virginia Mueller



PARTY!

It will be good to see you
Saturday at the Buscaglia's for
Preschool cheer!

We have been reading books in the
classroom on the theme of
baby-sitters and parents taking
time for themselves for a
well-deserved break!

*(All in One Piece, Jill Murphy
Even If I Spill My Milk?, Anna Hines)*

In preparation for your Parent/Teacher
Conference, please take some time to re-
flect on and respond to the
following questions.

Please jot your ideas down and bring them
to the conference.

- 1) What do you consider to be your
child's strengths? (List three)
- 2) In thinking about your child, what areas
would benefit from extra support, time, or
development? (List three)



Happy Birthday to
Cy who
celebrated his
birthday
October 22

Pumpkin Bread

3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
2 teaspoons salt
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1 teaspoon ground allspice
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
3 cups white sugar
1 cup canola oil
4 eggs, beaten
2 cups solid pack pumpkin puree
2/3 cup water

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
Grease two loaf pans.

In a medium mixing bowl, combine flour, baking
soda, salt, baking powder, nutmeg, allspice,
cinnamon and cloves.

In a large bowl with an electric mixer, blend sugar,
oil and eggs. Stir in pumpkin. Slowly blend the
flour mixture into pumpkin mixture. While
blending the mixture add water incrementally.
Pour the batter into two prepared loaf pans.

Bake in a preheated 350 degrees F oven for 90
minutes. Let cool for 10 minutes before removing
from the pans.







Science (life cycles, botany, habitats, seasons), Language Arts (*Sunflower House*, Eve Bunting)

After reading *Sunflower House* by Eve Bunting preschoolers were fascinated by the opportunity to *go inside* a sunflower! Children noticed that the petals had all fallen off and the colors had changed from vibrant greens and yellows to browns and blacks. Using the CCTV we looked closer still and noticed all of the seeds! After a careful count we agreed there were a total of “a lot!” Another interesting tidbit was revealed as we studied our specimen. Flower heads provide food and shelter to bugs! While preschoolers used their fingers to dislodge the seeds, out skittered several caterpillars and a few other insects whose breakfast we had just disturbed. Making a connection to the *Pumpkin Circle* story read last week, someone commented that the seeds would grow new sunflowers. We plan to keep them dry until next spring when we will plant them in the earth and witness the next step in the life cycle of a sunflower. (The book tells the story of a family who grows sunflowers in a circle in the yard. It makes a perfect hiding, playing, pretending place!)

Trick or Treat for UNICEF!

Look for your child’s UNICEF box in this week’s Child Mail envelope. The children of Grade III (our partners!) are sponsoring this annual drive. We hope that everyone’s Halloween is safe and fun with an eye toward helping other children and families in need around the world.



Integrated Curriculum

Science (weather, adaptation), Logical (sequencing), Self-Help Skills (self-dressing), Manners (asking for help, saying “thank you”), Social Studies (helping each other)



With the arrival of chilly weather the “preschool flip” has been called into action. It would be helpful to your child to practice this technique at home. Place the back of the jacket on the floor (inside of the jacket facing out) so that it looks upside-down from where the child stands. Standing with toes pointed to the jacket collar, hood, or tag, the child slides arms into the tunnels (jacket sleeves) and FLIPS the jacket over the head. Presto! You are ready to be zipped, snapped or buttoned --
“Mrs. Thompson or Tr. Jennifer, would you zip me please?”
(Pullover sweaters and fleece jackets might require a little more practice and patience. Start with the sweatshirt on the floor front side down and the child slides into the arms before flipping the sweatshirt over the head.)

In the mornings, it is not uncommon to see the preschool “button experts” helping another child manage the unbuttoning or buttoning of a jacket or sweater. This empowers the preschool helpers and sends the message that buttoning is a preschool skill worth practicing.



SPANISH UPDATE:

El Oso Verde (The Green Bear) Alan Rogers

El Otono (Fall), Alan Rogers

Vocabulary Review:
azul (blue), rojo (red), verde (green), oso (bear), gato (cat)

New Vocabulary: amarillo (yellow), otono (autumn)



Marble painting was a big hit on Wednesday.

To try this at home you will need:

- a kid
- a pan
- a piece of paper to line the bottom of the pan
- some drops of washable paint
- several marbles

